



## 1 Timothy 5:3-16

### The Church's Care for Widows

by Eric Douma

July 7, 2019

## Paul's Concern for Widows

- 5:3 Support genuine widows
- 5:4, 7-8, 16a Family responsibilities
- 5:5, 9-10 Defining genuine widows
- 5:6, 11-15 Young + loose widows
- 5:16b Support genuine widows

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

1

## Command to Honor Widows

### 1 Timothy 5:3 ESV

Honor widows who are truly widows.

### 1 Timothy 5:17

The elders who rule well are to be considered worthy of **double honor**, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

2

## 1<sup>st</sup> Criteria for Support

### 1 Timothy 5:4

but **if** any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God.

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

3

## Valid vs. Invalid Widows

### 1 Timothy 5:5-6 ESV

She who is truly a widow, left all alone, **has set her hope on God** and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, 6 but she who is **self-indulgent** is dead even while she lives.

## Work to Care for Your Family

### 1 Timothy 5:7-8 ESV

Command these things as well, so that **(they)** may be without reproach. 8 But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, **he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.**

## More Criteria for Support

### 1 Timothy 5:9-10 ESV

Let a widow be enrolled **if** she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, 10 and having a reputation for good works: **if** she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work.

## Treatment of Young Widows

### 1 Timothy 5:11-13 ESV

**But refuse to enroll younger widows, for** when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry 12 and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith. 13 Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not.

## Admonition for Young Widows

### 1 Timothy 5:14-15 ESV

So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. **15 For some have already strayed after Satan.**

## We Must Care for True Widows

### 1 Timothy 5:16 ESV

If any believing woman has *relatives* who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, **so that it may care for those who are truly widows.**

## Summary

### 1. Widows must be supported:

- (a) If they are believers – vs. 5
- (b) If they are 60 or older – vs. 9
- (c) If they have no one else – vs. 4

### 2. Widows not to be supported:

- (a) Unbelievers – vs. 6
- (b) Young widows – vs. 9
- (c) If they have other support – vs. 4

## We Must Care for Widows

### Psalm 68:5

**A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows,** Is God in His holy habitation.

### James 1:27

Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: **to visit orphans and widows in their distress,** and to keep oneself unstained by the world.