



"The Church That Guards the Gospel"
GOD'S HOUSEHOLD IN ORDER - 02
Honoring Widows, Honoring God
1 Timothy 5:3–16

INTRODUCTION

Scriptures That Mention Widows

Psalm 68:5 *"A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows is God in His holy habitation"*

Psalm 146:9 *"The Lord protects the strangers; He supports the fatherless and the widow"*

Deut. 27:19 *"Cursed is he who distorts the justice due an alien, orphan, and widow"*

James 1:27 *"This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world"*

The church honors Christ by providing compassionate care for widows while encouraging biblical family responsibility.

4 Types Of Widows In These Verses:

- The *"truly widows"* - do not have family members to care for them (5:3-5, 9-10)
- Widows with children and grandchildren (5:4, 16)
- Younger widows, who should remarry (5:11-15)
- Widows who live for pleasure rather than for the Lord (5:6).

I. THE CHURCH MUST COMPASSIONATELY SUPPORT TRULY NEEDY WIDOWS (vv. 3–10)

A. The Church Is to Honor and Care for Genuine Widows (vv. 3–6, 9–10)

- Honor those who are truly destitute.
- Recognize spiritual qualifications as well as physical need.
- Commend lives marked by faithfulness, service, and godliness.

B. Families Must Accept Their God-Given Responsibility (vv. 4, 7–8)

- Children and grandchildren are to repay their parents with loving care.
- Providing for one's family is an act of obedience to God.
- Neglecting this responsibility denies the faith in practice.

II. THE CHURCH MUST EXERCISE DISCERNMENT IN SUPPORTING YOUNGER WIDOWS (vv. 11–16)

A. Younger Widows Should Pursue God's Design for Their Future (vv. 11–15)

- Avoid dependence that may foster spiritual vulnerability.
- Pursue remarriage, family life, and faithful service.
- Guard against idleness, gossip, and spiritual distraction.

B. Believing Families Should Relieve the Church's Burden (v. 16)

- Family members who are able should care for dependent widows.
- The church's resources should remain available for those who are truly alone.
- Biblical stewardship enables the church to minister where the need is greatest.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

1. God's design for the family strengthens the ministry of the church.
2. Honoring aging parents—especially widows—is both a biblical duty and a testimony of genuine faith.
3. Older believers who walk faithfully with Christ remain indispensable servants in God's kingdom.
4. Biblical doctrine must be demonstrated through compassionate, practical obedience.