

Title: Too Old – 1 Timothy 4:1-16

Read:

¹⁻²Don't be harsh or impatient with an older man. Talk to him as you would your own father, and to the younger men as your brothers. Reverently honour an older woman as you would your mother, and the younger women as sisters.

³⁻⁸Take care of widows who are destitute. If a widow has family members to take care of her, let them learn that religion begins at their own doorstep and that they should pay back with gratitude some of what they have received. This pleases God immensely. You can tell a legitimate widow by the way she has put all her hope in God, praying to him constantly for the needs of others as well as her own. But a widow who exploits people's emotions and pocketbooks—well, there's nothing to her. Tell these things to the people so that they will do the right thing in their extended family. Anyone who neglects to care for family members in need repudiates the faith. That's worse than refusing to believe in the first place. ⁹⁻¹⁰Sign some widows up for the special ministry of offering assistance. They will in turn receive support from the church. They must be over sixty, married only once, and have a reputation for helping out with children, strangers, tired Christians, the hurt and troubled. ¹¹⁻¹⁵Don't put young widows on this list. No sooner will they get on than they'll want to get off, obsessed with wanting to get a husband rather than serving Christ in this way. By breaking their word, they're liable to go from bad to worse, frittering away their days on empty talk, gossip, and trivialities. No, I'd rather the young widows go ahead and get married in the first place, have children, manage their homes, and not give critics any foothold for finding fault. Some of them have already left and gone after Satan.

¹⁶Any Christian woman who has widows in her family is responsible for them. They shouldn't be dumped on the church. The church has its hands full already with widows who need help.

Think:

Treat people as you would want to be treated. It's an old saying but does that mean it is not true? We've spoken about the fact that people should not look down on you just because you are young. What does it make us then, if we look at older people and think to ourselves, that they are not worth listening to, because they are past it! Tim's getting more good advice from Paul, in this passage he says, don't be impatient with the older guys. I look at some old people and just can't imagine that they ever did anything I was remotely interested in. Yet these are the same old women that raised families, worked careers and solved many problems along the way. Maybe they have come across some of the problems I am going to come across. I look at some of the frail old men and can't imagine them strong. Yet these are the same guys that also raised families, and worked on jobs, some of them even went to war to keep us free. Maybe there is wisdom in their heads that we could learn from. Yes, Paul's right, these old men and women may have been to school and college years ago but that doesn't mean they stopped learning when they left. Actually what it means is, there is plenty, both you and I, can learn from them, even though you are at school and college now..

Pray:

Lord please help me see the wisdom you have give some of the older guys I know. Amen.

Action:

Well you will never know if they do have wisdom, unless you talk to them. This week make it a point to speak to some of the older people at your church. Bye,