

Message Notes

Dave Gudgel

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Bible Focus: 1 Timothy 5:3-16

Message Title: Religion at Its Best

1 Timothy 5:3-8,16 – Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. ⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. ⁵ The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help. ⁶ But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. ⁷ Give the people these instructions, too, so that no one may be open to blame. ⁸ If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. ¹⁶ If any woman who is a believer has widows in her family, she should help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.

1. The church must _____

1 Timothy 5:9-15 – No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, ¹⁰ and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds. ¹¹ As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. ¹² Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. ¹³ Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to. ¹⁴ So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. ¹⁵ Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.

2. Widows must _____

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1 Timothy 5:3-16

1. How do you identify with today's topic? In what ways have you seen widows helped or neglected in the church, or in families in the church?
2. Why do you think caring for widows is of paramount importance to God and is a sign of true religion?
3. What can stand in the way of family members caring for their widowed mom as they should?
4. What preparations could family members make before mom is widowed, so they will be ready to give her whatever care might be needed?
5. What do you suggest we do as a church to better prepare for helping widows who are truly in need?
6. In what ways have you seen widows make an impact on the church? How would you expect widows to benefit by caring for others who are in need?
7. How are you better for having been on the receiving or giving end of being cared for or caring for others by the church?