

CONCERN FOR THOSE OLDER THAN US

- I. Introduction. (I Timothy 5:1-3)
 - Paul instructs Timothy, a young man.
 - We have responsibilities toward Elderly.
 - We have some limits in how we correct them.
 - Our study will focus on God's view of older people, great Bible characters who did much in older years, our responsibilities, and what young people can do now.

- II. What does the Bible say about the Elderly?
 - Gray hair a crown of glory.
 - OT Law required people to stand up and honor the elderly.
 - Old age associated with experience and wisdom.
 - Old age brings pains, fear, and uncertainty of life. Life and vigor diminish.

- III. Bible Characters who did much when Old.
 - Abraham.
 - Moses.
 - Joshua and Caleb.
 - Daniel.
 - God can use older people today.

- IV. What are my responsibilities?
 - Cannot sharply rebuke an older man.
 - Treat older women as mothers.
 - We have a financial responsibility to care for our relatives.
 - Honor Father and Mother.
 - Visit widows in their affliction.

- V. What can I do now?

1. How can your responsibility to care for your elderly parents affect your choice in a husband or wife (i.e. should husband and wife agree about their responsibilities to their parents)?
2. Explain the term “visit” in James 1:27.
3. What is the only class or category of people that the New Testament authorizes for the local church to provide continual or regular care?
4. What are the limitations concerning what kind of widows may be taken care of on a continual basis?
5. What is said concerning the church’s financial responsibility if a widow has believing children? I Timothy 5:16
6. Based on the instructions in I Timothy 5, can the church offer *continual* care of Widowers (males who have lost their wives) or Orphans? Justify your answer.
7. How does the Bible describe a person who will not take care of his own relatives?
8. How were the Pharisees in Mark 7 justifying their lack of financial support for their parents?
9. Name some things you are doing or plan to do toward fulfilling the needs of older people.
10. Parents care for their children when they are young. But as parents and children age, the roles can be reversed in later years. Explain how this happens.