

We've been looking to 1 Timothy now for several months. We find ourselves in chapter 5 verse 3, a section on widows in the church. Crazy, certainly not one of the weightier subjects that ought to occupy our minds. But just the opposite is true. It is a very important subject, it is a very far-reaching subject. In fact, the Holy Spirit uses Paul to address this issue using 16 verses.

Why is this subject important for us today?

1. It's the Word of God
2. We get a glimpse into the heart of God for the weak and vulnerable.
3. Care for the unprotected is part of Church life

Paul, then, wants Timothy and the church at Ephesus and us to understand their responsibility to widows. [Read 1 Tim 5: 1-16](#)

The Bible uses the word "widow(s)" 81 times

Gospel = 100 times

Satan = 17 times

The Problem in Ephesus: ungodliness, problems of false doctrine, not the least of which was mishandling the matter of care for widows. Widows were not being honored!

1 Tim 5:3 Honor widows who are widows indeed!

- We can conclude that unqualified, older widows were being allowed to serve semi-officially for the church and their lives were really not clear and clean and pure. Vs 9-10
- We can also conclude that younger widows were remarrying unbelievers. Vs 11
- Younger widows were breaking vows made to Christ. Vs 6, 12
- There were families that weren't supporting their own widows. Vs 4,8
- There were women who could have supported many widows, but they were not. Vs 16

In other words, the whole area of biblical instruction to widows needed to be taught because of what needed to be corrected at Ephesus. It is a very, very basic ministry of the church to care for these women.

What is the solution Paul provides to Tim? 5 responsibilities

- 1. Church is responsible for the widows (indeed) Vs 3**
- 2. Church is responsible assess widows needing support**
- 3. Church is responsible for being a Christ centered example**
- 4. Church is responsible to teach younger women**
- 5. Church is responsible to teach capable women**

What is Gods heart toward Widows?

The care of widows in the church is a very vital issue in the heart of God.

Because of this, women who have lost their husband and, means of support, are very special concerns of the heart of God. He takes a great interest in protective care relative to a woman who has lost her husband.

The other group of people who come into the unusual protective care of God would be orphans.

Ps 68: A father of the fatherless and a judge ^{for}for the widows.

God protects those who have lost their protection, their preservation, and their provision.

- Children, as you well know, are to be under the care, leadership, and protection of their parents. When a child loses that, that child becomes the object of special compassion on the part of God.
- Women also are to be under the protection and care of their husbands or their fathers, and when they lose those opportunities and those privileges and that area of protection, God then takes up their case.
- Because God sees the vulnerable and unprotected in this way, so should we.

God blesses those who bless widows, and He curses those who curse widows.

Deut. 27:19 Cursed is he who distorts the justice due an alien, ^{an}orphan, and widow,

Is. 1:17, Jer. 22 and Exodus 22 you will find scripture where God pronounces blessing on those who bless the unprotected

New Testament:

Mk 12:41 –44 The widows mite – A glimpse into the culture of both poverty and generosity in the heart of a devoted widow

(Luke writes more about widows than any others) Lk 7:11 – Has compassion and Raises her son from the dead – Jesus
A heart of compassion for those who are without means of support and protection. This is our father and our calling.

Luke 18:2-3 The widow and the judge (Widow needed protection Lk 20:47 -devoured)
Jn 19 Jesus cares for his widowed mother.

Not only did these women need protection and covering, there were a significant number of them that serve beautifully in Ephesus. Hence, “the list”

In closing: Story Illustration: A pastor and a older widow

As they were talking, she began to wipe her eyes with the corner of her apron, so pastor said,
“What’s disturbing you?”

“Oh,” she said, “Sometimes I feel I have done so little and when I think about it it makes my heart heavy, because really I’ve done so little for Jesus.”

“When I was a young girl the Lord spoke to my heart and I surrendered to Him. And I wanted to live for Him, oh so much. But I feel I haven’t done anything.”

“What have you done with your life?” he asked.

“Oh nothing,” she said, “just nothing. I’ve washed dishes, cooked every day, taken care of my children, mopped the floor, washed the clothes, you know, everything a mother does, that’s all I’ve done.”

Pastor sat up and asked, “Where are your boys?”

“Oh, she spoke, “You know I named them all for the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. You know them all and you know where Mark is. You ordained him. He went to China. He’s learned the language and now he is able to minister to the people in the name of the Lord.”

“Where’s Luke?” pastor said.

“You know well enough where he is because you sent him out as well and I had a letter from him the other day. He is in Africa and says a revival has broken out at his mission station.”

“And Matthew?” he queried.

“He’s with his brother in China and they are working together. And John, who’s nineteen, came to me last night to say God has laid Africa on his heart. He said, ‘I’m going to Africa, but don’t worry about it, Mother, because the Lord has shown me that I am to stay with you until you go home to glory, and then I’ll go. Until then I have to take care of you.’”

pastor looked at that elderly saint and said, “Your life has been wasted, you say?”

“Yes, it has been wasted.”

“You have been cooking and mopping and washing—but I would like to see the reward when you are called home!”

Ministry- We all have purpose – ask Andy to come up and pray