

The Church Who Cares and Is Caring (carefully caring)

1 Timothy 5:3-16

Sunday, October 16, 2022

Things that change but stay the same

Over the last 2,000 years times, cultures, and resources have adjusted but the approach and care of the church has stayed the same.

There has been a cultural shift due to where we live and the time that has passed but the truth is still relevant and applicable to our lives today.

- Men and women lived a much more distinctly different life.
- Gave older women a greater role in the lives of younger women.

There was no retirement plan, social security, Medicare, etc.

Acts 6:1 there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

As the church grew, so did the needs, and as the needs grew... so did the problems.

As a church becomes **concerned** for something, it should also be **cautious** about how they go about addressing the area of need. *Feed the hungry, minister to the homeless, etc.*

READ 1 Timothy 5:3-16

HONOR: to set a value on. To fix a price.

Proverbs 16:31 The silver-haired head *is* a crown of glory, *if* it is found in the way of righteousness.

Crown of glory... something you would admire, like trophies in a case.

Admire and highly value widows who are really widows.

Does that mean there are widows who are not really widows? Imposters? Fake?

Widow: not only one who has lost their husband but who is in **distress**, in need of **care**, and are/or living in **solitude**.

The whole thing is creating a place where widows are honored and cared for.

Have you ever seen someone who looks a little too old to be trick-or-treating standing at your front door? **There will be people who try to blend in and reap the benefits.**

1. **Guidelines for Giving** (aid or care)
2. **Cautions for the Congregation**
3. **Foundation set for Families**

The whole thing is creating a place where widows are honored and cared for.

Guidelines for Giving

1. We are supposed to give in order to help.

(vs. 9) taken into the number

We as a church and we as a church leadership should be aware of those who would biblically classify as a widow.

What makes a widow a real widow?

1 Timothy 5:5 Now she who is really a widow, and **(1)** left alone, **(2)** trusts in God and **(3)** continues in supplications and prayers night and day.

1. Alone – no family left. (including grandchildren)

2. Trusts in God

- This is not a measure of faith but a description of life.
- No large retirement plan, property, or monetary funds.
- I don't want to spend my retirement because I want to leave it to my kids.

3. Supplications and prayers (night and day)

Galatians 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Anna – Luke 2:36-38 (married 7 years, widowed 84 years widowed)

vs. 37 and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

4. Wife of one man (9-10)

- a. Could be re-married but not because she didn't like the guys.
- b. Brought up children (not her children) (next generation)
"Our kids are the message we will send to a generation we will never meet."
- c. Managed a godly home
- d. Hospitable to strangers
- e. Washed the servant's feet
- f. Compassion on those who were afflicted

Not a definition but a description

Imagine if she checked all the boxes but one.

A woman full of compassion AND action.

There is one other issue that Timothy is being told to consider... AGE!

1. Guidelines for Giving
2. Cautions for the Congregation (**Trick or Treater**)

If too young (11-14)

The average life expectancy of Jesus time was 30-40 years old. It actually remained right around 35-40 years old all the way through the Renaissance period and up until the 19th century when medicine was being developed.

Verse 9, not a widow under sixty

Verse 11 But refuse the younger widows

If you care for people... you will know when not to “help them.”

“You can give a man a fish and feed him for a day.”

“You can teach a man to fish and feed him for a lifetime.”

WHY?!

Too much time leads to (**weak living - and - a watered-down witness.**)

(6) She that liveth in pleasure or delicacy is dead while she lives.

TO live in luxury, voluptuously; to indulge freely in eating and drinking, to give into and live for your own desires/what pleases you.

“Idle hands are the devil's playground”

Is dead while she lives

Proverbs 24:33-34 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest; So shall your poverty come *like* a prowler, and your need like an armed man.

Cast off the faith: put obedience to Christ on the backburner... lukewarmness... self-focused.

Growing wanton: wondering or roving in festivity or sport. Moving loosely or not being fixed in place, playing in the wind. To live luxuriously

It is what Babylon will be judged for in the tribulation...

Revelation 18:7 “In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously”

“I don't like doing something I don't like doing.”

Imagine if Jesus had that view on life...

Let this cup pass, nevertheless, not my will but thy will be done.

Could you imagine living a life of fun only to get to the end of life and realize you wasted the entire thing? – **By helping them now, you are just storing up regret for later.**

Weaken their life and Waterdown their witness.

- Gossip isn't just unhealthy enough on its own ...
- Gossip will cause you to be untrusted and isolated.
- Bigger picture, it divides people and ultimately the body of Christ.

1 Timothy 5:14b ...give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

Foothold – something to grab onto when rock climbing.

The call is not to be difficult or hardened but to be discerning and honorable.

Do you care about what God has entrusted to us?

Do you care about what God has entrusted to you?

Do you care about what God has entrusted to you more than you care about what people think of us?

GOD IS WATCHING

1 Timothy 5:21

GOD IS WATCHING.

I have sat and had people ask many times.

A church who is caring and cares that it may have the resources to help.

There is to be a very particular kind of care given over the finances of the church.

If you give it away to those who shouldn't get it,

You may not have anything to give to those who should get it.

What do you fear more? **Fear = reverence intensified**

Someone's opinion of you in the moment?

The Lord's perspective for eternity?

NOW WHAT?!

If the young widows are not recognized as care worthy... what do they do.

Reengage in living.

- On one hand, you have walked through the valley of the shadow of death.
- On the other hand, you are miles from the grave to LIVE!

Rehab over Reliance

Keeping a cast on too long – the importance of **rehabilitation** and not **reliance**.

(14) manage the house (Why have we belittled homemaking?)

Instead of relying **on** the congregation for life...

Someone in this situation should be restored to a vibrant life **by** the congregation.

(8) worse than a non-believer.

A verse that is sometimes used and applied more in its secondary manner than it is its first.

We should be **better than the world** at caring for our aged parents and elderly in the church.

Denied the faith: Refused to obey the Lord in such a manner

"I disagree with you... no you don't. You disagree with God."

Honor your father and mother (#5)

Show piety: proper reverence and respect, kindness even from grandchildren

Mom and dad, your kids are learning how to take care of you by how you involve them in the care of your aging parents.

In part, I call my mom in hopes that my kids see me do it and call me when I am older.

My Father-in-law has been a VERY good example of how to do this.

His mother is in a care facility with dementia, Even if she doesn't know him he visits every weekend. (He has no idea that I have been watching and will never forget the example he has been to me and my kids about how to take care of an aging parent.)

Being Like Jesus mean's more than we usually think...

In the same way that the Lord knows what we have need of before we ask, we are to prepare for the needs of our parents later. (Monetarily or Mentally, be ready)

There is one thing that no matter how old we get, no one will be able to help us with. Our sins.

- Our children can't make our lives right with God
- The church can't make our relationship with God right
- Only what Jesus the Christ did upon the cross can make things right with God
 - Whomever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved
 - **It may be too late for a lot of things, but it's never too late to come to Jesus.**