

## I Timothy 5, Sermon #3

I Timothy 5 – I want to continue our study on widows.

Now, most of us are not widows. I understand that.

- This section centers on benevolence (churches' goodwill) to widows.
- The principle and factors for widows can be used for others.

Do not call list – F.O.P. – appealing for finances. Holiday season – the 1<sup>st</sup> place is the Church. God's institution and instrument for the world.

The church is to provide for their widows – vs. 3

The point of verses 4-16 is to determine who is truly to be helped. The church is not obligated to support all widows, only those who are **widows indeed**.

God gives us four considerations that we must take into account so that we can determine true necessity:

- I. The family consideration
- II. The moral consideration
- III. The age consideration
- IV. The practical piety consideration

I've entitled this series "Taking Care of Our Own, Part 2"

I Timothy 5:3

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word.

I Timothy 5:3-10, 16

Let us pray.

You may be seated.

## “Taking Care of Our Own, Part 2”

This whole passage is intermingled – so that means we will skip around some

### **Last time - Our first consideration was family.**

- Before the church steps in, are there any relatives who should be taking care of this person?

Now, Vs. 4 – what if this person who is a needy has family members, but the family members won't provide for her? What is the church to do in that situation (vs. 8)?

My friends, I don't know how I could make this any stronger than it's made right here:  
The widow is to be taken care of by her own flesh and blood.

It does not matter what type of testimony a man may give or what kind of a testimony a woman may give, if they are not taking care of their own, they have no testimony for God.

They are worse than infidels. What are infidels? – unbelievers.

But let's just focus for a moment and make application for ourselves.

Do we realize if we neglect our responsibilities to our own home, if we do not meet our obligations, then we are worse than unbelievers?

The Bible is quite clear – we might miss some things in Scripture, but we cannot miss this.

Verse 8 negatively states the truth expressed positively in verse 4.

In verse 4, God commanded that relatives take care of relatives.

Here in verse 8, God states that those who fail to do so are worse than unbelievers.

Notice in verse 8, **provide** means “to plan before.”

- It describes the forethought necessary to provide care for the widows in one’s family.

The phrase **for his own** refers to anyone within the circle of family relationships (progeny) (ancestry) – That’s a Wide Group.

He also has a mandated responsibility to provide **for those of his household – his own house**.

Narrow group -- that focuses on those in the immediate family, where his responsibility begins.

Failing to provide for those in either the narrow group or the wide circle makes a believer guilty of two things.

First, verse 8, **he has denied the faith**. He is rejecting Christianity – to contradict the Christian faith.

This does not refer to the loss of personal salvation. God is not judging the soul, but the actions.

This means that such a person has denied the spirit of Christianity, the principle of compassionate love that is at the heart of the Christian **faith**.

There must be no dichotomy between faith and conduct.

Not only has he denied the faith but,

- Secondly; his failure makes him in practice worse than an unbeliever, verse 8e.

He is worse than one who does not have faith

As already noted, even lost people knew the importance of and felt the duty of providing for their parents.

For believers to fail to measure up to that standard is inexcusable.

This verse answers for us our obligation to a grandparent or an uncle in that we have the responsibility – family pow-wows. Oftentimes the local ones end up caring and financing. The long distance ones show up, criticize, try to make decisions, inheritance.

Our first consideration – family consideration

Remember, this is to determine whether the church picks up the support or not.

## **II. Our second consideration is the moral consideration. Look at the individual.**

- We touched on the widows spiritual life in vs. 5 – she is a believer – she’s a praying woman – positive side.

Vs. 6 mentions something else

Vs. 6 – pleasure, luxurious living.

This refers to a woman who has a loose life – extravagance, overindulgence, living in pleasure -- whose life is not dedicated to God and His service.

In other words, she lives in personal pleasure.

"Liveth in pleasure" – The word describes the person who leads a life of pleasure with no thought of what is right or wrong.

Such a widow, God declares, is dead even while she lives.

- While she was no doubt involved in the church when her husband was alive, she is clearly living for the world now that he is gone.

Far from being supported by the church, such women need to be abandoned to the consequences of their sin.

And for the church to step in and supply eliminates the chastening of the Lord because her desperate situation may then lead her to repentance.

In the meantime, church resources must not be used to support a sinful lifestyle.

Vs. 7

“These things” gather up everything God has said since verse 3.

The goal of this teaching is that all involved, widows, families, and the church **be above reproach (blameless)** so that no one can find fault with anyone’s conduct in this matter.

The church's reputations, and that of her Lord, are at stake.

By supporting those widows who are deserving, and refusing to support those who are not, the church, as well as its pastors, will be above criticism and God will be honored.

Under this moral consideration, not only pleasure living but,

- Secondly, a widow must have **been the wife of one man** – vs. 9

The Greek text literally reads "a one-man woman," a parallel to that of 3:2 and 12.

That does not exclude women who have been married more than once.

- God commands younger widows to remarry (vs. 14), so that cannot be his intent here. A "one-man woman" is a woman who was totally devoted to her husband.

Faithfulness to one’s marriage vows is very important in the eyes of God.

It speaks of purity in action and attitude.

Such a woman lived in complete fidelity to her husband in a chaste, pure, unspotted marriage relationship – She had a good marriage record.

A widow who did not measure up to this standard would not be supported by the church.

Isn’t that interesting that we have that consideration – same phrase – I Timothy 3 – she was to be one-man woman.

This is not referring to multiple husbands -- I've known ladies to outlive several husbands – she said, I just wore them out.

This refers to the character of her life – moral character.

Why did God place this rule here?

- There is something about sexual immorality that is heinous in God's sight like no other sin.

Turn over to I Corinthians 6 – there is a sin unlike any other sin.

From Ephesians 5, we are aware that the marital relationship is a picture of Christ and the Church

I Corinthians 6:15-17

Our body is within membership with Christ, and if we enter into sexual immorality, there is a sense in which we take Christ into that wickedness and join Him – this hurts our relationship with Christ.

Vs. 18

The qualification is – Has she been faithful martially? Has she kept herself in marriage?

Do you know what the Bible demonstrates about a person who enters into sexual sin?

Poverty

- Samson lost his possessions, his eyes, his life.
- Rueben lost what was to be the first-born privileges – because he went unto his father's wife.

Proverbs 5:8-10, *“Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel: Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger.”*

Proverbs 6:26, *“For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread”*

Does the church take on a widow? Well, has she been a one-man woman?

Every woman in our congregation should live an honorable life before the Lord so if she ever found herself in a place of desolation, there would be no question in the minds of the church family to help provide for her.

Ladies, remember this is God’s insurance policy.

- That is not to say you don’t have others.
- But if a woman has been what she ought to be during her marriage, then if the time comes she cannot provide for herself, the local assembly will have care for her.

I Thessalonians 4:3-6 – these are the only verses in the Bible where I see a particular sin marked out that God says, I am going to be the Avenger of this.

Has there been morality? No questions about this

This is the moral consideration.

- First was the family consideration
- Second was the moral consideration. What kind of lifestyle has she lived? What kind of lifestyle is she living?

I wish that Believers could get back to these very basic and simple principles and get away from responding to emotional appeals.

- We respond to sentimental pleas from unworthy causes which are appealing to our soft hearts and neglect those in our very midst who have real need.

- We overlook the wonderful widow in our own church who is lonely and seldom visited. Her children have moved away or have died, and she has physical needs and financial needs.

Too often, the church ignores such need.

But if a church took care of its widows, its testimony would not go unnoticed by the world.

Let me talk to you frankly. Have you ever been in need?

Run out of wood – dad is too sick to get out of bed

My mother saying – you're going to have to get us some wood

Live on food stamps, WIC program, public health department

Receive groceries (opening up) from the church, gifts from nonprofit organizations

Wrestle with a proud father who did not want charity

Taking care of our own. There are people we care for regularly and your finances help them and you don't know it.

It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Gospel – we are all needy when it comes to our sin problem.

There is only one solution, His name is Jesus. He is the Risen Savior of the world.

Is He your Savior?

Christian, do you need a family pow-wow? Are there family members who are struggling?