

22. The First Epistle to Timothy

I. Qualifications of Bishops and Deacons (3:8-13) Qualifications of a bishop (episkopos, "overseer"), who must be well-thought of by outsiders (3:1-7) Qualifications of deacons (diakonoi, "servant," "assistant," 3:8-13) Qualifications of female deacons (gynaikai, v. 11) Deacons" standing (v. 13)

II. The Mystery of Our Religion (3:14-16) The (stated) occasion for writing (vv. 14-15a) The household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth (v. 15b) A christological hymn (v. 16)

III. False Asceticism (4:1-5) The author's dismissive attitude (vv. 1-2) The problem (v. 3a) is part of the background of what is said in 2:11-15 and 5:11-15. The pastor's response (vv. 3b-4)

IV. Remnants of a Household Code (5:1-6:2b) Older and younger men, older and younger women (vv. 1-2) Widows (vv. 3-16) Real widows (cheras . . . tas ontos cheras), to be enrolled. Widows who are not "real" widows (vv. 4, 8) Young widows (w. 11-15) The rights of elders (presbyteroi, vv. 17-22) Slaves (6:1-2a)

V. Ethical Issues (6:2b-10) Immorality, the consequence of the rejection of sound teaching (vv. 2b-5) Godliness (eusebeia) and contentment (w.6-8) Money, a root of all kinds of evil (vv. 9-10)

VI. A Final Note, the "Deposit of Faith" (6:20a)

Review Questions

1. How does the author of 1 Timothy see the church?
2. The epistle's instruction on the care of widows is the oldest written description of the church's ministry of taking care of the elderly. Does that remain important at the present time?
3. Is money really a root of all sorts of evil?