

Sermon Notes



Trustworthy Church

1 Timothy

Today's Scripture April 27, 2025

PASSAGE: 1 Timothy 5:3-16, "Trustworthy Benevolence"

TEACHER: Kirk Crager, Lead Pastor

Bulletin Updates

FIRST STEP AND NEXT STEP MEETING TODAY

If you recently committed your life to Christ, we want to help you take your First Step. Also, if you're considering making Cole Community your church home, we'd love for you to join us for your Next Step. Both groups are invited to meet with Pastor Kirk after service today at 11:45 A.M. in the Coffee Bar area.

YOUTH SUNDAY IS TODAY

Middle and high school youth are welcome to gather in the coffee area during service to discuss the Bible passage together and grow in discipleship as a group of young people today.

MEN'S GATHERING IS MAY 4

Our next Men's Gathering is planned for Sunday, May 4 at 6 P.M. in the Fireside Room. A \$5 donation is suggested to cover the cost of food, but please contribute what you can afford. Feel free to pay at the door.



WOMEN'S CRAFT AND CHARCUTERIE NIGHT

Come and fellowship with the women of Cole Community and New City Churches as we craft and charcuterie together on May 10 from 6-9 P.M. in the Fireside Room. RSVP and sign up to bring a goodie to add to our charcuterie board. You can bring whatever current craft you're working on so we can craft together.



CHURCH FAMILY MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 7

Please join us on Wednesday, May 7 from 6:30 - 8 P.M. in the Fireside Room for a Church Family Meeting as we wrap up the 30 day feedback period in moving forward in our partnership with New City Church. We'll take time to give a vision of next steps, answer any remaining questions, and pray for our church moving forward.

If you haven't done so already, please take time to fill out our online feedback form before this meeting or contact any of the elders to share encouragement, feedback, or questions.



Church Family Benevolence Guidance

In Galatians 6, the scriptures give us a broad calling as a local church to care for those who are members of our local church, in the "household of faith." We believe this scripture, among others, gives us wisdom and guidance on how to pastor or "shepherd" practical care in and through our local church. First, we are to "do good" to those in our local body, our church family. As we do a good job of caring for our church family, benevolence can then be extended beyond our own church to those outside the household of faith - those who don't yet know Jesus. As a pastoral team, we view our responsibility to primarily be for those in our local church family and then to those who do not yet believe. In addition, 1 Timothy 5 gives some very practical wisdom in the context of the early church. We believe that we can apply this wisdom to our context, for members of our church that are in vulnerable positions of need (including actual widows) like the widows of the early church.

With that in mind we want to communicate to the whole body a step by step care process that we believe can help ensure that everyone who is a member of our body with needs can be cared for.



1. SPEAK TO YOUR GOSPEL COMMUNITY LEADER

This is an opportunity for our trained Gospel Community leaders to exercise their gifts and lead their communities to help bear burdens in Christ. If someone doesn't have a Gospel Community, we want to encourage them in these moments of need to join one, live in biblical community and have a place to have their needs cared for in the future. We may direct body members with needs to the Gospel Community nearest to them and give them contact details for the leader.

2. REACH OUT TO OUR DEACONS

Deacons lead in the church by serving. Specifically we have deacons who are equipped to get word out to teams (like the men's ministry) in the church who can help meet needs beyond the capacity of the Gospel Communities. The deacons can also point people to the food cupboard and other practical assistance.

3. LEADERS REACH OUT TO OUR ELDERS

Our GC leaders and Deacons can always bring needs that are beyond their capacity to the staff pastors and the elder team to get help.

4. FILL OUT A BENEVOLENCE APPLICATION

This application is a detailed request for ongoing or large-scale needs beyond what the GC leaders and the deacons can help with. This application will go through staff pastors to the elder team.

5. ASK FOR PRAYER

When appropriate, and agreed by the person with the needs, we can send their need out in the prayer email and to prayer groups. This makes the wider church body aware of the need so others can respond with help as they feel led.

Those who choose to give to our benevolence fund (beyond their normal tithes and offerings) help to fund the meeting of the needs that we care for centrally as a church body.