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*Embracing Life in the Body of Christ / A Series in 1 Timothy*

## BUILDING A CULTURE OF HONOR

*1 Timothy 5:1 – 6:2*

By Rod MacIlvaine

**Introduction:** We live in an age that fosters contempt. Discourtesy and incivility have become the accepted ethos of our culture. We encounter vulgarity in our humor, our political punditry, and in our civic discourse. As our world becomes more interconnected and polarized, the church is not immune to this descent into incivility; nor are the Christian organizations that serve it. However, the body of Christ is called to a fundamentally different culture. By nature, we are a contrast community, a counter-cultural society, one characterized by a culture of honor in which we honor God, honor the risen Christ, and give preference to each other in love. At the very least, we honor fellow humans as those made in the image of God and as those for whom Christ died. But we have the potential to do so much more. As we genuinely come to know people from the heart, we can honor them for their uniqueness as people in the process of becoming conformed to the image of Christ. In 1 Timothy 5:1—6:2, Paul writes to Timothy, empowering him to strengthen the culture of honor that is supposed to take root and grow in the body of Christ. Because Paul's words to Timothy are very specific to a network of house churches in 1<sup>st</sup> century Ephesus, we need to contextualize Paul's words to the very different culture that we live in today. Rather than getting into the intricate details of this passage, I want to show you the broad flow and then make applications relevant to the Christmas season.

1. **A reminder** – Paul writes to Timothy about one should operate in the household of God.  
*1 Timothy 3:14-16*

2. **The Habits of Honor** – Paul addresses five groups as opposites with the idea that we honor those in between.  
*1 Timothy 5:1—6:2*

3. **Idea –**

4. **Takeaways –**