

**Blueprint: ‘God’s Design for the Church’**  
**“How Do We Treat the Building Blocks of the Church”**

Rich Smith, Elder – Christ’s Church of Marion County  
Sunday, May 29, 2022 (Memorial Weekend)

**OVER-ARCHING THEME: How to TREAT the Building Blocks of the Church**

How did Paul instruct Timothy to ‘**build up**’ the character of an unruly church?

Point 1: Paul understood that to save the church / Timothy would have to deal with sinfulness

- Purpose: **SAVE** the Church
- How: **DEAL** with sinfulness

*Avoid sharp rebukes, appeal to Christian Brothers & Sisters as family*

Church is not **LIKE** family: Church **IS** family!

Rebuke only with the purpose of keeping a Brother, or Sister on the **path of righteousness**

Point 2: Paul teaches Timothy how to handle benevolence successfully

- Identify: Those who are **REALLY** in need
- Seek Out: Those with no **FAMILY** or close friends help them
- Use Only: ‘Appropriate understanding’ – Treat with (**DIGNITY**)

Simply put, benevolence is defined as: ‘*an act of kindness or generosity, with no strings*’  
Proverbs 3:27: *Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.*

Point 3: A Christian widow places her hope in God:

- She **PRAYS** for herself & others
- Does not **EXPLOIT** people’s emotions or pocketbooks

KNOW THIS: *Anyone who fails to care for family members in need: Denies the faith!*  
*That’s worse than refusing to believe in the first place*

- The aim of every rebuke is to **SAVE**, not to damage or destroy

Point 4: Church leaders (Elders, Ministers, Deacons, Teachers, Etc.) are often unfairly criticized

- Be careful: Be **CERTAIN** of their sin
- Such men are not **IMMUNE** from sin
- Do not appoint Elders before they are **READY**

BE FAIR - 1 Timothy 5:21: . . . *carry out these things without prejudice, doing nothing by partiality.*

Point 5: Take time to care for your Brothers & Sisters, personally

Galatians 6:2: *Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.*

Point 6: Both sins and good deeds can be hidden from the eyes people

- However, God is **AWARE** of all of it: Both our sin and our good
- In all things, do them with **LOVE!**

Romans 8:28: *And we know that to them that love God, all things work together for good, even to them that are called according to his purpose*