

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
SERMON OUTLINE
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WE ARE THE FAMILY OF GOD

The Book of 1 Timothy Series # 14

I TIMOTHY 5:1-2

The New King James reads: “Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort *him* as a father, younger men as brothers, (2) older women as mothers, younger as sisters, with all purity.” (NKJV)

There are many metaphors used in the Bible to describe the church of the Living God. Words like: **Body, Flock, Temple, the Pillar and Ground of Truth** and many more, but the most personal and intimate words is that of **THE FAMILY OF GOD**.

Bill and Gloria Gaither wrote the blessed song titled: “**The Family Of God**” and it goes like this... Families are to be marked by love, support and joy. Families offer unconditional love.

I. How We are to Treat All Believers (v.1).

As you examine verse 1, please underscore or highlight the **two verbs**. The first is : “**rebuke**” and the second is “intreat/**exhort**.”

“**Rebuke**” in V-1 literally means “to strike hard, beat with a blow, to reprimand.” In this context it means a violent or harsh tongue-lashing. “**Exhort**” (**encourage**) - literally it is “**to call alongside**.” It pictures a coach on the sidelines calling out encouragement.

In dealing with our any of our brothers and sisters in God’s family, especially those who are struggling with sin, we do not “**rebuke**” them with our fingers around their throats, but we “**exhort**” them with our arms about their shoulders. Why? We are family.

II. How We are to Treat Older Men (v.1a).

This concept of not acting harshly but gently is especially true with any “older man” in the assembly. The church is for the weak, the aged, and the infirm just as much as it is for the young, active, and strong.

III. How We are to Treat Younger Men (v.1b).

We must be careful also not too harshly rebuke the “**younger men**” but also encourage them because they are our “**brothers**.” What does that mean? It means we are equal.

I am reminded of Jesus’ words to the disciples, “**No longer do I call you servants... but I have called you friends**” (John.15:15). Brotherly love is rich and deep.

IV. How We are to Treat Older Women (v.2a).

In the same way that we are not too harshly “**rebuke an older man**” but rather to put our arm around his shoulder and “**exhort him as a father**” we are to treat “**older women as mothers**.” Throughout the Bible, we are taught to honor and care for our mothers.

I believe we must be careful to teach our children to show respect for our senior saints in the way they address them. In the culture of our church, we teach our children to refer to older men as “**Brother**” so and so, or and to our women as “**Miss Jewell or Miss Sue**.”

V. How We are to Treat Younger Women (v.2b).

Finally, Paul says that we are to treat the “**younger women as sisters**.” Yet note and underscore the prepositional phrase he attaches “**...with all [complete, total, absolute, exclusive] purity**.”

Men, we are to treat the younger women in the church just like they were our sisters. Our relationships to them are to be marked by complete “**purity**.” **John Phillips wrote**, “**Brothers usually associate their sisters with companionship, confidences, and care. The feeling of a brother for a sister is usually that of protective love. It is tender but not without its toughness**.”

You see we are part of **THE FAMILY OF GOD!** Are you a member of His family by Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? Have you Trusted and Taken Jesus as your personal Saviour?