

Widows Indeed (I)

1 Tim 5:3-10

God always had very special place for widow in His program.

Early church called:

Intercessors of church

Keepers of door

Keepers of altar.

God's care for widows

Widow: a woman whose husband has died.

I. God is Father of fatherless and judge of widows.

Umbrella of protection for widow

Deuteronomy 10:18 Proverbs 15:25 Psalm 146:9

II. God provides for widows by means of tithe and *forgotten sheaf*.

Deuteronomy 24:19 Deuteronomy 24:20 Deuteronomy 24:21

III. God blesses those who help and honor widow

Isaiah 1:17 Jeremiah 7:6 Jeremiah 22:3

IV. God rebukes and punishes those who hurt widows

Exodus 22:22-24

They shall cry at all unto me: shriek....make a proclamation to me.

V. Widows are object of Christ's tender compassion

Mark 12:41-44 Luke 7:12-15 Luke 20:47

VI. Widows were not forgotten in the early church. Acts 6:1-6

1 Timothy 5:3

Honour widows: revere, venerate, pay respect, show deference, treat with high regard and great consideration

Widows Indeed. Truly widows...have a bonified need.

Show respect and dignity to widows who are truly widows and have a bonified need.

Classes of widow

1. Widows with relatives

2. Widows that are young and frivolous

3. Widows that are widows indeed

Names put on list

If met requirements/qualifications put on as "*widow staff*."

Honoured by position and finances.

le. Dorcus in Acts 9

1 Timothy 5:4

Nephews: linear descendents. Grandson or descendent; Son of brother/brother in law or sister or sister in law.

let them learn first to show piety at home, religious duty.

Matter of showing one's devotion to God.

Them: children/grandchildren

requite their parents: to give off from one's self; to discharge one's obligations.
demonstrate appreciation

Pay them back.

... **good and acceptable before God.** Pleasing to God.

Really want to do something which pleases God?

Make sure take care of those who took care of you.

le. Joseph

le. Jesus on the cross

Eph 6:2

1 Timothy 5:5

1. **Desolate.** Alone, no children or grandchildren to support her.

2. **Faithful Testimony**

trusteth in God... fixed hope on God

continueth in supplications.. prayer for personal needs

and prayers... worship, outpourings of soul.

Night and day... prayer time not now and then

le. Anna: Luke 2:36-37

Opposite :

1 Timothy 5:6

Pleasure: lives luxuriously; leads a voluptuous life. ... *frivolous, dissolute, pleasure mad*

Dead while she liveth: living dead person

Lost real meaning and purpose of life

Useless to cause of Christ

Godly widows—tremendous asset to kingdom

1 Timothy 5:7

These things give in charge... blameless

Irreproachable...not hypocrites!

1 Timothy 5:8

Provide: to perceive before, foresee, think of it beforehand

His own household... near relatives, of own household

Deny: contradict, refuse,

Faith: what believe as Christian

Faith demands work and fruits. By refusing the natural duties which Christian faith implies, one practically denies his possession of faith.

Real faith perfects and strengthens natural duties (Author unknown)

And is worse than an infidel

Infidel: no faith...unbeliever

Thought: Even unsaved and unbelieving person take care of own.

If a man doesn't provide ...fallen below standards of heathen without Christ!

3. At least 60 years of age.

1 Timothy 5:9

60. Not likely want to remarry!

Taken into the number: enrolled; put on list,

4. Good marriage record. *having been the wife of one man,*

Same as Bishop/Deacon

Can't be a divorced woman.

5. Reputation of Good Works.

1 Timothy 5:10

Well reported of: born witness to; good name; good reputation.

Manifestation of her good works

a. **Brought up children** *if she have brought up children,*

b. **Hospitality.** ...*if she have lodged strangers,*

c. **Foot washing.** *if she have washed the saints' feet,*

Mark of hospitality

Demonstrated by character--willing be servant even in dirty things.

Servant's heart.

d. **Relieved the afflicted.** *if she have relieved the afflicted,*

Took care of people in need.

Good track record before husband died.

Great blessing to any local church!

e. **Always looking for opportunities to serve.** *if she have diligently followed every good work.*

So what?

1. Honor widows

2. Man—providers of household v. 8

3. Women—Honorable desire for you to pursue these attributes

Godly children

Hospitality

Servant's heart

Relieve the afflicted

Worker