



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High.

Title: The Organized Church, Part 2

Lesson: 43

Text: 1 Timothy 5:3-16

Date: May 21, 2023

1 Timothy 5: 3 -16 Honor widows who are widows indeed;
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. 5 Now she who is a widow indeed and who has been left alone, has fixed her hope on God and continues in entreaties and prayers night and day. 6 But she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives. 7 Prescribe these things as well, so that they may be above reproach. 8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

9 A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, having been the wife of one man, 10 having a reputation for good works; and if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has assisted those in distress, and if she has devoted herself to every good work. 11 But refuse to put younger widows on the list, for when they feel sensual desires in disregard of Christ, they want to get married, 12 thus incurring condemnation, because they have set aside their previous pledge.

13 At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention. 14 Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach; 15 for some have already turned aside to follow Satan. 16 If any woman who is a believer has dependent widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.

1 Timothy 5:3–10 Honor widows who are widows indeed;

“widows indeed”

NIV “Honor widows who are truly widows.”

“Honor” [timaos] - John 5:23

Deuteronomy 5:16 ‘Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the Lord your God gives you.

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.

“children or grandchildren”

If a widow has family, she is to receive help from them, not the church.

“make some return”

“return” plural

Genesis 45:9–11 “Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, “God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. 10 “You shall live in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children and your flocks and your herds and all that you have. 11 “There I will also provide for you, for there are still five years of famine to come, and you and your household and all that you have would be impoverished.” ’

Jesus is our supreme example of taking care of widows.

John 19:26–27 When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” 27 Then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” From that hour the disciple took her into his own household.

5 Now she who is a **WIDOW INDEED** and who has been **LEFT ALONE**, has fixed her hope on God and continues in entreaties and prayers night and day.

“fixed her hope on God”

“entreaties” and “prayers”

Luke 2:36–37 And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers.

6 But she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives.

“wanton pleasure” [spatalaō] -

ANT - “lives lived in pleasure and self-gratification giving herself up to luxury and self-indulgence”

7 Prescribe these things as well, so that they may be above reproach.

8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

“if” - in the Greek can have three different meanings

True, false, or doubtful but possible.

“provide” [pronoeō] - to anticipate, to think before hand or to plan

Masculine “anyone”, “his own” “his household”
“unbeliever”

Two realities are true for children who do not take care of their widowed mothers or grandmothers:

1. They denied the faith.
2. Their failure made them in practice worse than unbelievers.

1 Timothy 5:9–16 A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, having been the wife of one man, 10 having a reputation for good works; and if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has assisted those in distress, and if she has devoted herself to every good work.

Widows who qualify for service.

1. Paul has already given the qualifications for financial help in the previous section.
2. Paul seems to move from classes of widows to individuals - "A widow"
3. This section appears to reflect chapter 3 where the qualifications for elders and deacons are listed.
4. There is sufficient evidence in the early church that widows served in spiritual and charitable functions.

Titus 2:3–5 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, 4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

Widows must qualify for the list in three ways:

- 1. She must be over 60 years old.**
- 2. Proven to have been faithful to her husband.**

“the wife of one man” is a mirror image of the qualifications for elders and deacons

- 3. A reputation of humble service.**

Paul defines her humble service in five ways:

- A. Raised her children in the faith.
- B. Hospitable
- C. Ministers to others with God’s Word.
- D. Performs acts of mercy
- E. Known for good works

Widows who qualify for the list are to be characterized by humble, godly service both in and outside their home.

11 But refuse to put younger widows on the list, for when they feel sensual desires in disregard of Christ, they want to get married, 12 thus incurring condemnation, because they have set aside their previous pledge.

“set aside their previous pledge”

Matthew 5:37 “But let your statement be, ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no’; anything beyond these is of evil.

13 At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention.

This was a problem in the church of Thessalonica.

2 Thessalonians 3:11 For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.

14 Therefore, I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach;

15 for some have already turned aside to follow Satan

16 If **ANY WOMEN** who is a believer has dependent widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are **widows indeed**.

Implication

We have a widow ministry to develop.

Discussion Guide

1. Have you ever heard a dedicated sermon on widows? If not, why do believe this topic is missing?
2. Which widows qualify for church support and which one's don't?
3. What is the list that Paul speaks about in 1 Tim. 5:9? Are the widows on this list those who qualify for support or are they widows who qualify for dedicated service? How do we know?
4. Do you see that there is a qualified list of widows who serve as an extension of the elders and deacons? How might this work?
5. Reread verse 14-15 and discuss what these verses mean and how they fit into our culture.