

Lessons From I Timothy

Widows Indeed

(I Ti 5:3-16)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
 2. Series of “Lessons From I Timothy.”
 - a. Two weeks ago we examined “Treat People Like Family.”
 - i. **I Ti 5:1-2** “Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.”¹
 - b. This week we are going to look at “Widows Indeed.”
 - i. **I Ti 5:3** “Honour widows that are widows indeed.” (ASV)
 3. Paul having just written concerning the type of relationship Timothy needed with the congregation, a family like relationship, now moves into the three groups that were responsible for the care of Christian widows.
 - a. With this in mind let us examine our lesson today.
- I. Widows Cared For By Their Families**
- A. Kids & grandkids are to “show godliness to their own household” (**4a**)
 1. Other translations have...
 - i. “show piety” (ASV; KJV; NASB95)
 - ii. “show profound respect” (LEB)
 - iii. “put their religion into practice by caring” (NIV)
 2. Notice Paul did not say kids “pay” to have someone else “show godliness or piety” toward your widowed mother.
 - i. Paying for services is passive not active.
 - ii. Paul says “show godliness”
 - a. **Ep 6:2** “Honor your father and mother...”
 3. Thus God desires children to actively honor their widowed mothers as they should.
 - B. Kids & grandkids are to “make some return to their parents” (**4b**)
 1. Other translations have...
 - i. “to requite their parents” (ASV; KJV)
 - ii. “to pay back recompense to their parents” (LEB)
 - iii. “repaying their parents & grandparents” (NIV)
 2. Think of all the love and care moms have given their kids over the years.
 - i. They were up at night when their kids were sick.
 - ii. They were there to hug them tight when a bad dream occurred.
 - iii. There were there to cook them food, clothe them, etc...
 3. Thus God desires kids to “give back” to their parents.
 - C. Kids & grandkids are to “proved for [their] family” (**8**)
 1. How do kids actively honor their mothers and pay back their mothers for taking care of them...by providing for them.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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D. Thus...

1. God expects kids and grandkids to take care of those who took care of them.

II. Widows Cared For By The Church

A. Those provided for should be on the “list” (9)

1. This is not a question up for debate.
 - i. If qualified they should simply be placed in on it.

B. Those provided for must fit the qualifications (9-10)

1. She is sixty years old or older
2. She is the wife of one husband
3. She has a reputation for good works
4. She has brought up children
5. She has shown hospitality
6. She has washed the feet of the saints
7. She has cared for the afflicted
8. She has devoted herself to every good work

C. Thus...

1. If a widow fits the qualifications found in Scriptures she is to be put on the church’s list for caretaking.

III. Widows Cared For By Themselves

A. Younger widows are not to be put on the list (11-13)

1. Putting a widow on the list meant special attention was to be given by members of the church.
 - i. **Ac 6:1-8** “Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. 2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” 5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. 8 And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.”
2. These women should be working on those qualifications listed above rather than worrying about someone else “waiting” on them.

B. Younger widows are encouraged to remarry (14-15)

1. So they don’t burn with lust.
 - i. We see similar language by Paul in I Corinthians.

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- a. **I Co 7:8-9** “To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am. 9 But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion.”

C. Thus...

1. God expected young widows to take care of themselves and not rely on others lest they fall into temptation and sin.

CONCLUSION

1. Brethren like with elders and deacons Paul explains that widows too have qualifications if they are to be taken care of by the church and its treasury.
 - a. Let us make sure we never overstep our bounds as pertaining to any widow here.
2. Question: Are you studied on the qualifications of widows enough to prove these teachings?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**