

THE CHURCH AND WIDOWS

I Timothy 5:9-16

Intro:

- A. There will be widows in the church.
 - 1. History teaches us this fact.
 - 2. Our own experiences teach us this truth.

- B. How is the church to treat widows?
 - 1. Widows in deed are to receive care. Vs 3-5
 - 2. Pleasure-loving widows are to be rejected. Vs 6
 - 3. If they have kin in the church or those who are believers they are to care for them.
 - 4. Vs 4, Vs 8

I. Qualifications For The Enrolled Widows.

- A. Vs 9a "Let not widow be taken into the number under threescore years old..."
 - 1. "Number" = καταλεγω = "to write down in a list".
 - 2. "Threescore" = "sixty years of age".

- B. "...having been the wife of one man,"
 - 1. The same as for bishops.
 - 2. "...and she must have been only once married" - MOF

- C. Vs 10a "Well reported of for good works;..."
 - 1. "Reported" = μαρτυρεω = "to be well testified of"
 - 2. "In noble works well attested" - RHM

- D. "...if she have brought up children,..."
 - 1. "as one who has brought up a family" - MON
 - 2. "who has reared children" - BER

- E. "...if she hath lodged strangers,..."
 - 1. "If she has been kind to travellers" - BAS
 - 2. "Who has practiced hospitality to strangers (of the brotherhood)" - AMP

- F. "...if she have washed the saints' feet,..."
1. "washing the feet of God's people" - GSPD
 2. "...willing to serve fellow Christians in menial ways" - PHI
- G. "...if she have relieved the afflicted,..."
1. "Relieved" = ἐπαρκεω = "to ward off", "to keep off something", hence "to assist", "to help".
 2. "Afflicted" = θλιβω = "to press", "squeeze", "to crowd", "to oppress", "afflict".
- H. "...if she have diligently followed every good work."
1. "Diligently followed" = επακολουθεω = "to follow upon", Used to describe a footman, one who attends another.
 2. "And was busy doing every kind of good work" BECK

II. The Younger Widows.

- A. Vs 11a "But the younger widows refuse:..."
1. "Younger" = νεωτερος = "lesser".
 2. "Refuse" = παραιτεομαι = "to decline, to refuse".
 3. The widows who were not sixty years old should not be placed on this special list of these widows of the congregation who are supported by the assembly.
- B. Vs 11b "...for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry."
1. "Wanton" = καταστρηνιαω = "to feel sexual urges", Here such impulses would lead them to reject their Christian lives.
 2. "They get to indulging their lower nature in opposition to Christ." - WMS
- C. Vs 12 "Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith."
1. "Damnation" = κριμα = "judgment"
 2. "Cast off" = αθετεω = "to regard as void", "to annul".

3. "And thus bring censure on themselves because they have disregarded their initial commitment to follow the teachings of Jesus."
- D. Vs 13a "And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house;..."
1. As a consequence of their being put on the roll
 2. "Learn" = μαθησασθε = "to learn from others", "to understand as in learning a trade, as Dr., Lawyer, etc.
 3. "Idle" = ἀργος = "living without labor".
 4. "Wandering" = περιερχομαι = "to go around or up and down", "to wander about".
- E. Vs 13b "...but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not."
1. "Tattlers" = θλασος = "loose talkers", "babblers", "blurting out what is on one's mind".
 2. "Busybodies" = περιεργος = "over careful but about others", "a habit of meddling".
 3. Παδεοντα = "things which are necessary", With the negative, things that are improper.

III. The Younger Widows And God's Will.

- A. Vs. 14 "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children,..."
1. "Therefore, I advise..." - TENT
 2. "Younger widows to marry and have children"
- B. "...guide the house..."
1. "Guide" = οἰκοδεσποτεω = "to rule and guide a household".
 2. "...Preside over a home" - NEB
- C. "...give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully."
1. "Present no opportunity for..."
 2. "Adversary" = ἀντικειμαι = "to lie against".
 3. "And afford the opponent no incentive whatever for slandering." - BER

- D. Vs 15 "For some are already turned aside after Satan."
1. "Turned aside" = εκτρέπομαι = "to turn out of the true path".
2. "Some widows have already strayed" - MOF

IV. The Work Of Believing Relatives. Vs 16

- A. "Relieve" = επαρκω = "to help", "to assist".
1. The work of any man or woman.
- B. "Charged" = βαρω = "to weigh down".
1. "Let the assembly be free of the burden".
- C. "So that the church may assist the truly widowed" (that are on the roll).