

1 Timothy 5:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless.

Analysis

And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless (καὶ ταῦτα παράγγελλε, ἵνα ἀνεπίλημπτοι ᾖσιν, kai tauta parangelle, hina anepilēmptoi ōsin) —'command these things, so that they may be above reproach.' Parangellō is military language: order, charge, command. Anepilēmpτος means blameless, irreproachable—the same term used for elders (3:2).

Paul instructs Timothy to publicly teach these principles about widow care and family responsibility. The goal is that both widows and their families will be 'above reproach'—their conduct won't bring criticism on the church. Families caring for their own demonstrate godliness; widows living devotedly demonstrate faith; the church's discernment demonstrates wisdom.

Public teaching on practical matters like financial stewardship and family responsibility is essential pastoral ministry. These aren't private suggestions but apostolic commands to be proclaimed authoritatively. The church's reputation depends on members living blamelessly.

Historical Context

The early church faced scrutiny from pagan society looking for reasons to criticize. If Christians neglected their own families while claiming superior virtue, or if the church distributed funds carelessly, enemies would accuse believers of hypocrisy. Paul insists on blameless conduct—both in private family care and public church benevolence—to protect the gospel's credibility.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Why does Paul use military language ('command') for teaching about family and financial responsibility?
2. How does the church's handling of benevolence affect its public witness?
3. What does it mean for church members to be 'blameless' in their family responsibilities?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ταῦτα	παράγγελλε	ἵνα	ἀνεπίληπτοι	ᾧσιν
And	these things	give in charge	that	blameless	they may be
G2532	G5023	G3853	G2443	G423	G5600

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 4:11 (Parallel theme): These things command and teach.

Titus 2:15 (Parallel theme): These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

Titus 1:13 (Parallel theme): This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

2 Timothy 4:1 (Parallel theme): I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

