

# **Words About Widows**

What is the responsibility  
of the church toward widows?

1 Timothy 5:3-16

# Introduction

- After Paul discusses the work and qualifications of elders and deacons, he has a lengthy section on how the church should treat widows.
- There are several words here that must be understood to know how the church supports widows.
- This lesson is a study of these important words

# Widows Indeed / Really Widows

- **1 Timothy 5:3** Honor widows who are **really widows**.
- **1 Timothy 5:5** Now she who is **really a widow**, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day.
- KJV – widow indeed; NKJV – really a widow
- Paul points out several different groups of widows. Can one be a partial widow?

# Widows Indeed / Really Widows

- Later a clearer definition is given
- **1 Timothy 5:9-10** 9 Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man, 10 well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work. 11 But refuse the younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton.

# Widows Indeed / Really Widows

- Widows Indeed – vs. 9-10
- Younger widows – 11-15
- Three important qualities:
  - Desolate – without family for support
  - Trusts God
  - Constant in prayer

# Piety

- **1 Timothy 5:4** But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.
- Piety = show respect, reverence by doing your duty
- Christians should show care and concern

# Requite

- **1 Timothy 5:4** But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.
- NKJV – repay; KJV – requite
- To pay in return, to make a return, to give something for something
- Parents – you are paying for your raising.
- Have aged parents? You still owe them

# Worse than an infidel

- **1 Timothy 5:8** 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.
- Primary responsibility is for family to care for family
- If a person fails in this:
  - Denied the faith – not a true believer
  - Worse than a heathen – infidel, atheist

# Taken into number

- **1 Timothy 5:9** Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man,
- Literally – put on the payroll, paid for their work
- This is not charity. This is support in exchange for work done
- Payment for services rendered

# Taken into number

- **Qualifications**

- At least 60 years old
- A one-man woman
- Well spoken of in the community
- Known for her good deeds
- Raised children
- Relieved the afflicted
- Followed every opportunity for good

# Younger Widows

- **1 Timothy 5:11-13** But refuse the younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry, 12 having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith. 13 And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.
- Potential problem – become materialistic –
- They will seek security, marry again

# Younger Widows

- May become busybodies (gossips)
- Will be idle, nosey, just wandering around, not working or productive
- They should:
  - Marry
  - Bear children
  - Oversee a house
  - Live above reproach
  - Don't abandon the faith

# The church at work

- Three major areas of work for the church
  - **Evangelism** – teach the lost
  - **Edification** – encourage, strengthen the saved
  - **Benevolence** – help those in need of support
- This is what your contribution to the church does.
- The Lord's money is used for these three areas of work.