

Biblical Leadership: A Study of 1st Timothy
Lesson 11 “Stripping Purpose”

I. Introduction - We are in a series on *1st Timothy*, which is a letter Paul wrote to Timothy in approximately 62 A.D. after he installed him as the pastor of the church in Ephesus.

A. This is personal letter, Paul wrote to mentor Timothy as Timothy took over one of the most significant churches in the 1st century (about 7 years after the revival that started the church). Paul wrote both to speak directly into Timothy’s life and also teach him how to address challenges the church was having (doctrinal, prayer, women, how to pick leaders, and how people handled money.)

B. We are called to make spiritual sons like Paul did with Timothy. Replication is the key to saturation.

II. Stripping Purpose - Tonight, we are going to learn that while leaders should take care of those who can’t take care of themselves, they shouldn’t do for those who can do for themselves. When leaders do this, we strip people of their identity and purpose.

A. **1 Timothy 5:1-16**

1. *Verses 1-2* As the body of Christ we are all family. This means we need to watch how we talk to one another. We need to not only speak words of edification, but speak in a kind matter exhorts and encourages people and doesn’t berate them.

a. The word rebuke is not the normal word for rebuke. It means to strike.

b. Exhort - parakaleo - to call near, invite, invoke, comfort - **John 14:26 KJV**. We are to speak words that are spirit and life that bring comfort even when we bring a challenging truth.

c. Keep that in mind through the rest of these verses as the Apostle of Grace is going to say some challenging things.

2. *Verse 3* Some people make claims about being a widow that are false.

Example of person I knew who divorced her husband introduced herself as a widow. Must trust but verify.

3. *Verse 4* Our responsibility as believers is to take care of our moms and grandmothers. This means we must learn to walk in prosperity. **The church only steps in if there is no family available or the family cannot provide.**

4. *Verses 5-6* contrast a godly widow and an ungodly widow. The godly widow trusts God and prays regularly. The ungodly sow to the flesh and pursues a sinful lifestyle.

5. *Verse 7* This verse is a New Testament commandment Paul is going to give about taking care of our families.

6. **Verses 8** A person who doesn't provide for his own family is worse than an unbeliever and has denied/refused the faith. Ex: Greg Mohr Testimony - God lives by this verse too. There is grace to provide for our families.

7. **Verse 9-10** The apostle of grace gave a series of qualifications for those the church would help. Why? He didn't want to strip people of their identity (Part of our identity is we are created to work) and he didn't want to be wasteful.

8. **Verses 11-15** The context is younger widows who made a vow to not marry and remain celibate. These could then be added to the financial support system of the church. This isn't wrong to do, but if a woman did this they needed to keep the vow or their conscience would condemn them.

a. These verses our instructions to younger widows. Paul wants them walking in purpose and even though they had a spouse die, it didn't strip them of their identity and divine purpose to be married, have kids and disciple them to fill up the earth, with God's glory.

b, Some widows may be like the Apostle Paul and have a gift to be single, but if they don't they need to walk in their identity and purpose, which is to get married and have children.

9. **Verse 16** Believers should take care of their family so the church can help those who don't have family. This is both wisdom for the church leadership, but an exhortation to every church member to walk in prosperity.

III. Conclusion - When we do for others that are capable of doing for themselves, we subsidize laziness and strip them of their identity and purpose. God doesn't want that, but He does want us to prosper so much that take care of others who really cannot take care of themselves. That is part of our purpose.

A. Dismiss Livestream Audience

B. Break Up Into Small Groups

IV. Discussion Questions

1. What was your top takeaway from this teaching?
2. Tonight we learned the Holy Spirit is a comforter and helper. The language He speaks is comfort and help. Is this your view of the Holy Spirit or do you think the Holy Spirit is always showing you things that are wrong with you?
3. **Ephesians 4:28** says we are to work to provide for others. This implies all of our needs are already met. Are you living in that level of prosperity where you can provide for other consistently? If not, group leader pray and invite the Holy Spirit to show each person how to walk in that level of prosperity. Each person take time to hear and write down anything the Lord shows you (could be a belief that needs to change or an action you need to take).
4. Have you ever subsidized someone's laziness and inadvertently stripped them of their purpose? How did that make you feel? What do you wish you would have done differently?
5. Tonight we learned that our purpose is expressed through our identity (which is why Paul didn't want the church to provide for the younger widows). He wanted them to know they still had purpose even though they suffered loss. Have you ever expressed a loss that has stripped you of your identity and purpose. How did you overcome? (Group Leaders have the group pray for anyone who has currently had their identity and purpose stripped because of loss.)