

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment. Sometimes I think we're too casual in the way we talk to each other.

I was in a meeting years ago while an older man was being berated by a young pastor. Now, it was true that this older man had indeed done something wrong, but the pastor's approach was wrong, too. He was demeaning and very disrespectful. Not surprisingly, this older man and his family left that church shortly after that meeting. It was all so sad, and very unnecessary, I might add.

In our communication with others, we needed to be reminded of the sweetness of our Savior and the dignity and value of people. I think Paul had that in mind when he wrote Timothy. Timothy was a younger man in the ministry. So Paul was telling him how to approach people, how to speak to them. Listen to these words from the opening verses of 1 Timothy chapter 5; “Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers, the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity.”

He's saying, “Look, here's how you respond to people. Don't just say whatever races across your mind. Don't verbally abuse people. First of all, with older men, treat them as if they were a father figure. Be deferential.” Then he says, “Treat a young man like a brother. He's a family member. Don't just talk to him any old kind of way. Then an older woman, you talk to her as if she's your mother. Then to a younger woman, relate to her as a sister. She's a member of your family. Treat her with great respect.”

Here's what I want you to remember today. What we say, to whom we say it, and how we say it are very important. Respect is not optional!