

## What is God Saying to Me About God, Life, and Man?

1. If you have to correct someone, treat them with respect and concern: if you need to reprimand somebody who is older, younger, male or female, do so but do it with respect and concern, as you would your own father, mother, younger brother or sister (5:1-2).
2. Men are never supposed to take advantage of women: when a man has to address a problem with a woman, there must never be any improprieties sexual or otherwise (5:2).
3. A widow's behavior determines her financial support: the godly character and moral behavior of a widow determines whether or not she deserves financial support from the church. Those who are godly deserve financial support; those who live in sin do not (5:3-6, 9-15).
4. The family is God's built-in safety net for the elderly: when mothers or grandmothers can no longer support themselves or if there's no one left to care for them, then the children and grandchildren are supposed to repay their mothers and grandmothers by providing for them financially (5:4).
5. Widows always have an advocate who's waiting to help: widows who realize that they can trust God, that He is their Advocate, have a different outlook on life; they don't worry about their next meal or next health crisis (5:5).
6. Sin often makes you *feel* alive, but it actually brings death: sometimes we feel the most alive when we're partaking of sinful pleasures, but everything in this world which appears to bring us life—alcohol and drug abuse, illicit sex, chasing success, fame, and fortune at all costs, etc—only brings us profound emptiness; we're actually the living dead but we don't even realize it (5:6).
7. Christianity is not about Bible studies but *doing* what God said: failure to do what God said is to deny the faith; it's worse than being an unbeliever [Why? Because we're God's children; we know better] (5:8).
8. Widows supported by the church are expected to serve the church: widows who have no family to support them and are then supported by the church are supposed to minister to the various needs of the church (5:5, 9-13).
9. Making vows and breaking them comes with a cost: you're not forced to minister to Christ and His church; but if you make a vow to do so, fulfill your vow. Otherwise, you will suffer the consequences of breaking your vow (5:11-12).
10. Supporting someone who's able to work is not wise: giving someone financial support without any work requirement is a recipe for laziness and other bad behavior (5:11-13).
11. If your spouse dies and you're young, your life is not over: younger widows are not forced to minister to the church; they can remarry and continue pursuing God's plan for their lives (5:14).
12. Our sinful behavior gives Satan an opportunity to destroy us and the church (5:13-15).

## 1 Timothy Chapter 5

13. Our sinful choices do not happen in a vacuum: Satan is leading us and we respond by following (5:15).
14. The responsibility to support someone in need falls first on the family then on the church. This is so that the church will be able to support those who are really in need, i.e., those without family to support them (5:16).
15. God designed nature and humanity to be compensated for their labor. Thus, pastors should be paid generously, especially those who labor in studying and preaching God's Word because "The laborer is worthy of his wages" (5:17-18).
16. God wants authority to be treated with the utmost respect: this is why He has a high bar when it comes to accusations against pastors. However, if a pastor sins, He wants him publicly rebuked so that other pastors will think twice before sinning (5:19-20).
17. What we do takes place in God's presence. This reality should drive us to behave properly (5:21).
18. Selecting leaders requires time and a careful vetting process: appointing new leaders should not be done hastily because although the sins or good deeds of some are clearly evident, the sins or good deeds of others may not surface until much later. Therefore, it's a process that requires time and careful investigation of the person's character. If you appoint a leader, whose sins aren't yet visible, then you will suffer the consequences along with that sinful leader (5:22, 24-25).
19. God doesn't have a problem with us drinking alcohol. In fact, a little wine can be good for your health (5:23).