

## I Timothy 5, Sermon #5

I Timothy 5 – we have been dealing with a very interesting subject regarding benevolence and the church's care of the needy, specifically the widow

Today, we will wrap up our four-part series entitled "Caring for Our Own"

I Timothy 5:14

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

I Timothy 5:14-16

Let us pray

You may be seated

## Caring for Our Own

God commanded Timothy to **refuse to put younger widows on the list** under the age of what? 60, vs. 9

They are not to be enrolled and God gave us three reasons why

Now, moving from the negative, God listed the positive things he wanted for the younger widows

★He wanted younger widows to marry and have families, vs. 14. ★

Not every person is supposed to get married, but marriage is natural for most people who have been married before.

Why remain lonely in widowhood if there was yet opportunity for a husband and a family?

Of course all of this would have to be “in the Lord”

When I say “in the Lord” – the widow would marry a believer

Younger widows, then – according to vs. 14 – are to get married.

Let me tell you a story from Greek mythology.

The Greeks, for 10 years, had tried to take the city of Troy but without success.

Troy – hollow wooden horse.

When the Trojans came out, a man who had supposedly defected from the Greeks said that the horse was for Athena and convinced them to bring it into their city.

They brought the horse into their city and the Trojans fell for it

Inside the horse was a trap door, when opened, warriors came out and opened the gate to the city of Troy at night and the city was taken.

Ever since then, the term “Trojan Horse” has been used to describe something that comes in unaware and destroys, undermines, and then overthrows.

The American home has accepted a Trojan horse and that Trojan horse is the philosophy of the Women's Movement, feminist movement.

They have promised the American Woman many things but actually the promises are a hollow shell.

To cope with this, numerous books have been written for the Christian woman – many solid ones, many good ones.

★But there has never been a more needed time in American history / that the American woman has needed / the bedrock of Scriptural teaching / regarding what a woman ought to be.

Let us consider two passages which include 11 characteristics of the Christian woman.

In verse 14, we can see three characteristics of the Christian woman – all three deal with her domestic life.

The passage in Titus enlarges upon what we find in I Timothy 5:14.

Titus 2:1, 3-5

Verses 4-5 add eight more characteristics of the Christian woman – four of those eight enlarge on the domestic life.

So, seven out of eleven of the characteristics focus and concentrate on the Christian woman in the home – over 70%

The feminist movement teaches contrary to the Bible, that women are suppressed and need to be liberated and so the solution is to emancipate the woman.

Our work force has millions of women workers.

Our work force is made up of 45% female

Our military force is made up of 15% female; and 20% of the new recruits

Even clothing today stresses the freedom of the woman.

Androgynous refers to something that has both male and female characteristics.

Clothing often goes for the cross-over look.

We can see the fusion of male and female characteristics.

They call these people androgynes

Such people would be Michael Jackson, Boy George, David Bowie, Marilyn Manson

Liberal theologians use the texts like Galatians 3:28, to say there are no differences in the genders of human beings.

This verse is used as a liberator for women so that they can be free of the so-called male tyrant

And, they use this verse to demonstrate that they can pastor and lead in the church

But if they use that text out of context, homosexuals can use it – to marry the same gender.

Galatians 3:28 refers to salvation – does not refer to marriage – marriage is between a man and woman

Church leadership – males are to lead in the Elder's role

The husband is the head of the home

All of that is very clear in the Word of God

We need to see what God says about women – not what the world says, and especially not the feminist movement.

What God says about the younger woman in I Timothy 5:14 primarily refers to the younger widow – that is the context – vs. 11.

Don't take them on for full-time support.

The church is not to provide the living for a young widow.

We can help her – but she is not to be fully supported for life by the church

The domestic agenda in vs. 14 is in three areas—husband, children, home

There is tremendous pressure to get the woman out of the home.

In these two passages, do you remember the percentage that deals with the domestic area? 70%.

It is obvious that God is assuming that the home is the realm of the woman.

God has given regulations to show the woman how to meet her responsibilities in that arena.

It is generally the will of God that a woman marries – vs. 14

But not in all cases – I Corinthians 7 speaks to singlehood

There is absolutely nothing wrong with being single

Learn to be content in whatever state

It is even better if a woman has the gift of singlehood.

She can serve the Lord more by being single but, by and large, it is God's will for women to marry.

That cuts across the grain of our culture.

The trend today is for the single lifestyle, for a woman to be independent, to have multiple partners, no children, and if children—one or maybe two.

That she should be career-focused. Rise to the top in that field.

How does a woman know if it is not God's will for her to marry?

Well, if she has no desire, no burning within – I Corinthians 7:9

And God will provide the ability for that celibate lifestyle.

So, the gift of singlehood affords tremendous opportunities to give yourself entirely to God.

But there are lots of women who do not seek the Lord.

Instead they say: "I don't want a man to lead me, someone I'm answerable to.

"I don't want the responsibilities of children.

"I don't want to care for the home.

Therefore, I don't want to marry. That's a sinful spirit – that's the spirit of the world.

Therefore, God writes, I want younger widows to get married.

"I want" is the will of desire springing from reason, not emotion.

In this passage, it carries the force of a command.

Jewish custom encouraged women who lost their husbands legitimately to remarry.

The Scriptures also teach that a woman whose husband has died has the right to remarry.

God wrote in Romans 7:3, and also in I Cor. 7:39, *"The wife is bound as long as her husband lives but if her husband is dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will, only in the Lord"* *"but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man."*

It is God's design for young women who lose their husbands to remarry.

Their strong desire for marriage and longing to raise children would make them ill suited to live a life of singlehood.

It also protects them from seeking solace in improper relationships.

But most importantly, it recognizes that a woman's highest calling is to the home.

Titus 2:4. She is to love her husband – one word.

It means to be affectionate, not agape.

This word is used normally in relationships of best friends.

Ladies, your husband should be your best friend.

Marriages are not built on the husband working and the woman cooking, cleaning, and raising kids.

It helps, but that doesn't build a marriage.

The physical intimate relationship does not build the marriage, even though that should be a healthy and regular part of your relationship.

The thing that binds the couple together is the affection.

It's the warmth of friendship.

It is mutual admiration, built on years of intimate knowledge of one another, the understanding of one another.

So, build that bond.

A man in society is far less vulnerable when the fires of affection are burning brightly at home.

It also says in Titus 2, verse 5 – to be obedient to their own husbands.

The verb means that the woman is to do this herself.

★She voluntarily places herself under the umbrella of her husband★

This is contrary teaching to our society

Either God is right or man is right.

Men, what a responsibility!

Ladies, the real test of submission is when you don't agree with your husband because if you see eye to eye with him on something, there is nothing to submit over.

This submission is not blind submission.

No woman is a doormat, and no man is to be a tyrant.

Being submissive—

#1 Does that mean she is a robot?

#2 Does mean she has no consideration?

#3 Does that mean she is not responsible before God for what she does?

This means the woman still has her viewpoint, but in spite of her viewpoint, she can arrange herself under her husband's viewpoint.

Of course, a woman cannot arrange herself under her husband if he has transgressed the Word of God in His command or request of her.

She is to marry.

## **II. She is to bear children – I Timothy 5:14**

The order is important – marriage then children – say it with me – “marriage then children.”

40% of new births are born outside of marriage.

Trojan horse – freedom of sexual expression

## **II. Having babies**

The contemporary view that children are an inconvenience that cramps one's lifestyle is repulsive to the Lord.

On the contrary, the Bible calls children “a gift of the Lord” (Ps. 127:3), and declares “Happy is the man who hath his quiver full of them” (Ps. 127:5).

Although a young widow may have lost her mate, she still has the high calling and blessed privilege of bearing children.

★But to do that requires her to remarry.

"Be fruitful and multiply" was God's mandate to our first parents (Gen. 1:28), so the normal result of marriage is a family.

Those today who refuse to have children because of the "awfulness of the times" should check out how difficult the times were in the past

If Christians do not have children and raise them to live for God, who will?

Abortion is the outgrowth of the feminist movement which wants to free woman from the so-called tyrants of reproduction and childrearing.



Anything that would disrupt a woman's life or anything that would be a burden –  
abortion can fix it for her.

This is modern day thinking.

Now, what does God say about this?

It is God's will that when couples marry, there are children.

I don't have time today to preach a message on this point, but isn't it amazing the effect  
that children have on a home?

They bond a family.

Outside of physical problems, some couples cannot have children.

Her womb is closed.

The Bible speaks on a number of occasions that God has opened and closed the  
womb.

God is in charge of this.

This brings up birth control.

★Should a couple have as many children as God gives to them?★

As far as I know, the Scripture does not address that question in any fashion.

★God leaves it up to the couple and their conscience, both the timing and the number  
of children.

The Scripture encourages full quivers, but the Bible never defines the number in the  
quiver, so every man's quiver differs.

As far as I can tell, it is God's will that there be children in the home.

Now, Titus 2:4 says to the older women to teach the younger women to love their  
children.

Again it's affection toward your children.

III. We got marriage and babies – the third area of domestic responsibility is in regard to the home itself.

I Timothy 5:14 – guide the house

She is to rule the home.

No in-laws, no houseguest, no children, no one should threaten her guiding of the home.

★Men, if there is one thing that ought to wind you up, it should be when your child talks back to his mother

Never allow them to cross the line.

The wife should manage the affairs of the household, and her husband should trust her to do so.

Of course, marriage is a partnership; but each partner has a special area of responsibility.

Few men can do in a home what a woman can do.

Whenever my wife has been ill or gone on a trip, and I have had to manage the affairs of the home, I have discovered quickly that I was out of my realm of ministry!

Our phrase “guiding the home” goes beyond raising the children to include all aspects of managing the household.

The man provides the resources through his labor, and the woman manages them for the care of her husband and children.

Titus says in verse 5, she is to be a keeper at home.

Now that word means to be a worker at home.

God had put these things down for us.

★So, what about women working outside of the home?★

The Bible does not directly address that issue.

But, if her husband, her children, and her home are set aside for it, then there is a problem.

The couple must be very sure that their hearts are in keeping with what the Scriptures say.

★Any career or work cannot supersede her home, her children, or her husband

It may be in addition to the home but never supersede it.

Her responsibilities are to the husband, the children and the home.

Now, the result of all this is a good testimony that silences the accusers.

Titus 2:5 says, “that the Word of God be not blasphemed”

I Timothy 5, verse 14 says, “give no occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully”

Our lives are to be above reproach, so that there is no one who can speak.

The adversary is always alert to an opportunity to invade and destroy a Christian home.

Vs. 14, “occasion” refers to a launching point for an attack, or a base of operations.

A Christian wife who is not doing her job at home gives Satan a beachhead for his operations, and the results are tragic.

The destruction of our society and in our families and with our kids

While there are times when a Christian wife and mother may have to work outside the home, the normal pattern is that she minister in the home.

The wife who works simply to get luxuries may discover too late that she has lost some necessities.

It maybe all right to have what money can buy if you do not lose what money cannot buy.

How Christian wives and mothers manage their homes can be a testimony to those outside the church.

The wives are to have a good witness.

Women can minister for the Lord right in their own homes.

On the other hand, those who violate God's purposes give ammunition to the enemies of the church.

★The domestic life of the woman is a battlefield for Satan.

May God have the victory in all these areas

Ladies, when you meet your responsibilities to your husband, your children, your home, you have obeyed the Lord.

This is the center of the will of God for your life.

Don't allow the media and society to squeeze you into its mold.

Vs. 15

God's warning to the Ephesian church was timely, since, tragically some had already turned aside to follow Satan.

Some of the younger widows had abandoned God's way.

Having forsaken their true calling to have children and manage the home, they had given themselves to various sins (cf. 2 Tim. 3:6).

This is the Trojan horse of the feminist movement.

It is made to free the woman but usually it destroys her and her home.

They were no longer serving Christ, but **Satan**.

For that reason, God's command that the younger widows remarry was all the more urgent.

Vs. 16

God then summarized the principle of each family caring for the needs of its own members

God did not tell us how these widows should be relieved—giving them a regular dole, taking them into a home, giving them employment, etc.

Each church would have to decide this according to the needs of individual cases.

A widow's children and grandchildren have the primary responsibility for her care.

Then come her male relatives, and after that her female relatives.

Only when such people are unavailable or unable to help does the task fall to the church.

Each family should support its own widows, so that the church can concentrate on the widows who are without family and are in real need.

When families take care of their needy widows, **the church** is not **burdened**.

It is then free to **assist those who are widows indeed**.

Only those widows with no other means of support should be cared for by the church at large.

Helping widows brings the promise of blessing from God.

### **Taking Care of our Own**

Let us stand for closing invitation

Christians – importance of our spouses, children, homes

Have we allowed a base of operation for Satan to work and destroy us from within?

Gospel

## Rear of Document

It fell upon the local synagogues to relieve the plight of widows.

Customarily, a group from each synagogue would make the rounds on Friday mornings, collecting goods and money to be distributed to the needy widows later in the afternoon.

In spite of those efforts, however, many widows were still impoverished

The treatment of widows tests the spiritual character of the Christian community.

Believers' devotion to Christ can be seen in how they treat those without resources.

Through the care it provides, the church manifests Christ's love to the needy and gives witness of Christlike love to the watching world.

Such care has been a part of the church's life throughout its history.