



KING'S HARBOR CHURCH

Love God. Love People. Make Disciples.

Conduct, Consideration, and Care (1 Timothy 4:12-5:16)

I. INTRO

- A. We are a culture obsessed with lists. David Letterman's *Top 10 List* has become a *bona fide* art form.
- B. I must admit that I too am obsessed with lists. One of my favorite apps lets me fill out a profile of my interests – things like Christianity, politics, sports, technology, wine, or leadership – and it will feed me daily lists of articles!
- C. Then there are the people who MAKE **to do** lists...
- D. It's been said that there are three kinds of people:
 - 1. **List lovers** – These are people make lists for EVERYTHING shopping, holidays, movies/shows on Netflix, bucket lists... (Here's how you know you're obsessed with lists: You add things to your lists that you've already done just so you can cross it off. You may need an intervention ☺)
 - 2. **List groaners** – These are people know intuitively that lists can relieve stress or bring order out of chaos but they continue to resist.
 - 3. **List learners** – These are former groaners who are taking baby steps (usually STRONGLY encouraged by a spouse – it's called "legal marital enforcement.")
- E. Paul is a list lover. His first letter to young Timothy contains several lists. Here's a chart to help us see an overview of his lists...

THE PASTOR'S PRIMER: PAUL'S PRACTICAL PASTORAL INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE LOCAL CHURCH				
1 Timothy 1	1 Timothy 2-3	1 Timothy 4	1 Timothy 5	1 Timothy 6
TIMOTHY'S CHARGE...	TIMOTHY'S INSTRUCTIONS...			
Concerning Sound Doctrine	Concerning Prayer & Church	Concerning Last Days Apostasy	Concerning Widows & Elders	Concerning Conflict & Contentment
Danger of False Doctrine	Public Worship Church Officers	Antidote for Apostasy	Pastoral Duties Toward Others	Instructions for the Man of God
Warning	Worship	Wisdom	Widows	Wealth
Written in Macedonia Circa 62-64AD				

2 Pet 3:8 – 1,000 years is like one day to the Lord

II. BODY

- A. I'm going to do something a bit different today. Our text stretches from 1 Tim 4:12 through 5:16. So, I'd like to pray and then show you the sections, and we'll read the verses for each section when we get to them.
- B. Pray with me...
- C. As I mentioned, our text for today can be arranged into three sections and each one has a sub-list:
1. **Timothy's Pastoral Conduct (4:12-16)**
 2. **Timothy's Pastoral Consideration (5:1-2)**
 3. **The Church's Care For Widows (5:3-16)**
- D. Before we go any further I need to remind us that Paul, in his list making for Timothy and the church in Ephesus, is identifying several imperatives – yet the **indicative that drives the imperatives** is the gospel, which is rooted in 1:11: *"the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted."*
1. It is the gospel, working in and through our lives that empowers us to carry out any of the imperatives that we will look at.
 2. You will no doubt recognize both strengths and weaknesses in your own life as we move through these lists today. I want to be clear that the

gospel, through the inward dwelling of the Holy Spirit, is our greatest hope for lasting change.

E. We'll look at them one at a time...

1. **Timothy's Pastoral Conduct** (4:12-16) *"Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe. ¹³ Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. ¹⁵ Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all. ¹⁶ Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you."* --1 Timothy 4:12-16

a. This section can be broken-up into four sub-sections. We'll look at them one at a time...

1) A Pastor's Passion (v. 12): *"Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe."*

a) We know from various verses scattered through the NT that Timothy was most likely an introvert and tended toward reticence and timidity. (See 1 Tim 5:23, 1 Cor 16:11, 2 Tim 1:7)

i. Like the rest of us Timothy had his own issues.

ii. Nevertheless Paul tapped Timothy to lead the church in Ephesus – even though he was young (probably early 30's) and the church was going through a VERY difficult time.

iii. Timothy had to face opponents who were teaching heretical theology and who refused to take him seriously because of his youthfulness.

b) The phrase *"look down on"* would be better transliterated as: *"despised"* (loathed, shunned, or scorned), which the KJV and RSV uses.

- c) We can see v. 12 as a two-sided coin...
- i. On the one hand Paul is saying, pushback – don't allow people to despise you.
 - ii. On the other hand, Paul is saying that the BEST way to pushback is go the extra mile in being an example.
- d) Paul gives Timothy five ways to be an example: *in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity*
- i. Speech – This covers everything from profanity, to gossip and triangulation, to being responsive and not reactive, to Timothy's preparation for teaching and preaching. (I needed to do some serious repenting this last week over my potty mouth season.)
 - ii. Conduct – How we process life – both internally and externally. The goal is for them to match.
 - iii. Love and Faith -- Paul addressed these back in 1:5: *"the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."* Acknowledge (again) that they are tied together by "good doctrine."
 - Love -- Love is the overflow and expansion of joy in God (Piper)
 - Faith – an increased certainty about the future. A confidence that God will do what He said He would do.
 - iv. Purity -- The word for purity here in v. 12 is different from the word pure in 1:5. Here in v. 12 the word has sexual connotations, giving the meaning – being innocent, or chaste, or virtuous.
- 2) A Pastor's Priorities (v. 13): *"Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."*

- a) What Paul is saying here is the focus of Timothy's attention, as he ministers to the Ephesian church, should revolve around Scripture.
 - b) Paul identifies three areas of focus: Public reading of Scripture, Exhortation, and Teaching
 - c) The idea is that each one is not sufficient in and of itself, but an effective ministry requires all three.
 - d) Even the order of the three is significant. Timothy is to immerse himself in the biblical text, to encourage people to follow what is in the text, and to teach the doctrines of Scripture and the Apostles.
- 3) A Pastor's Progress (vs. 14-15): *"Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed on you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. ¹⁵ Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all."*
- a) V. 14: Paul is reminding both Timothy and the church to remember this past event in order to encourage Timothy in the present.
 - i. He DOES HAVE the gifts to pastor the church.
 - ii. It also provides a strong argument to the Ephesian leaders that Timothy's gifts were acknowledged by the body of elders, and now they are to stand under his authority as the pastor.
 - b) V. 15: This is an emphatic repetition of the charge in v. 12 that Timothy be an example to believers in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. Timothy is to continue to make **visible progress** -- in contrast to the opponents, whose sinful behavior is damaging the reputation and unity of the church.
- 4) A Pastor's Perseverance (4:16): *"Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will ensure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you."*

- a) Timothy knew – and we know that God alone grants salvation (v. 10; 1:1; 2:3), but He is pleased to use His people to further the gospel.
 - b) The totality of salvation is not completed when one comes to faith. To be sure, faith brings justification and the assurance of salvation.
 - c) But faith also begins the lifelong process of sanctification that continues until the Christian's final glorification in heaven.
 - d) "...*Work out your salvation with fear and trembling.*" -- Philippians 2:12
- 5) Timothy is to follow Paul's instructions, making the gospel central to his personal life and his ministry.
2. **Timothy's Pastoral Consideration** (5:1-2) "*Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, ² the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity.*" --1 Timothy 5:1-2 (emphasis added)
- a. In the rest of the letter Paul instructs Timothy on how he should relate to different groups within the church.
 - b. When the pastor, elders, or other leaders do need to rebuke people we are to treat them with respect, dignity, and honor. It would entail gentle persuasion rather than browbeating.
 - c. Paul uses the imagery of family here, which goes back to 1 Tim 3:15 where the church is described as a family.
 - d. These instructions revolve around the word "appeal." The Greek word is *parakaleō*, which means to come alongside (and becomes the basis for the word describing the "Holy Spirit"). Translations vary – *exhort, appeal, encourage*.
 - e. The phrase "*with all purity*" again carries the nuance of sexual purity.
3. **The Church's Care For Widows** (5:3-16) "*Honor widows who are widows indeed; ⁴ but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight*

of God. ⁵ Now she who is a widow indeed and who has been left alone, has fixed her hope on God and continues in entreaties and prayers night and day. ⁶ But she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives. ⁷ Prescribe these things as well, so that they may be above reproach. 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. ⁹ A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, having been the wife of one man, ¹⁰ having a reputation for good works; and if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has assisted those in distress, and if she has devoted herself to every good work. ¹¹ But refuse to put younger widows on the list, for when they feel sensual desires in disregard of Christ, they want to get married, ¹² thus incurring condemnation, because they have set aside their previous pledge. ¹³ At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention. ¹⁴ Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach; ¹⁵ for some have already turned aside to follow Satan. ¹⁶ If any woman who is a believer has dependent widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed." (emphasis added)

- a. The key phrase in this section is "widows indeed," which is used three times and underscores Paul's main motivation in this section.
- b. What apparently had been going on is that some women – and some families – had been taking advantage of the church's generosity and Paul is feeling like the tail is beginning to wag the dog.
 - 1) There were families that were not taking responsibility for their own widowed parents and grandparents. (Widowers too.)
 - 2) It seems that there were women who may not have even been believers who were seeking financial assistance.
 - 3) There were younger widows who were distracted – by the false teaching that was going on, as well as being distracted

by their own sensual desires – and then spending their time gossiping and engaging in other forms of idle and disruptive talk.

- c. Also, notice v. 9: *A widow is to be put on the list only if she...* And then there is a fairly stringent list of qualifications. We need to ask what that is about??
- 1) There is apparently a widow ministry team that had been formed to serve the rest of the church. We might think of it as an order of women deacons who serve the church through prayer, hospitality, pastoral house calls, and care for orphans.
 - 2) (There's no such thing as retirement only reassignment.)
 - 3) This widow ministry team should be distinguished from the more elderly or infirmed widows who were not capable of active ministry but were still in need of assistance – although they certainly were to continue in prayer.
 - a) A few potentially controversial phrases regarding the requirements for the widow ministry team:
 - i. not less than sixty years old Is this number to be hard and fast for all time? No, I think Paul would say this is a judgment call for each individual church.
 - ii. having been the wife of one man Does this mean she can only have been married once? No. If a woman's husband dies and she chooses to marry again that is a good thing.
 - iii. if she has brought up children Does this mean she can only receive assistance if she was a mom? Again, no. It means that, if she had children, she didn't abandon her responsibility.
- d. Here is the key qualifier for assistance: "*...who has been left alone, has fixed her hope on God and continues in entreaties and prayers night and day.*"
- e. Some final thoughts:

- 1) The church is intended, when it comes to widows (and widowers), to be second line of defense. Family is to be the first line of defense.
 - 2) Every church needs to ask the question, “How are we intentionally going to make sure widows (and widowers) are looked after and taken care of in this church family?” This is a text that’s primarily dealing with women who don’t have a means of support.
- f. If you are a widow (or widower) and you’re are destitute, here are three options for you:
- 1) Fill out a connect card and place it in one of the boxes in the back of the worship center.
 - 2) There is a form to fill out on our website: kingsharbor.org/crisis-intervention (under the Resources tab)
 - 3) Call the office during the week.
- g. And if you’re a widow who would like to devote more of your time to ministry, please speak with pastor Henry – or fill out a connect card.

III. CONCLUSION

- A. As a church we need to pay attention to our:
1. **Conduct (4:12-16)**
 2. **Relational Considerations (5:1-2)**
 3. **Care For Widows (5:3-16)**
- B. Here’s how I would like to conclude our time today – going back to the idea of not looking down on youthfulness, I would like to say something and then pray for everyone in the room is between the ages of 35-12.
- C. Would you stand please?

P.A.S.S. Questions For KHC Community Group Leaders

Sermon Dates: Mar 18-19, 2017

Sermon Title: Conduct, Consideration, and Care

Sermon Passage: 1 Timothy 4:12-5:16

P - Participation (get everyone involved in the dialog)

1. Are you a List Lover, a List Groaner, or a List Learner? (How's it working for you?)

A - Application (makes it personal)

2. Why might people disrespect someone for their youth?
3. What would cause an older person to respect a younger person?
4. What characteristics does Paul challenge Timothy to develop in order to give no one the opportunity to disrespect him simply for being young?

S - Scripture (thinking biblically is a learned behavior! :-)

5. How does the challenge to let others "see your progress" encourage or challenge you?
6. If you disagreed with your father how would you speak to him?
7. What does it mean to be a "widow indeed"?
8. What can older widows do in the church? (See also Titus 2:3-5)

S – Sharing (aim for a time of honest reflection, authenticity, and transparency in a safe atmosphere modeled by you).

9. What growth have you noticed in the members of your Community Group? Take some time to share, encourage, and pray each other.