

The Pastoral Epistles

I Timothy 5:1-2 – “Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, ²older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.”

Paul divides the church into natural categories based on age and gender.

Older men	Older ladies
Younger men	Younger ladies

The prescribed treatment of older men by a young pastor is given in one negative and one positive.

* The negative: Timothy was not to “rebuke” an older man. This means he wouldn’t _____, nor correct with sharp _____.

* The positive: Timothy was to “encourage him as you would a father.” This means he would come along side, or _____ him.

What word comes to mind when we think about a young man relating to an old man? What should these relationships look like in the church?

Timothy, as a young pastor, was to relate to young men in the church as “brothers.” They are to be treated as an equal in the _____.

What does the relationship look like between loving brothers?

Paul goes on to instruct Timothy to treat the older ladies of the church as “mothers.” In all likelihood, this identifies a volitional _____.

How does it look when the older ladies of the church are honored as mothers?

The final category of church family is the younger ladies. Timothy was to treat them as _____ sisters.

The purity of a sister is to be _____, _____, and highly _____.

How do we expect the young men in our church to relate to the young women?