



Widows and Women for Christ
1 Timothy 5:9-16
May 16, 2021
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this sermon we receive pastoral counsel regarding care for widows and the high calling of Christian women.

The Text: 1 Timothy 5:9-16

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. 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. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁶ 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.

1) Care for widows should not be casual but reflect the holy priority of a local congregation (vv. 9-10).

2) Younger widows should take care to commit their lives to Christ in every way (vv. 11-16).

Response

This text displays the high and holy duty of every believing woman – daughters of the heavenly Father.

Sunday Text Questions for 1 Timothy 5:9-16 (“Entrusted to You” Series)

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- 1) Starter Question: What criteria would you use to allocate a local church’s benevolence funds to support members in financial need?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) The word “enrolled” in v. 9 sounds quite formal and official. How serious is Paul in expecting churches to treat the collection and sharing of church financial resources with those in need?
- 4) What would you say to a person who comes to you and asks why Paul demands widows in need meet all the qualifications and characteristics listed in v. 9-10?
- 5) How can a church properly balance grace and truth, especially when there are limited resources and overwhelming needs?
- 6) Why does Paul give different instructions regarding younger widows than he does for older widows (see vv. 11-14)?
- 7) How might Paul’s exhortations for women in v. 14 regarding marriage, kids, and the home be received in our modern culture today?
- 8) Does the Bible offer a “theology of biblical womanhood,” and if so, what is it?
- 9) What is Paul suggesting in v. 15 about the ways Satan tries to lead people astray from God’s design for their life, work, and ministry?
- 10) What are some ways you can respond to the commands of this passage through either your personal generosity or your intentional participation in our church family?

Further study this week: Passages on God’s perspective on women: Genesis 1:27 (Mon); 1 Peter 3:1-7 (Tues); Galatians 3:27-29 (Wed); Titus 2 (Thurs); Proverbs 31:10-31 (Fri).