

1 Timothy 5:3-8

Biblically living our relationships within the family of God – Part 2

Intro: Paul is teaching Timothy and the church what it means to practically live out lives that honor God and love other people

The foundation of Paul's instruction to Timothy and the church is God's law

- God's law reveals the righteous character of God and his standard for His people
- This is what some term as having a theonomic view of life
 - o It is living in accordance with the righteous standards of God and His Law
 - o Theonomy – God's law; Theo means God; Nomy means law;
 - Believing that the objective standards of God determine the way of life for followers of Jesus
 - Believing that God's law defines what is right and just; what is good and evil
 - Believing that God's law reveals His nature and character – His heart
- The opposite is to have an autonomous view of life
 - o Autonomy – self-rule; very wide category
 - Complete godlessness – there is no God and I can live how I want
 - Moral Relativism – Your truth is your truth and my truth is my truth
 - Self-righteousness - creating God and religion, in your own image

God must define Himself; God must speak for Himself; God must reveal how His people are to live

Some further clarifications:

- Our source of life is Christ – salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone
- As God's people, by His grace and through the indwelling of the Spirit, we are empowered to live lives that honor God and walk in accordance with the righteous standards of the law

It is important for us today to assess how we are living life – theonomically or autonomously

Exodus 22:22 - ²² *You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child.*

Deuteronomy 24:19-21 - ¹⁹ *“When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. ²⁰ When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over them again. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow. ²¹ When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not strip it afterward. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow.*

Matthew 15:1-9 - ¹ *Then Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, ² “Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat.” ³ He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴ For God commanded, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ ⁵ But you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or his mother, “What you would have gained from me is given to God,” ⁶ he need not honor his father.’ So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God. ⁷ You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: ⁸ “ ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; ⁹ in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ ”*

Matthew 22:37-40 - ³⁷ *And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”*

Colossians 1:9-10 – ⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

1 Thessalonians 4:1 – ¹ Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.

Psalms 146:9 - ⁹ The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

Questions to consider:

1. How have you been tempted to diminish God's law and its application to your life?
2. In what ways do you need to be preparing now to provide for your aging parents?
3. In what areas in your life has God revealed that you have been self-indulgent?
4. In what specific ways does God need to grow you in regards to caring and providing for your own household?