

EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY

Finishing Well—Doing What’s Best in the Challenges of Ministry

Respecting and Rebuking the Saints

1 Timothy 5:1–2, 17–20



LET’S BEGIN HERE

Paul made clear the purpose of his first letter to Timothy: “So that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God” (1 Timothy 3:15). We’ve noted that ministry would be easier if everyone in the congregation pursued godliness. But it doesn’t work that way. Some do, and some don’t. Those who do, deserve our respect. And those who don’t, deserve a rebuke. But how should the church go about respecting and rebuking the saints? What is appropriate and what isn’t? Thank God He gave us 1 Timothy to answer these questions and serve as our guide.



LET’S DIG DEEPER

1. Generally, a Glance at 1 Timothy 5

If it’s true, as some say, that all politics is local, it’s equally true that all ministry is intimate. And chapter 5 of 1 Timothy is all about the intimacy of ministry—of the roles and relationships the minister has with the people who make up the church.



Quotable

*Those who can’t
deal with difficult
people will find
ministry miserable.*

*Those who succeed
at it will find
ministry delightful.*

— Charles R. Swindoll



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2. Specifically, Care and Concern for Certain Ones (1 Timothy 5:1–2, 17–20)

The church isn’t a collection of unrelated strangers; it’s a family. Paul called it “the household of God” (1 Timothy 3:15). And in chapter 5, he spoke of believers using familial terms: *fathers* and *brothers*, *mothers* and *sisters*, and *widows*. As members of the kin of Christ who are adopted into God’s household, Christians should treat each other as family, not as strangers. .

The Older Men and Younger Men (5:1)

The Older Women and Younger Women (5:2)

The Elders Who Rule Well (5:17–18)

The Elders Who Receive an Accusation (5:19–20)



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LET’S LIVE IT

Respect is much easier to give than rebuke. And while no one enjoys hard conversations, if we spend enough time in church, we’re bound to have a few. When those times come, what should we keep in mind? Here are a few practical guidelines to remember.

Even if others fall into sin, we have no right to bully or despise them.

There’s a place in the church for personal rebuke and discipline when it’s done scripturally.

The most severe judgment is self-judgment.

Read Matthew 18:15–17. What steps did Jesus outline for rebuking and restoring a sinning brother or sister? (Note: there are five “steps” set off by the conditional word “if.”)

How did Paul prescribe the restoration of one caught in sin, according to Galatians 6:1?



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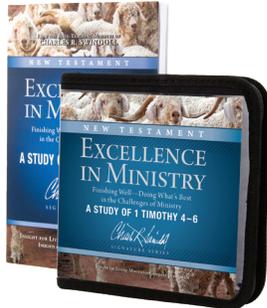
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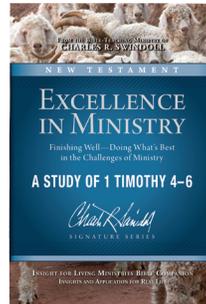
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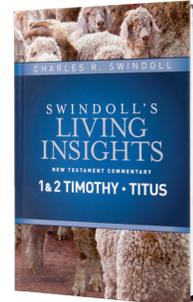
Tools for Digging Deeper



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