**1 Timothy 5:1-8 — What Are God’s Cures For Loneliness And Vulnerability?**

May 17, 2017

What are God’s cures for the loneliness and vulnerability?

1. My church is a family. I am not alone.

Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity. 1 Timothy 5:1–2 (ESV)

1. It is our responsibility to care for aging parents.

Honor widows who are truly widows. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. 1 Timothy 5:3–4 (ESV)

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12 (ESV)

1. If someone doesn’t have family, they are truly alone.

She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. 1 Timothy 5:5–6 (ESV)

And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.” Mark 12:41–44 (ESV)

1. It is our job to provide for our children and relatives, not just ourselves.

Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Timothy 5:7–8 (ESV)

My biological family and my church family are God’s cures for loneliness and vulnerability.