

Life in Community
A Community of Gracious Speech
1 Timothy 5:1-2

- I. Paul's Instruction To Timothy, The Pastor
 - A. Rebuke sharply versus appeal
 - 1. "To strike"
 - 2. "To comfort, call near"
 - B. All things done with modesty and respect, as far as you are able
 - C. Implications beyond church leadership
- II. Why Speech Matters
 - A. It is a reflection of the image of God in humanity
 - 1. Creation speech
 - 2. Prophetic announcement
 - 3. A distinction from the animal kingdom
 - B. Speech is incredibly powerful
 - 1. The lie of "sticks and stones"
 - 2. Think of the most incredible moments of life
 - C. Speech, by means of the gospel and the Spirit, can be a life-giving agent
- III. Principles of Gracious Speech for All Believers
 - A. We should all learn to speak less (James 1:19-20; Proverbs 17:27-28)
 - B. We should speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:14-16; 4:25; Proverbs 16:21-24)
 - C. Our speech should be gracious (Ephesians 4:29)