

IN IT TO WIN IT

Small Group APPLICATION QUESTIONS

“Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says!” (James 1:22 NIV)

SUMMARY

Pastor Tim Millsaps taught from 1 Timothy 5:9-16 in a message entitled, “Pure and Undefined Religion” in our *In It to Win It* series. As it relates to the Church, the apostle Paul gave some specific guiding principles of ‘who’ we should help and ‘how’ we should help when it comes to assisting widows.

APPLICATION

- 1. Pastor Tim began by referencing James 1:27. Please read this verse aloud.**
 - What is your understanding of James’ description of “pure and undefiled religion”?
 - How are you keeping yourself “unspotted by the world” while still living in it?
- 2. Helping widows helps God. It’s a church thing...not a societal thing.**
 - For many in the early New Testament church their new-found freedom from the Law caused them to cast off any practice they deemed tied to it, but Paul reminds the church of their responsibility to the widow, orphan and poor.
 - Why are the qualifications/characteristics in 1 Timothy 5:10 important to follow?
 - How do Paul’s instructions on caring for widows challenge societal norms?
- 3. When ‘helping’ actually hurts.**
 - How can offering help to someone, before it’s really needed, cause problems?
 - How can helping someone continuously cause problems?
 - A good gauge that indicates if your help is actually harmful:
 - *“If I don’t help them & they suffer, or even die I CAN’T LIVE with the guilt!”*
 - Do you feel that way towards anyone currently in your life?
 - Is your help enabling them? Why or why not?
- 4. Avoid the hurt by going ‘old-school.’ (Read Jeremiah 6:16 aloud)**
 - If God’s Word is holy, true, pure, trustworthy and crosses every political, social, and cultural value...why are we offended by it at times?
 - How has God helped you make a decision based on His timeless biblical principles recently?

PRAYER

Pray for the discernment (and opportunity) to be the right help for someone in need.

