

1Tim 24-06-09a

Good morning, welcome to the Sunday morning services here at Grace Truth Bible Church. Today is Father's Day and Coincidentally or not as we come to chapter 5 of 1st Timothy we find ourselves talking about parents and children fathers and sons brothers and sisters and the family relationships that exist because we are a fellowship of believers in Christ and It seems most apropos that through no fault of my own we have arrived at this point at this time and We'll take a look at it together. Let's ask God's blessing on our fellowship and study and we'll get started father, thank you for another opportunity to be blessed by fellowship with believers who share an enthusiasm for our Relationship with you through the Lord Jesus his example his words and works the Ongoing effect of the gospel and the mysteries that it contains that guide our lives and give them meaning and purpose and Definition we thank you for the passage that is before us and those related scriptures that we will see together and we ask your blessing on them as The Holy Spirit gives us insight and clarity as to both their meaning and their application we pray that in everything we do today, the Lord Jesus will be glorified and You will be pleased as we endeavor to grow in grace and knowledge of our Savior.

We ask it in Jesus name. Amen We start a new chapter this morning Timothy is a pastor in Ephesus he is a relatively young man and Having been given this first four chapters You have the Specific exhortations that will guide his interactions with people in the fellowship as individuals so the Previous sections have dealt more generally with the Presence of the fellowship in this in the city. How are you viewed by those who are outside? How do you identify? those who are to be leaders within the fellowship the characteristics of elders and deacons and this word elder is going to recur again the Episcopal the overseer is often also a pres Buddha Ross or one who is older and we saw the deacons and We've seen the purpose overall for this letter and its information given to Timothy It's not just for Timothy, but through him to the people in the church.

This is one of the most Important things to remember about the pastoral epistles, they're called pastoral because they are written to pastors, obviously But people often say well since I'm not a pastor I can kind of give that short shrift. That's Guys that go to seminary and people that might be elders and deacons would do well to read that but I'm gonna go over to the General epistles or the ones that were written to churches and and go to Philippians. That was a group of mature believers I like to think that I'm pretty far along so I'll read Philippians or I'll read Ephesians that traveled in the in the pouch with it and Colossians and the Laodiceans and so on I'll go to these other letters But as with so many things that we've seen of late What Is apparent on the surface Doesn't exhaust the meaning and the purpose of what is there? So if an example is given as we have seen meat offered to idols or forbidding to marry These are placekeepers They are single examples of a category of things and the exhortations that are given to Timothy are given to him So that he can pass them on to people in the congregation So when when Paul concluded the previous chapter by saying take heed to yourself Because by teaching these things and exhorting Instructing the brethren up in verse 6 in these things Be an example of them in verse 12 Exhort

them in verse 13 Meditate on these things and the the example and the teaching Of them should be evident to all this is what will deliver both Timothy and his hearers both the messenger and those to whom it is communicated.

It is deliverance for everyone It is guidance for everyone The reason I'm reviewing that which is something, you know, and we've talked about before is that as we start chapter 5 the Guidance the exhortation that is given to Timothy is pertinent for all of us Let's read these first several verses Do not rebuke an older man. This is the press Buddha Ross Don't rebuke a Presbyterian But exhort him as a father younger men as brothers older women as mothers Younger women as sisters with all purity honor widows who are really widows But if any widow has children or grandchildren Let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents for this is good and acceptable before God Now she who is really a widow and left alone Trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, but she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives These things command that they may be Blameless 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 Those first eight verses will suffice to get us started you'll first notice that Paul says to Timothy do not rebuke an older man Do not rebuke an older man The word rebuke here is Contrasted with the next Positive this is a negative do not rebuke, but do exhort rebuke is From Epi pleso and Pleso means to strike to punch to beat on and Epi is upon So don't beat upon This of course is Metaphorical certainly also you wouldn't want to do the literal, but don't Metaphorically beat on the older and older man But exhort him This is not just guidance for Timothy in all of our dealings With both those inside the one another fellowship those who are outside in the neighbor category It is not constructive to beat on people with rebuke to be harsh and Come to blows conversationally over an issue so It's most helpful to see the contrast do not Epi pleso don't beat upon someone by way of rebuke But exhort the word exhort is one that you are very familiar with The Lord Jesus told his disciples that he was leaving, but when he left he would send them another Comforter you may remember the word that is translated comforter. It is a paraclete Paracletus from para kaleo para is alongside parallel lines are beside each other And kaleo is to call it is someone who is called alongside This is your para medic.

This is your para encourager to Call someone alongside. This is the the encourager And this is the same Idea as what the Holy Spirit should do for us The Holy Spirit does not beat on us by way of rebuke, but he will call to our attention and encourage us In areas where we fail where we are guilty of sin where we are Practicing evil it is the role of the Holy Spirit to come alongside us and guide us out of the bad way and into the good way You can think back in your Christian experience when is the last time the Holy Spirit got angry and started slapping our soul around or Berating us or belittling us or shaming us In an incensive and callous way. It just doesn't happen God sends his Holy Spirit not to Drop giant rocks on us Not to inflict pain And and really not even we can be ashamed of ourselves But the Holy Spirit doesn't shame us He encourages us so that we will not be ashamed at the Lord's coming and this if we want some some guidance or how to reflect on approaching someone who is overtaken in a fault and it is A Parent to us that we have

some role in bringing that fault to their attention This is not always the case.

There are times when we are aware of a failing but it's not our place someone else's Child when you're when you're younger and you've got kids growing up And you come over to visit their house. You don't rebuke their children or even exhort their children to better behavior because that is Their own parents job and we have to tolerate in many cases evils and sinful behaviors in society You encounter you pass someone in the aisle at Walmart and they're obviously living a perverse lifestyle You don't stop them and say I just want you to know that's a perverse lifestyle and That you ought to be ashamed of yourself I'm certainly ashamed of you and start berating them in public. Obviously, there are situations where it's not our place and it's not our proper function to Exhort someone in a different direction this has to be done properly and Appropriately and In any case when it is done It should be done as an exhortation if we need guidance in how to do it when it is our place to do it Think about the Holy Spirit the Holy Spirit doesn't leave you beaten and bloody in the gutter Because you've committed sin our own conscience ought to do that for us without the Holy Spirit doing anything more than Bringing these things to our attention and convicting us of where we are wrong So Timothy is encouraged in his role he has a proper role of exhortation and of ensuring that things are done decently and in good order that Believers are not abusing one another within the fellowship and in his role as pastor of this group When they are together when there is malfunction it is his rightful place to point it out and to exhort and This can happen whether there are old men old women young men or young women So do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father If you have ever had occasion to Confront your father because there is an issue This is a delicate Situation and isn't done in hubris.

It certainly isn't done in anger or in some berating belittling fashion Honor your father and mother means if such things have to be brought up it needs to be done respectfully tactfully Carefully as an exhortation not as a rebuke and This attitude Again, if we feel the need to rebuke someone else someone in our periphery we need to stop the idea that it's time for us to rebuke and reconsider that it ought to be Something that we encourage Encourage someone in a different direction and the attitude we should have is the attitude that a Respectful son would have toward his father if he had to bring something to his father's attention that level of humility tact respect should guide our Speech and our attitude in such situations exhort him as a father younger men as brothers There the articles are lacking here and this gives you the sense that this is general He's not talking about a specific case but all of the first conditions apply So you could fill in the blanks here. Do not rebuke a younger man But exhort him as a brother Do not rebuke an older older women But exhort as You would your mother Younger women do not rebuke but exhort them as sisters with all purity That's where the pattern diverges a bit and it's Understandable. This doesn't require a great deal of explanation.

Although it probably requires a great deal of emphasis Looking historically at where churches have gone wrong and where leadership has failed where cults have In the name of Christ completely disregarded this sort of Guidance Exhorting younger men as brothers this again You

don't come up and you know punch him in the shoulder and say stop doing that or I'm gonna hit you harder It is respectfully. This is with family. Love with the idea of strengthening bonds of unity not weakening them of building each other up not tearing each other down and This pertains with our peers and Obviously what younger men as brothers if you are a woman then when it comes to encouraging other Believing women in our near periphery as Sisters if they're somewhere near our age This should be done with the idea of edification and building up not Rending and tearing down and creating acrimony and clusters of mental attitude and sins of the tongue So There are two things to take from this first couple of verses one is Nobody's perfect Just because someone is old doesn't mean they can't foul up and that they aren't in need of some form of correction of a failure or a shortcoming being brought to their attention if becoming old Insulated you from failure this verse wouldn't be here Timothy is is younger than many of the men in this group.

It seems evident and There will be times when it is his responsibility to correct someone who is perpetrating a failure They may be swaggering around they may be trying to exert their episcopal press Buddha Ross or Diagonal's Authority improperly they may be exceeding their bounds they may be insensitive to the conscience of other believers they may be causing weaker or younger believers to stumble they may have a personal problem that is manifesting itself in the fellowship and creating an issue for others and this isn't just to be let go and well wait for the Holy Spirit to convict him and correct him and Use the Word of God to instruct him in righteousness when it affects other people in the fellowship, it becomes Timothy's business and When it is his business, this is how that business is to be conducted It is the same with us there are times when we will need to approach someone in our family or in our workplace or in our arena of function whatever it may be and if there is Something not going right. Maybe you're getting together for a social function, but someone Starts engaging in gossip or is maligning or is inadvertently making someone else feel bad They're hypercritical or they're they are berating or belittling someone in the conversation at the time We go through a set of steps to decide whether or not we should speak First of all always start with prayer ask our Heavenly Father Am I in this situation? With your knowledge and in accordance with your plan For a purpose is that purpose for me to learn how to keep my own counsel and to be flexible and to wait for those who are authorized to speak to do so Will I be taking the place of someone who is here and should speak Or is it my place to say something? Is it my place to simply lead by example and change the subject or depart the conversation There are many ways to encourage someone out of poor behavior. Sometimes it is by Resigning your place at the table and going elsewhere and people people know when you seem to be off-put and are not Happy with what's going on and In the same way that a wife can win her husband without a word by a good example It's Paul says in another place There are times when we can exhort and encourage each other by example and by what we don't do Or by how we endeavor to turn a conversation or an activity away from a negative direction and into a positive direction with gentleness with generosity with respect With humility and yet often with firmness and You know a strong sense of direction but When such situations arise it is an opportunity, it's not an accident we are there by God's grace and God's foreknowledge and If nothing else regardless of what happens with the person who is at fault We are tested.

We have an opportunity to apply the Word of God that we know to keep Ourselves on the straight path and so on So all of us not just pastors not just someone in authority all of us have this guidance To be representative of the Holy Spirit as a comforter and an encourager when things are not as they should be to be a positive element and a positive influence and The guidance here is if you are part of a healthy family that loves and respects each of its members How would you proceed when there is failure as there inevitably will be do the same in Christian fellowship? Because there are ways in which we are a closer family In the faith even then is often the case in the physical world so We might have lost our father in the physical world But there are others who are father figures who are mother figures who are our brothers and sisters in Christ The one thing you will notice here. What is the one type of relationship? That's not represented to Timothy Is Timothy told to parent anybody in the church? he is not and You don't really find this sort of guidance, you know rebuke the younger men in the fellowship as as your sons This is the one role that's not there Why do you suppose that is? You can say here. Well, Timothy is younger So it would be inappropriate for him to treat an older man as a son But remember these are relationships in the faith and in the faith You might be long in the tooth and there might be an older man.

Who's a new believer? Why is there not guidance to father someone in the faith? You have one father We're going to talk about this in a moment because Paul is going to talk about fathers and sons and is is apropos On this day it is it is something we can look at This Will help us I think understand why that particular kind of guidance is lacking in these first few verses Paul has already called Timothy this by the way, if you want to start a new paragraph in your notes, we are looking at Fathers and sons specifically Using the example of Paul and Timothy if you flip back a page, you'll see that in this letter Paul calls Timothy his son In this very book first Timothy chapter 1 verse 2 Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ is writing to Timothy a true son in the faith We know that Timothy was not Paul's literal son from Acts chapter 16 verse 1 Where as Paul in his travels comes to Derby and Lystra, he meets a certain disciple there named Timotheus named Timothy the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed but his father was Greek and The suggestion here is that his father was not a convert was not a proselyte to Judaism or to Christianity So Timothy in verse 2 of chapter 16 of Acts He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium Paul wanted to have him go on with him and he took him circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region they all knew that his father was Greek as They went through the cities They delivered to them the decrees to keep which were determined by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem The churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number daily Encouraged and strengthened but Timothy's Actual father is Greek, but Paul becomes his father in the faith and his father figure and his mentor if you will This is Paul the Apostle Notice that he is authorized by the Lord Jesus as an apostle to fulfill this role Paul May or may not have ever been married, but it doesn't appear that he ever had children in 1st Corinthians 7 7 and 8 Paul said in talking about the topic of marriage I wish that all men were even as myself But every man has a proper gift of God one after this manner another after that I

say therefore to the unmarried and widows. It is good for them if they abide even as I in a single status So Why is it that Paul adopts Timothy if you will as his spiritual son in the faith Well, it is given in Acts chapter 16 he is enthusiastic about his faith he is Well spoken of as a believer by other believers he's he is a healthy and growing Believer as a young man and this enthusiasm draws him to Paul as That shared enthusiasm draws all of us together as a family There are many families and within those families. There is an ethos.

There is a culture if you will This is why we have so many local churches Different fellowships have a different atmosphere different priorities, but those those goals and values should be shared by those in the group and if we find ourselves out of rhythm or out of harmony or not being edified and built up and encouraged in the group that we are worshiping within this is a good time to go to the Lord in prayer and evaluate the situation and and see if there is not a Family in the faith with which we can enjoy fellowship and worship enthusiastically and harmoniously and to exit a group because we're out of harmony doesn't require a Speech or a lot of explanation or a bunch of histrionics we can fold up our tents and steal quietly into the desert and we can Supply an explanation if asked but look at the guidance Generally, we want to depart a fellowship because we feel that something is wrong either. We're not being fed which Can happen for several different reasons if the pastor is not teaching that is a good reason to leave and anyone that doesn't Come away from the banquet table filled and Satisfied spiritually with the manna from God's Word Needs to find a place where they can be that is the priority get fed. You can't be strong We've talked about this in the meat offered to idols idea that whatever we eat It's got to be that which builds us up and strengthens us and meals were Fellowship times they were communal they even the many of the Old Testament sacrifices were Performed and then the sacrificial meat was eaten by the worshiper and his family It was shared by the priests and these were communal meals Designed to draw people together the Lord Jesus in Revelation 320 Responds to the person who hears his knock and opens the door by sitting down with him and sharing a meal I will sup with him and he with me The one of the great forms of fellowship and for us to dine together on the spiritual food provided by God in his Word and Prepared for us and ministered to us by his Holy Spirit is all important and to do it as a fellowship Is a wonderful privilege.

It's a great blessing There are times when we are Elijah by the brook Cherith and the Ravens are dropping food on our heads But that's generally temporary we endeavor to find those with whom we can share a spiritual family relationship and do so with Gladness and with joy and look forward to it and enjoy it while it's taking place and have it as an opportunity for application and for prayer and for mutual encouragement and the giving and receiving of blessing through spiritual gifts So that is the atmosphere of 1st Timothy chapter 5 verse 1 Paul is writing this letter to his son in the faith Evidently Timothy is struggling in some ways and in some areas with his role as pastor in Ephesus But notice the tone With which Paul has written this letter under the influence and inspiration of the Holy Spirit But Paul is writing as a father would write to his son I Would submit to you that the reason Timothy is not encouraged to likewise minister to some in

the group as a father would to a son is the role of the father to the son is Brokered to us by our Heavenly Father through the Lord Jesus Christ and the apostolic Writings of the New Testament as well as the inspired record of the Old Testament, but the father role is the Holy Spirit and Notice that again, he does not upbraid us. He doesn't shame us. He doesn't beat upon us With an epiplesso kind of rebuke the Word of God rebukes and corrects and instructs us in righteousness and the fatherly role Is fulfilled by God's Word and God's Spirit.

That's why the Apostle Paul can call Timothy his son not only Timothy There are others that Paul Speaks to in this same manner in Philemon chapter 1 and verse 10 I beseech you for my son Onesimus Whom I have begotten in my bonds in my imprisonment Onesimus came to faith through talking to Paul and They had a shared experience of oppression Paul is imprisoned Onesimus is a slave and Through this Rapport if you will Paul evidently witnessed the truth of Jesus Christ to Onesimus and won him to the faith and Onesimus in that guidance and in that spirit is returning to his master Philemon and Paul tells Philemon Onesimus is my son in the faith Now think about this In all of your thoughts about the book of Philemon and and you know, he's he's no longer master-slave What does Paul say in Philemon if you read that letter He says treat him as a brother. He does not say treat him as a son why because he's Paul's son in the faith and Even though there is a master-slave relationship All doesn't encourage a father-son relationship he says he is He's my son in the faith Flip over to Philemon real quickly. We don't get to go there very often Timothy Titus Philemon as the old gospel song calls it Starting in verse 8 though.

I might be very bold in Christ to command you what is fitting yet for love's sake I'd rather appeal to you Being such a one as Paul the aged and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ I appeal to you for my son Onesimus who might be gotten while in my chains Who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me. I Am sending him back you therefore receive him that is my own heart whom I wish to keep with me So on your behalf he might minister to me in my chains, but without your consent I wanted to do nothing that by your good deed. It won't be by compulsion, but by As voluntary he departed for a while perhaps for this purpose that you might receive him forever no longer as a slave but more than a slave a beloved brother a Beloved brother Especially to me, but how much more to you both in the flesh and in the Lord? If then you count me as a partner receive him as you would me If he has wronged you or owes anything put that on my account and so on He's Paul's son in the faith.

This is where we look for our fatherly guidance to our Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus and his respectful honor and obedience to the Heavenly Father and that example and that exhortation Communicated to us through the Apostles who carry the message of Christ from the Father to us So this is a helpful perspective in conditioning how we treat each other when we are In a position to bring up a failure or a fault Where it would be easy to rebuke it would be easy to belittle It would be easy to shame or to get angry or to call someone to account As a father would a child and we need to stop ourselves Even Believing masters who had believing slaves were exhorted to treat them as a brother Not as a father The fatherly role comes from our Heavenly Father

Directed through this chain of command So Paul calls Timothy his son he calls Onesimus his son And There are others he Uses this same designation for that we'll look at after the break But here's the point this exhortation in first Timothy chapter 5 is for all of us when there is the potential for conflict or for division or for argument and rancor and bitterness and Putting people on the defensive in such a way that that they are likely to Take your good intentions and turn them on their head and create a bad situation The tact and the humility that we should Encourage in ourselves Will turn away wrath in others a soft answer Turns away wrath grievous words stir up anger Sometimes when you properly do this the other person is going to improperly respond, but we've got to Hold the line we can't Be dragged downward and away from this Necessary guidance this Representation of the fruit of the Spirit, which is love and joy and peace and long-suffering and gentleness and goodness Humility self-control as we endeavor to live our faith in relationships with each other Let's pause here and take our break when we come back. We're going to continue our Conveniently timed Father's Day special in Treatment of one another in the fellowship