

SERMON NOTES



This week's sermon
Widows, Women, and the Glory of God
1 Timothy 5:1-16

Paul saw older women (Those who have raised their children already, or are older widows) as valuable workers who could keep the church healthy by keeping the families of the church healthy, and by teaching the ways of Jesus to younger children.

"It is not until the end of the second century, however, that Tertullian gives us unequivocal evidence that an order of widows existed. In his time and in the third century the registered widows gave themselves to prayer, nursed the sick, cared for the orphans, visited Christians in prison, evangelized pagan women, and taught female converts in preparation for their baptism."

-John Scott

IMPLICATIONS OF THIS TEACHING FOR OUR TIMES

1. Churches should organize and mobilize women to minister to women in the church
2. Christians should lead the way in multi-generational love and concern.
3. Women should see maintaining church health as a primary responsibility
4. We must recognize that women are not men, and men are not women

Digging Deeper into the Message

Read 1st Timothy 5:1-16

What does rebuke mean? What is the difference between rebuking and encouraging?

How is the church supposed to treat widows?

According to verse 8, what does Paul say about people who do not take care of their own relatives?

What are the qualifications for “the order of widows” in verses 9-10?

What are the disqualifications? (verses 11-15) Why do you think that is?

What is the distinction Paul is making about women who are truly widows?

What are 3 things about this text you find interesting or didn't notice before?

What are 3 practical ways you can apply this text to your life today?

Community Group

ICEBREAKER: Share one of your earliest memories of your mother, *or* Share something important your mother taught you.

QUESTIONS:

- ❖ Does our culture respect and honor elderly people? What do we typically do with our aging parents or grandparents?
- ❖ Read the first point on the MAP and the quote beneath it. How might older women whose children have grown be empowered to serve the church? What are some specific things these women can do for and teach young women/young moms?
- ❖ Read the first implication on the MAP. Ladies, how have you been shepherded or impacted by one of the ministries for women (women's events, Moms4moms group, etc.) at Harvest (or even just a woman at Harvest who is older than you)? If you never have, how can you get involved and be blessed by these ministries?
- ❖ Read the 2nd implication. If your parents and grandparents are still living, how can you start planning now to care for them in their old age?
- ❖ Older adults, how can you get more involved in the lives of young people and children in your life and at Harvest?
- ❖ Read the 3rd and 4th implications. How does caring for your own family help to build a healthy church? How can the differences between men and women help to build healthy families?