**God’s Design for the Church (1 Timothy)**

**Family Matters Part 1 (1 Timothy 5:1-2)**

**Recap:**

* **Finish Chapter 1**
* **Finish Chapter 2**
* **Finish Chapter 3**
* **Danger Ahead (4:1-5)**
* **Discipline Matters (4:6-11)**
* **Action Speaks Louder than Words (4:11-16)**
  + **With Our Speech**
  + **With Our Character**
  + **With how we model our lives**
* **1 Timothy 5:1-2**
* **In his instructions to Timothy as a minister of the Gospel, Paul counsels him on how to treat the members of the Congregation.**
* **The figure used presupposed that we are…**
  + **Indeed a family**
  + **Should act accordingly.**
* **Remember 1 Timothy 3:14-16:**
  + **The Household of God should function as God’s Family.**
  + **The Household of God should function as the Assembly of the Living God.**
  + **The Household of God should Function as the Pillar and Foundation of Truth.**
* **Today, I would like to expound on that thought. First as Christians and Members of the Body of Christ.**

1. **We are indeed the Family of God.**
   1. **That We are the Family of God…**
      1. **Alluded to earlier in the Epistle**
      2. **Taught by Jesus during his ministry.** 
         1. **Matthew 12:46-50**
         2. **While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, asking to speak to you.” But he replied to the man who told him, “Who is my mother and who are my brothers? And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”**
   2. **We Became Member of His Family.**
      1. **By doing his Will**
         1. **Matthew 12:50:**
         2. **“For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”**
      2. **By Faith and Baptism**
         1. **Galatians 3:26-27:**
         2. **for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**
      3. **By being “born again” of water and the Spirit**
         1. **John 3:3-5**
         2. **Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is hold? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?**
      4. **By adoption**
         1. **Ephesians 1:3-5:**
         2. **Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.**
   3. **When We Became Members of this Family**
      1. **Some might have been cut off by our physical family.**
         1. **Matthew 10:34-39:**
         2. **“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a person’s enemies will be those of his own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.**
      2. **Yet we gained a much larger family.** 
         1. **Mark 10:28-30**
         2. **Peter began to say to him, “See, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.**
      3. **Included in this family are:**
         1. **God as our Father**
         2. **Jesus as our “elder brother”** 
            1. **Hebrews 2:11-12**
            2. **For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation, I will sing your praise.”**
         3. **The Holy Spirit**
         4. **All Christians who profess and believes Jesus Christ as the way and only way.**

* **This is a wonderful blessing we can enjoy now in Christ, if fully utilized. Yet with blessings come responsibilities; this is especially true when it comes to the family of God…**

1. **We Should Treat One Another as Family.**
   1. **Our Text Demonstrates How…**
      1. **From a young person’s point view, they should treat.**
         1. **Older men as Fathers**
         2. **Older Women as Mothers**
         3. **Younger Men as Brothers**
         4. **Younger Women as Sisters**
      2. **From an older person’s point of view, they should treat.**
         1. **Older Men as Brothers**
         2. **Older Women as Sisters**
         3. **Younger Men as Sons**
         4. **Younger Women as Daughters**
   2. **Paul provides Examples.**
      1. **As a father to a son (Timothy) 1 Tim 1:2,18; 2 Tim 2:1; Philippians 2:19-22**
      2. **As one Brother to another (Epaphroditus) Philippians 2:25**
      3. **As a son to a mother (the mother of Rufus) Romans 16:13**
      4. **In teaching on family duties Ephesians 6:1-4**
         1. **Like obedient children, we should show honor to our older brethren.**
         2. **Like loving fathers, tender treatment to younger brethren.**
   3. **Especially where Correction is need.**
      1. **In our text Paul instructs Timothy on how to correct.**
         1. **When instructive criticism was necessary**
         2. **When there is to be caution against “rebuke” (an otherwise natural inclination)**
            1. **Lit., to strike upon, beat upon**
            2. **To chastise with words, to chide, upbraid, rebuke.**
      2. **This can make quite a difference in handling differences.**
         1. **We would be gentle to one another.** 
            1. **Galatians 6:1**
            2. **Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.**
         2. **As David wanted for his son Absalom**
            1. **2 Samuel 18:5**
            2. **And the king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, “Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.” And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders about Absalom.**

* **Not only is being the family of God a blessing in the best of times, but it can also help when things are not going well; it can smooth the rough times in our relationships! Finally, a few thoughts on how…**

1. **We can Develop a Strong Sense of Family**
   1. **Learning by Example**
      1. **Children of loving families are more likely to produce loving families.**
      2. **As Children of God, we can learn “family values” from our Father and Elder Brother**
         1. **From God we learn what Love is: 1 John 4:9**
         2. **From Jesus we learn how to love one another: 1 John 3:16; John 13:34**
      3. **Thus, we are better prepared to love another.**
         1. **When we meditate upon the love of God**
         2. **When we dwell in the love of the Father and the Son: John 14:21; 15:9-10.**
   2. **Through Shared Experiences**
      1. **For a relationship to exist requires shared experiences**
      2. **It was shared experiences that bonded Paul and his brothers at Philippi: Philippians 1:3-8**
      3. **Take advantage of opportunities to be with your siblings, and the sense of family will grow.**
   3. **Through Purity of Conduct**
      1. **Nothing destroys a sense of family like sin.**
         1. **Impure conduct caused Amnon to hate his sister Tamar: 2 Samuel 13:15**
         2. **Impure conduct caused Absalom to hate his brother Amnon: 2 Samuel 13:22**
      2. **In our text, Paul cautioned Timothy about his conduct toward younger sisters.**
         1. **“Younger women as sisters, in all purity.”**
         2. **He was to indulge in no word, or look, or action, which could by any possibility be construed as manifesting an improper state of feeling.”**
      3. **Improper conduct between brothers and sisters in Christ:** 
         1. **Has devastated many congregations.**
         2. **Destroys any sense of family.**
      4. **Thus, all would do well to heed a later counsel by Paul: 2 Timothy 2:22**
         1. **“Flee also youthful lusts.”**
         2. **“Pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”**

**Conclusion:**

* **One of the greatest blessings of being a Christian is being in the family of God…**
  + **To have God as your Father, Jesus as your Elder Brother and the Holy Spirit living in you.**
  + **To have an unlimited supply of mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters**
* **But to fully experience this blessing, we must treat one another like family…**
  + **In our love for one another**
  + **In our correction of one another**
* **May we reap the fullest benefit of membership in the family of God by heeding Paul’s counsel to Timothy!**