

[The Book of 1 Timothy](#)
Chapter 5
“25 Cents at a Time”

[Go to Chapter 6](#)
[Return to Table of Contents](#)

What does it mean to be **“Set Apart”** for the Lord?

What does it mean to truly and totally belong to Jesus with all of your Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength?

What does it mean to Pour out our own life for each other?

Many of us think that giving it all for the Lord, and laying down our life for each other is like taking a **Thousand Dollars and putting it in the “Tithe and Offering” Box** at the back of the church.

In reality, most of us go through our life as believers being set apart for Jesus and Laying our life down for each other, **25 CENTS AT A TIME!**

“Yes Jesus I Love you, how thankful I am for the sacrifice you made for me!”

“What!, Meet here in the sanctuary every day at 11 am and 7 pm for Prayer, You’ve got to be kidding, I don’t have the time for that!”

“Listen to someone else’s problems and try to encourage them, no way, I’ve got plenty of problems myself”

“Humble myself and listen to that older man or woman when they share their years of experience with me.”

“Call the Widows and check on them, visit that fatherless kids, Support my church by giving my Tithe and Offering, rejecting Gossip and accusations that people make...?”

Well, that would require....that would mean...I would have to change my attitude, open my heart up to the Lord more, I would have to Humble myself...!”

All these things, All of these are the Issues that Paul is teaching Timothy and us this morning here in 1 Timothy 5

Being totally Set Apart for the Lord, and totally loving each other, means we have to empty ourselves...

It is interesting that the branch of the tree that bears the most fruit is the one that hangs the lowest.

Bearing much fruit and really experiencing growth in our relationship with Jesus first requires that our heart is totally broken.

This morning, I want to encourage you that if you cannot come to the Lord **with** a broken heart, then come to Him **for** a broken heart.

Tell Him this morning **to break your heart** as we deal with real practical issues of how to honor and respect each other as the church.

In chapter 5 this morning, Paul is going to help Timothy with issues that we ourselves need help with.

How to really lay down our lives totally this morning, instead of 25 cents at a time...

1 Timothy 5

1 Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers,
2 older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity.

It is a fact that an older man does not like very much to be corrected by a young man.

- **Remember Timothy** is only about 17 years old, he is the Pastor of the Church at Ephesus.
- **So practical instruction** by Paul to Timothy, “Hey when you need to talk to an older man, don’t Rebuke him, don’t scold him in a public setting. Take him aside and speak to him privately, respectfully, as a Son should speak to his Father. Try to encourage and admonish him in the Lord.”

Really, practical advice for all younger men who love the Lord, “Be careful how you speak to and how you advise the older man. Be respectful, Humble, and do so with great love.”

“...Exhort also the younger men as you would a brother...”

- **Guys, when you speak to a younger man**, try to really love and encourage him the way you would a little brother.
- **Take the time Men** to encourage these younger men, share your heart with them, invite them to hang out with you.

“...Treat Older women, as Mothers...”

- **Men, treat the Older women** in your fellowship with the kind of Love, admiration, Kindness and Respect you would your own mother.
- **Take the time** to listen to her concerns, her fears, her needs, pray with her, make her feel like she has a son in you.

I love to call the Older ladies who have raised their family's and are in their later years, "Mom".

- **I do so affectionately**, because of this verse here, I want to remind myself and them that I think of them as "**A Mother**", someone very dear and respected.

"...Younger Women as Sister, with all purity..."

- **Men, young and older**, here is an area that we really have to consciously think about this morning.
- **To always treat** all of the younger girls and Ladies as if they are a "**Sister in the Lord.**"
- **To guard our eyes and our hearts** towards them with Purity and Respect.
- **To never place ourselves** in a position of our heart where we think of them as anything other than a "**Sister in the Lord**".

When Rob and Mikes mother left the marriage and would not reconcile with me, the Lord told me to now take on the role of "**A Brother in the Lord**".

One day she had been separated from her new husband, and was questioning where she would go. I spoke with Elsie about it and we agreed that she should come and live with us until she could reconcile with her husband.

You see, I now longer was permitted to be her husband, but because I love the Lord, I could now be "**Her Brother in the Lord**", and treat her as a sister in the Lord.

We took her to live with us for a couple of weeks, prayed with her, loved her and counseled her to go back to her husband and work things out. She did, and they are still married today!

1 Timothy 5

3 Honor widows who are really widows.

4 But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.

Next the issue Paul Addresses with Timothy: How should we as a church care for and provide for the needs of the Women who have lost their husband through death.

1. **First of all**, verse 3: We are to "**Honor the women who really are Widows**".
2. **Here the idea is** that they have lost their husband through death, and have no other family members that can care for their financial and personal needs.

3. **If a Woman** has lost her husband in death and has living children or grandchildren, they are to **“Repay”** the love and care she once gave her children or grandchildren, by providing for this woman now.
4. **Then Paul makes his commentary on this;** **“This is good and acceptable before God...”**

1 Timothy 5

5 Now she who is **really a widow, and left alone**, trusts in God and continues in **supplications and prayers** night and day.

6 But she who **lives in pleasure** is dead while she lives.

7 And these things command, that they may be blameless.

Paul clarifies who is “Really a Widow”, someone who is left alone with no children or grandchildren to care for her needs.

1. **They Paul further qualifies** this woman, that she must also be **“A woman who is a believer, someone who trusts in God and continues in Prayer.”**
2. **“A woman of prayer day and night”**, meaning she is really a prayer warrior.
3. **But if she spends her life** “Partying” and living in pleasure, she is “Dead while she lives.”

Many times as I walk down the streets of Winslow or other towns, I see people who look like they “Are dead, even though they are still alive.”

- **Really**, this is the view that the Lord has of the person who has **not accepted** the love and forgiveness that Jesus died to offer them.
- **They are Dead, spiritually inside**, even though they still live in and occupy a physical body.

Ephesians 2:1, 5

1 And you He made alive, who **were dead in trespasses and sins**,

5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Gods view of any person who is Without Jesus as Lord and Savior of their life, is that they are “Dead in their sins...”

That is, they might be alive in their Physical body, but Spiritually, and Eternally, they are already dead, separated from God, and lie under His condemnation.

But, the moment that they receive Jesus as Lord and savior, they pass from Death to Life, and are no longer under Gods condemnation.

1 John 3:14

“Because we trust in Jesus...We know that we have passed from death to life”

Romans 8:1

There is therefore **now no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

1 Timothy 5

6 But **she who lives in pleasure** is dead while she lives.

7 And these things command, that they may be blameless.

So the Widow who has no children or Grandchildren, is a woman of Faith and Trust in Jesus, is not spending her time gallivanting around and partying...The church is to help provide for her needs.

Then, one more time, Paul clarifies for us that the **members of the Widows own family are the first** that are to be taking care of her needs, not the church.

1 Timothy 5

8 But **if anyone does not provide for his own**, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

- **The context of this verse** is in regards to how the church as a body deals with those who have lost their husband in death, that if there are believing children or Grandchildren, they should be taking care of their widowed mother or Grandmother.
- **If they claim to be a Christian** and yet will not provide the needs of their own Mother or Grandmother, they are not really a believer at all, in fact are worse than an unbeliever. So Paul makes a very strong statement about this...
- **Many times** this verse is used to teach that Christian men and women are to take care of the needs of their family's. This is true, but remember the context of this verse is in dealing with how to care for the Widow.

1 Timothy 5

9 Do not let a widow **under sixty years old** be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man,

10 well **reported for good works**: if she has **brought up children**, if she has **lodged strangers**, if she has **washed the saints' feet**, if she has **relieved the afflicted**, if she has **diligently followed every good work**.

Now, apparently this issue of caring for the needs of Widows was a very big issue in the early church because Paul is not finished yet in his instruction of how the widow is to be provided for...

1. She must be over 60 years old.
2. The wife of One man.
3. Has a good reputation.
4. Has raised her children.
5. Taken in strangers to her home.
6. Ministered to other believers by acts of kindness, service and love.

7. Relieved the afflicted, that is cared for those sick.
8. Been diligent in all kinds of good works.

Pretty strong qualifications for who is really a widow that the church should help financially.

The idea here then is that if she is not meeting these requirements, the church should not bear the burden of carrying for her financial needs.

- **Now, if she does meet the requirements**, how does the church help provide her needs?
- **Notice the phrase “Taken into the number...”**
- **This means** that she becomes a member of the paid staff of the church.
- **We would take this widow into our staff** and have jobs that she can do, to help pay for some of the financial gifts the church would give to take care of her needs.
- **They can stuff envelopes**, help clean up a little, answer the phones, help care for some of the Baby’s in the nursery.
- **In exchange** for financial compensation to help with her needs.

1 Timothy 5

11 But **refuse the younger widows**; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry,

12 having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith.

13 And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.

14 Therefore **I desire** that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

So, continuing in instruction of how to care for the widow, here the widows that are younger, at an age where they may still marry and have children, They are not to be taken into the care of the church.

1. **The major reason** is that they may start off as sincere and wanting to devote themselves totally to serve the Lord, but then a handsome, spirit filled man comes along, and there she goes...
2. **Then verse 12 says** this would bring her into condemnation since she had already vowed to remain and serve the Lord. **Why condemnation?** Because any promise that we make to the Lord, He takes those promises very seriously, and He expects us to keep our promises to Him.
3. **Verse 13**, some of them may perhaps turn into busy bodies and gossips wandering from house to house...
4. **For this reason**, a Widow who is younger is not to be taken into the care and service of the church, but she should perhaps marry, and have children and begin a new life.

Notice that Paul says, “I desire...” This is perhaps Paul’s own personal advice, based on experience that he has had in this area before.

Apparently, some of the Widows that Paul was familiar with had lost their Husband, became involved in a lifestyle of sin and fell away from the Lord...

1 Timothy 5

15 For some have already turned aside after Satan.

When loss or grief or suffering comes into our life, we have 2 choices, either we can run from Jesus and back into the world, or we can run to Jesus and cling to Him and depend on Him for everything.

1 Timothy 5

16 If any **believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them**, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.

- **So, the rule** then is if you are a believer in Jesus, have a Widow in your family, you are to provide for them.

1 Timothy 5

17 Let **the elders** who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, **especially those who labor in the word and doctrine**.

18 For the Scripture says, "**You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,**" and, "**The laborer is worthy of his wages.**"

Now Paul continuing in the practical ways we can really dedicate ourselves to serve the Lord, serve and love each other, he moves to the area of the Spiritual leadership that is in the church.

1. **The Elders here** are the "**Presbuteros**", the Pastor/Teacher of the church.
2. **The Idea of verses 17 and 18** is that the Pastor and teacher of the Word of God in the church is to have his financial needs taken care of by those whom are taught the Word of God.

Now, one of the reasons Elsie and I wanted to come to Winslow and Holbrook in the beginning, was that we knew they were small towns and could not really afford to have a full time paid pastor.

- **We wanted to serve in a place** that couldn't afford to pay much, and we were willing to receive less.
- **We didn't come here to make money**, we came here to serve and Love you, and teach you the Word of God.
- **Most of the time**, the 2 churches have been able to pay us a salary.
- **In case you are wondering**, my salary here in Winslow is \$300.00 per week.

Surprisingly, as small as the Winslow church is, if just the few people that fellowship here, consistently give their Tithes and Offerings to the Lord, we can meet all the needs

of the church for the Mortgage, the utilities, the salary, the upkeep and maintenance and needs of the individual ministries.

- **We can take care** of these needs every month if each person that is taught here, is obedient to the Lord and Tithes.
- **But I am not going** to beg and manipulate people to give.

Paul quotes from 2 different sources in regards to the paying of the pastor:

Deuteronomy 25:4

“You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain.

The Oxen were tied to a Millstone that turned around and around in a circle, rolling along, grinding the wheat into flour.

- **The idea here** is that as this oxen is walking along, turning the wheel, he is producing flour.
- **The Oxen** was not to have a muzzle placed over his mouth that would prevent him from reaching down and eating some of the Grain while he walked.
- **He was laboring to produce food**, so he was allowed to himself partake of the food.

The idea is that the Pastor is producing the Spiritual food of the Word of God to the Church, so he is permitted by Jesus to have his own needs taken care of by those who receive the Word of God.

I have people ask me many times if it is OK for them to support television ministries or radio ministries or other Christian Ministries in our local area.

- **Of course it is Ok** for the believer to do this, but the Tithe, the first 10 percent of the before tax amount we earn belongs to the Lord.
- **We are to give it to Him at the church where we are taught the Word of God.**
- **Any offering we make to any other ministry** is “Over and Above” the first 10 percent, this is what is called the “**Offering**”.

But I personally feel, if you don't want to give back to the Lord what already is His anyway and you want to keep it and spend it yourself, then DO IT. **I THINK THE LORD WOULD RATHER YOU KEEP THE MONEY RATHER THAN GIVE TO HIM AND THEN SIT AROUND AND COMPLAIN ABOUT IT OR RESENT IT.**

The second part of verse 18, Paul is quoting from Jesus Himself:

18 For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, **“The laborer is worthy of his wages.”**

So, here instruction for the one that claims to belong to the Lord, Jesus Himself says the tithe is to go to the church where you are taught the Word of God, and that the One who

teaches the Word of God should have their financial needs taken care of by those they teach.

If you want to give because you really love the Lord and you want to take care of the needs of the Ministry, then give. If you don't want to give, then keep it, and spend it on yourself!

1 Timothy 5

19 Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses.

The idea here is that the men that are in the spiritual leadership of the church, the Pastor and all of the individual members of the congregation should refuse to receive any accusation or gossip without there being at least 2 or 3 other witnesses present.

- **If one of you** brings an accusation against one of the men that serve as Elders here or if you write a letter to me making an accusation, I ignore it unless it meets the qualifications that the Word of God puts our right here.
- **There must be 2 or 3 others** who also feel same way, and can prove their claim before I will receive it.
- **I would hope** that the men I serve with, would also do the same concerning me...

1 Timothy 5

20 **Those who are sinning** rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

Lets be very careful here to pay attention to the context of what we are talking about: "Elders", the men who are the spiritual leaders in the Church.

1. **Those in spiritual leadership** who "**Are Sinning**", that is, they are continuing in sinning, not whenever they make a mistake.
2. **When they are sinning**, because they are in Spiritual leadership, the facts of their sin are to be brought out to the whole congregation.
3. **I believe that this does not apply** to the general congregation of believers. In these cases I believe it would not be wised to bring this to the whole church, but should be dealt with privately between the one who is sinning and the leadership of the church.

21 I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.

- **I love the balance of the Word of God**, that whatever we do, we never show partiality to anyone because of how much money they have or give, or what status they have in the community, or anything, except just to judge based on impartiality to everyone...

There was once a man who was running for re election as the Governor of one of the East Coast states

He arrived at a Barbeque that they were having as part of a fund raiser.

He had not eaten all day, as he moved down the buffet line and extended his plate out for the Barbequed Chicken, he was given just one piece of chicken.

“Excuse me he said, I am very hungry today, would you mind if I have two pieces of chicken?”

The woman serving said to him, **“Sorry sir, only one piece per customer.”**

He was normally a humble man, but he was so hungry he thought he would use his position a little to meet his need for food.

“Maam, do you know who I am, I am the Governor of this state!”

“Yes sir, In know who you are, and I am the lady in charge of the chicken, please move along?”

- **We should treat everyone** who comes through these doors with the highest degree of LOVE, COURTESY AND RESPECT irregardless of who they are or what they have done.

22 Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people’s sins; keep yourself pure.

The “Laying on of Hands” is something that is done in cases where a person is being brought into the board of Elders to assist the Senior Pastor in the affairs of the Church.

- **We do not** “Appoint” Elders, we just watch to see who is already being used by the Lord as an Elder.
- **When we bring them before the Body** to announce that this man is going to be serving with us, ALL WE ARE REALLY DOING IS ACKNOWLEDGING THE LORDS CHOICE.
- **We bring them forward**, lay our hands on them and anoint them with oil for serve to the Lord and to You.

The idea here from Paul is that it is not wise to be too quick to appoint an Elder, make sure you have really gotten to know this man thoroughly before you bring him forward and announce that he will be serving as an elder.

- **Also the encouragement and warning** that we are to be careful to not get caught up in other people sins.
- **It is so easy to start off** wanting to minister to someone or help them, then as you spend time with them, they are involved in some particular sin, before long you find that you are joining them in that sin.

23 No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach’s sake and your frequent infirmities.

The purity of the water during this time was not very good. There were various bacteria in the water that once inside your digestive system, well...you know what happens.

- **Here, the advice of Paul** to a young man who was like a son to him, to put a little wine in his water, the alcohol then killing the bacteria, would help his stomach problem.
- **Paul is not encouraging Timothy** to drink wine as a beverage, or drink wine socially, he is advising him to use the wine for medical reasons.

I am always amazed at the people, Christians in particular who want to drink alcohol as a beverage socially, that want to use this verse to prove that they have the right to do it.

Using this verse to substantiate your desire to drink alcohol is wrong, because that is not what this verse is talking about.

24 Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later.

25 Likewise, the good works of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.

- Some people live in such a way that you can see their sins following along behind them.
- Some people, they live before you and you think they are living for the Lord and truly love Him, until later you find out about all of the stuff they were doing that no one ever knew about.
- As is the case with some Believers, Some you can see all of the visible things that they do for those who love the Lord and the things they do because they love the Lord.
- Some Who love Jesus, you never know about all they are doing to bless you and love the Lord until after they are gone...

As we humble ourselves this morning and realize just how far we still have to go to be totally Set Apart for Jesus...Lets search our hearts right now and ask Him what is there in our heart that still needs work, and then ask Him to change that part of us any way He see fit.

Some of us this morning are so tired of failing as a Christian that we are just about to give up...remember this:

“A Worm is the Only thing that Cannot Stumble” Why is that? Because he is already so low to the ground, he can't fall any lower.

Use the mistakes of your life, the brokenness, the failures and the things that people have done to you to bring you down to the place where you are laying flat on the ground, like this little worm.

Only until we are completely flat on our face do we realize that the only way we are ever going to make it anyway is by Jesus scooping us up and carrying us in His arms.

The nice thing about being flat on your face like the worm, is that you cannot fall any further,
YOU ARE PERFECT NOW FOR THE LORD TO DO HIS GREATEST WORK IN YOU!

Besides, “If you feel like you are a no body, you don’t have to worry about making a comeback!”

Aw Tozer said that

Because Jesus came to the world clothed in humility, he will always be found among those who are clothed with humility. Jesus is found with the humble and the broken people...

Lord Jesus, today we no longer want to be people who give you our life, 25 cents at a time, Lord let us take the full and complete plunge this morning, to put all of us and our life on your alter as a burnt offering and let you consume it...make it anything you desire...

[Go to Chapter 6](#)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)