

YOUNGER WIDOWS OF THE CHURCH Honor Widows (#5)

We Are currently studying a series of lessons entitled, Honor Widows, taken from the 1Timothy 5.

- US Census records 13.6 million widows in USA. 4.8 million live in Alabama.
- Nearly half are in their 60's.
- 75% of these widows lost their financial support with death of their spouse.
- 60% will experience a serious medical problem with one year often related to care-giving of spouse.

Paul gives six factors to the church when considering Younger Widows to be put on the church support list.

1. Paul begins our lesson passage with this statement, “But refuse (paraiteo/ p.m. impv. 2pl) [command] to put younger widows on the list.” (1 Tim.5:11a)

- “When they feel sensual desires in regard (katastreniaō/ a.a.subj 3pl) of Christ.” (1 Tim.5:11a)

A widow or widower must be careful to not think they have privileges in this area since they had once been married.

What the bible teaches the single believer applies to all singles, “Flee immorality!”

(1 Cor.6:18-20) Every other sin that a man commits is outside his body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been brought with a price: **therefore, glorify God in your body.**

(1 Cor.7:8-9) “But I say to the **unmarried and to the widow** that it is good for them if they remain even as I am. **But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.**”

2. “When they want to get married.” (1 Tim.5:11b).

If their husband is dead, they are free to remarry (1 Cor.7:1-2) **but only in the Lord** (to another believer)

(1 Cor.7:39). “A wife is bound as long as her husband lives; but if her husband is dead, she is free to be married to **whom she wishes, only in the Lord.**”

3. (1 Tim.5:12) “Thus incurring condemnation (echo/ p.a.ptc.npl/ krima), because they set aside their previous pledge.”

Read (1 Tim.5:11) [“for when”], then read (1 Tim.5:12) [“Thus incurring”]; and then finally read (1 Tim.5:13) [“At the same time.”]

Paul has learned that younger widows often have guilt about having been put on the church list to serve Christ and then later realize they want to get married.

They often felt guilty for forsaking their pledge to fidelity in serving Christ by being put on the church list and then leaving it for marriage (1 Cor.7:32-35).

4. Younger widows must learn to manage their time as a single widow.

(1 Tim.5:13) “At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, taking about things not proper to mention.”

It makes sense to some younger widows to return to the work force. **19%** do return to the work force for this reason and to supplement their income.

Volunteer work in your church and community: Schools, hospitals, library, senior centers, retirement homes, battered woman and children, tutoring home school, assisting in doctor appointments, housework like bathrooms and beds. **This can also be true for empty-nest mothers.**

5. Paul’s instructions to the church concerning ‘younger widows’.

(1 Tim.5:14) “Therefore I want younger widows to get married, bear children, keep house, **and give the enemy** (antikeimai) [human and spiritual adversary] **no occasion for reproach.**”

(1 Tim.5:15) “For some have already turned aside to follow Satan.”

TWO AREAS TO BEWARE:

- **1st** - “Beware of the Scribes, who devour widow’s houses, and for appearance’s sake offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation.” (Mark 12:38-40)
- **2nd** - “For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses.” (2 Tim.3:6)

6. An important women’s ministry within the church is to provide “assisted living” within homes of the congregation for Widows Indeed (destitute).

NOTE: 7 out of 10 widows live alone.

(1 Tim.5:16) “If (1st class condition) [true] any widow who is a believer has dependent widows, (then, this is also true) she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.”

Widows who are financially able to board other widows offers a **great ministry to those widows**. Some think that Lydia had a similar ministry (Acts 16:12-15; Lk.2:36-38; Lk.18:1-5).

The power of a widow’s prayer ministry is recorded in (Lk.18:1-8) [Parable-Story]. **“What is the point of persistent prayer? God may wait but He is never late!**

- **Judge** (Lk.18:1-2) The unrighteous judge
- **Jurisprudence** (Lk.18:3-5a)
- **Justice** (Lk.18:5b)
- **Justified** (Lk.18:5, 7-8) The unrelenting widow

Two doctrinal points in this parable with a personal question to each of us at the end.

(Lk.18:1) “Now He was telling them a parable **to show that at all times they ought to pray and to not lose heart.**”

(Lk.18:8) “**I tell you** that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, **when** the Son of Man comes, **will** He find faith on the earth?”

[Jews – soteriology - First Advent; BUT Christians – eschatology - Second Advent]