

Caring for the Physical and Spiritual Needs of Widows

1 Timothy 5:3-16

May 5, 2024

1. The Church is to Care for Those Who are Needy :: vv. 3-10

“Honor” those who are truly widows.

- *Honor* refers to financial support (5:4, 8, 16, 17-18)

“Truly” Widows - Who are *truly* widows?

- V. 5 - Left all alone (needy)

- Vv. 9-10 - Meet the spiritual requirements
 - Live in prayerful dependence on God (5-6)
 - They must be known for their good deeds:
 - Having brought up children
 - having shown hospitality
 - having washed the feet of the saints (humble service)
 - having helped the afflicted
 - having devoted herself to every good work

2. Christians Are to Care for Their Needy Relatives :: vv. 4, 8, 16

One of the reasons the church is not obligated to care for every widow is because many widows have family to care for them.

This doesn't mean that the family won't ever need help from the church. The primary caregiver is the family, with the church coming alongside of them and offering help when needed.

3. Widows Are to Look to God for Their Spiritual Sustenance :: vv. 5-6, 11-15

Widows, of any age, are to seek to honor God in their new season of life.

v. 5 - Widows of all ages are to set their hope on God.

v. 6 - There can be a temptation, when life gets hard, to turn inward and focus on our circumstances rather than God.

Vv. 11-15 - Instructions for younger widows to remarry

Why should they remarry? Because God cares about holiness and wants you to live a holy life.

Meditation

What has changed about my understanding of God?

What did Scripture teach me about myself?

What needs to change in my life as a result of this sermon?

For those who are in a trial? Have I turned inward, focusing on my circumstances more than I have turned to God? Is my hope set on God or on the removal of my circumstances?

Is there someone in my family or church who is needy - physically or spiritually - who I could serve, bless, and care for? How will I do that this week?