

House Rules
Functioning as the Church
Week 11: Caring for Widows

Scripture

I Timothy 5:3-16

Motivation (Why They Need to Know It)

God the Protector of Widows

Jesus love and compassion for Widows

Jesus and Women

Paul and Women

Information (What They Need to Know)

Issues Timothy must have been dealing with in his young church.
So he asked his mentor, Paul... House Rules!

Worldview issues abound...

Care and Ministry to Widows

**I Timothy 5:3&5 (ESV) 3 Honor widows who are truly widows.
5 She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God
and continues in supplications and prayers night and day,**

Stewardship of Resources requires Wisdom and Discernment

I Timothy 5:4&6 (ESV) 4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. **6** but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives.

Our Worldview on Display

I Timothy 5:7-8 (ESV) 7 Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. **8** But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Paul turns from talking about ministry to widows and looks at the widows ministry.

Widows and Their Ministry

I Timothy 5:9-10 (ESV) 9 Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, **10** and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work.

Widow's Ministry Wisdom and Discernment

I Timothy 5:11-13 (ESV) 11 But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry **12** and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith. **13** Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not.

Younger Widow's Guidance and Warning

I Timothy 5:14-15 (ESV) So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. **15** For some have already strayed after Satan.

Worldview on Display again

I Timothy 5:16 (ESV) If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.