**Sound Doctrine: 1st Timothy, 2nd Timothy & Titus**

# Honor Widows

**1st Timothy 5:1-16**

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| **Order in the court [church!]**<br><br>**God's house is orderly.** | Relationships. Leadership. Meetings.<br><br>**Today: Meeting needs.** |

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| **[Pray] 5:1-2**<br><br>**Treatment of believers, as family**<br>*OG "When you're here, you're family"*<br><br>**<u>Healthy relationships have healthy communication</u>**<br><br>**(a) Timothy's task: exhort older men**<br><br>**Strike**, attack.<br>Might not be able to receive it | **Eph 5:22-6:9**<br>**an outline for healthy, ordered relationships**<br><br>**If order isn't followed, it's not <u>received</u>**<br><br>● Order is the outline for health<br>● opens us up to communicating<br>● Reminds us that God is the one in charge and commanding us these things |
| **Pastors have the authority to speak into the lives of <u>everyone</u> at church** | **<u>only the approach and tone will vary</u>** |

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| **:3**<br><br>**Widows** - woman whose husband died<br><br>**Not glamorous ministry, godly ministry**<br>● Acts 6 deacons<br>● **forgotten and truly helpless** | **<u>Honor</u>** … timao<br>Estimate, affix value, revere<br><br>God wants the church to<br>**value those who have no socio-economic value**<br>widows, orphans<br><br>**But "really" truly widows**<br>"widows indeed" |

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| **<u>Every avenue exhausted and unavailable</u>**<br><br>• **No government welfare office** in Rome<br>• Today, some can't get on who should<br>• Others are on who shouldn't<br>• Rampant waste and fraud<br>• Incentivizes single moms, married to gov<br><br>*It's not charity if the government takes it from you by force* | **Naomi, Ruth.**<br>**Gleaning from Boaz's field**<br><br>**2 Kings 4:1-7** Elisha and widow and jars<br>Set out the jars, God will fill<br><br>**God's ways to care for the poor usually require effort**<br><br>**Needs, not wants**<br>enough to survive, not enough to be spoiled<br><br>Widows, not widowers on this list says something to us men… |
| **Exo 22:22** – "You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child.<br><br>**Jesus** - raised widow's son, widows mites | **Deu 10:18** – "He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing. |

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| **:4**<br><br>**<u>The call goes out to family first</u>**<br><br>multigenerational homes, houses close, seems foreign to us<br><br>**Parents raised you, least you can do - as Christians, its your duty**<br><br>as you came into the world so you'll go out<br>Cranky, toothless and in a diaper!<br><br>**Medical needs? Retirement homes?**<br>Nothing wrong with seeking help<br>But too often just a dumping ground | **Even if they need the physical care you cannot physically or emotionally abandon them**<br><br>**<u>This is not God's way</u>**<br><br>*"Nurses may be employed but there must be more" PTW*<br><br>*"We will not have God's approval without such loving family care." PTW*<br><br>**God commands** us to honor our parents.<br><br>**If they're in need, it's not optional in most cases. <u>But there are qualifications.</u>** |

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| **:5-7**<br>• **Left alone** - truly - no family, no one | • **Trusts God** - active faith - a real believer, not in name only |

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| • **Prayer warrior** - all the time. For her own needs. And for others.and then pay her for it - **so many older women are great prayer warriors!** | • **Serves in church!** She has a spiritual job: praying *Church I came from had so many older women who served in every way they could - and weren't on the widows payroll* |

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| **<u>Not qualified: Lives in pleasure</u>**<br><br>Jesus not 1st love - in love with living<br><br>*Maybe saved, but not sanctified, immature*<br><br>*"pampering her body at the expense of her mind." Clarke*<br><br><u>The widows fund isn't for funding trips to the nail salon</u> | **Or worse…**<br>**She's not actually a Christian**<br><br>Whether she claims Jesus or not…<br><br>**She can't be living the party life**<br>drinking, gambling, living immorally<br><br>**Why would you ever think God would pay for that?** |
| **(a) Timothy's task:**<br>**command the widows!** | **Being released from your marriage,**<br>as a believing older woman, **is not meant to send you back to the world**<br>**<u>but draw you closer to Jesus!</u>** |

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| **:8**<br><br>**<u>Real Christians</u>**<br>**<u>Care for their families</u>**<br>Even unbelievers despise a deadbeat<br><br>**<u>Corban (gift to God)</u>**<br>*Mark 7:9-13*<br><br>**Family exists to care for those in it!**<br><br>**Family has <u>become a curse word</u> to some** | **<u>Why are there qualifications?</u>**<br><br>**God doesn't support sin**<br>**We shouldn't either**<br><br>**You don't want to enable their sin**<br><br>**Anyone's first need is always spiritual**<br><br>Sometimes God strips the practical to get to the spiritual<br><br>**<u>It's a fine line between helping & enabling</u>** |
| **<u>Don't get in God's way</u>** | **Any care should <u>lead them to God</u>** |

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| **<u>People's consciences are seared. Ears clogged.</u>**<br>They've squandered trying to find life<br><br>**The loudness of their lack<br>Is God's way of getting their attention…so He can provide** | **God's provision always leads you a closer relationship with Him**<br><br>It's designed to get you dependant on Him<br><br>*Getting saved - God moved me out of my hometown, took my friends away, took my relationship away…the things I relied on so he could finally get my heart* |
| **<u>Often God is working…</u>**<br><br>**We don't like to see them hurting, so we step in to help** | • **Our help helps their fleshly want**<br><br>• **But prevents their spiritual need from being met** |
| **<u>That's where we go wrong -</u>**<br>**unbridled empathy leads to giving to those who will squander it at the <u>expense</u> of those who would use it rightly**<br><br>*If only we gave to veterans at the VA what we give to illegals at the border!* | **Helps ministry**<br>• Calls in to the church (calling everyone and everywhere, won't come to church though)<br>• Questionnaire (never returned)<br>• Counseling (sell the car, get a used one so you don't have a payment) |
| *"Many who come to the church for assistance are in need because they have lived their lives for the pleasures of alcohol, drugs, or whatever; now they are in need and they want the church to help.* ***It's legitimate to say, "No; you have lived in pleasure and now suffer the consequences.*** *The resources of this congregation are not for your help in this case." DG* | **<u>Prodigal son</u>…**squandered inheritance…had to return home<br>**"Came to himself"**<br><br>*"God's normal way of providing for the needy is not through the local congregation, but through [family] and [work]."* DG |
| **<u>Personal family qualifications might differ slightly from church's</u>**<br><br>**<u>But should follow a similar pattern</u>**<br><br>Do they claim to be a believer? Do they not? What's their behavior? **Was it calamity or behavior?** | **Enabling a family member to live in sin is not the right use of your blessings**<br><br>God has given you provisions to steward! you're not to squander them<br><br>**<u>And it is not leading them to Jesus</u>** |

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| **:9-10**<br><br>**<u>There was a list, it was a mess</u>!**<br>**It needed order!**<br><br>*Did you know there's a gift of Administration?*<br><br>**Who was on that shouldn't be and who should be that wasn't.**<br><br>*they had to "widow the list down a widow bit"* | **<u>Senior living…60 and up</u>**<br>Retirement age<br><br>One thing to work now, harder then<br><br>*Sad to see so many older people working*<br><br>**Age discrimination today**- many who want or could won't be hired for a job in their field |
| **<u>"One man woman"</u>**<br>Faithful to her late husband<br><br>**Samaritan woman** at well, probably just remarry again (likely wrong relationships)<br><br>*The qualified are likely too old to easily remarry or want to* | ● **Good works -** always serving, doing things for God. <u>Not a spiritually lazy lady</u><br>● **Raised kids -** she's shown herself to be a godly mother<br>● **Hospitality -** makes a house a home, cares for others<br>● **Diligent -** she's not lukewarm in faith |
| **These are pretty strict qualifications…for the church to step in**<br><br>**The church provides the best care because church care centers on spiritual care**<br><br>*State making arrests, no where to put trafficking victims*<br><br>● **True ministry gives the church something heavenly to do**<br>● **Is a true witness** | **<u>The church can't and shouldn't help everyone.</u>**<br><br>**It must be in order and help people get their lives in spiritual order.**<br><br>*"Financially qualified through destitution, spiritually qualified through godlines. " PTW*<br><br>1. **The church helps real needs**<br>2. **Recipients must be qualified and accountable** |

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| **:11-15**<br><br>**<u>REFUSE</u>!**<br><br>**Decline, not come <u>alongside</u>** | *We love you, you're a part of the church, we just can't give you money right now*<br><br>***Sadly…the usual reaction? Offense! Attack!*** |

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| "**Sister**…<br>you're young enough to get a job. You're young enough to get remarried.<br>Your parents are still around to help you.<br><br>**Are you still married to Jesus?**<br>**Do you trust Him to provide?"** | **Any widow's real need:**<br>**not a husband, a Savior**<br>One better than a husband or family member<br><br>**Who will provide all their needs**<br>● The right provision<br>● The right person |
| **Today, rampant divorce.** If she was abandoned the church should help her get on her feet (non-working mom has to find a job, might need money right away)<br><br>● *Late Friend's wife remarried*<br>● *Friend married single Dad*<br><br>**30s-50's singles should not be afraid to marry a Christian widow or widower or single parent!** | **Being in physical need quickly reveals our spiritual state**<br><br>● Will we turn to sin to meet our needs?<br>● Quickly marry the wrong man?<br>● Quickly turn to sinful employment<br><br>***Inferred agreement to go on the roll…***<br>***to stay a widow…***<br>*most younger women not called to this* |
| **Big implications…**<br><br>**Young, spiritually immature women**<br>**If their needs are met and are enabled to be lazy…get into trouble**<br><br>● Doesn't have a home to make hospitable<br>● Doesn't need to raise her kids<br>● Doesn't have a husband to do life with<br>● Will find another home to get into<br>● Another woman to influence<br>● Another husband to go after<br><br>*What do **ungodly**, single, childless women talk about, get involved with, advocate & vote for…*<br><br>**"Those who spend much time talking about other people's lives need to get a life of their own." DG** | **Exhortation....widows, commit yourself to ministry**<br><br>**Older widows:**<br>● Prayer ministry<br>● Disciple younger women<br>● Help your kids raise theirs<br>● Grandchildren & great grandchildren<br>● Church things!<br>● Parachurch ministries!<br><br>**Younger widows**<br>● Trust God<br>● Ask him for a godly husband<br>● Raise your kids in godly ways<br>● Work if you need to<br>● Serve God<br><br>**Pretty wild verse…**<br>**Married to God. Or married to Satan.** |

## :16

## Believing man <u>or</u> woman

Both sides of the family
In-laws and out-laws

**Are you a <u>believer</u>?**
**Are they related?**
**If they're in real need**
**They're <u>your</u> responsibility**

**The church steps in like family**
**when there is no family**
**That's the order.**

**In God's house:**

1. **Needs are ordered**
2. **Lives are ordered.**
3. **Care is ordered.**

*Physical care is meant to open the door for spiritual care*

*Indiana food pantry*

**Exo 20:12** – "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

**Jas 1:27** – Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, [and] to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

**Psa 27:10** – When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me.

**When you cover your family**
**It frees up the church cover others**

**Covering others in order**
**Uncovers who Jesus really is**
**Which is what it's all about.**