

# 1 Timothy 5:1-16 – Showing love toward widows

Michael Silva / July 2, 2017

## Opening: Joke: 60th High School Reunion

- He was a widower and she a widow. They had known each other for a number of years being high school classmates and having attended class reunions in the past without fail.
- This 60th anniversary of their class, the widower and the widow went out on a double-date with two other singles. They had a wonderful evening, their spirits high with the widower throwing admiring glances across the table and the widow smiling coyly back at him.
- Finally, he picked up courage and blurted out, "Will you marry me?"
- After about ten seconds of careful consideration, she answered, "Yes ... yes I will!"
- The evening ended on a happy note for the widower. But the next morning he was troubled. Did she say yes? Or did she say no? He couldn't remember. Try as he would, he just could not recall.
- He went over the conversation of the previous evening, but his mind was blank. He remembered asking the question but for the life of him he could not recall her response. So with fear and trepidation, he picked up the phone and called her.
- First, he explained that he couldn't remember as well as he used to. Then he reviewed the past evening. As he gained a little more courage he then inquired of her, "When I asked if you would marry me, did you say yes or did you say no?"
- "Why you silly man, I said Yes. Yes I will! ... And I meant it with all my heart."
- The widower was delighted. He felt his heart skip a beat.
- Then she continued, "And I am so glad you called because I couldn't remember who asked me!"
- TODAY: our passage provides instructions on how the church is supposed to [care](#) for others, [widows](#) in particular.

**Transition:** We are on a Journey... through the book of 1 Timothy, which has a lot to say about church leadership, doctrine, and **discipleship**.

1. These words set the standard for pastors and church leaders.
  - a) These are important expectations of those who serve.
  - b) But these instructions are **not** exclusive to leaders, every Christian should aspire to embrace and walk in the standards Paul lays out in our passage today.

Let's read our passage: 1 Timothy 5:1-16 (NKJV)<sup>i</sup> And Pray...

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer. - Psalm 19:14

1. Last Week... Be an example! Don't neglect the gift that God has given you!
  - a) Meditate on these things. Give yourself entirely to them. All in! For His glory.
2. This week, we are reminded that women are precious in God's eyes and are to be cared for.
  - a) Men and women are equal in creation, yet different in function and calling.
  - b) We have different roles so that we might accomplish different things here on earth for God's glory.
3. But first let's look at how we are supposed to interact with one another before we look at the church's instructions concerning widows.

**1 Timothy 5:1-2** <sup>1</sup> Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort *him* as a father, younger men as brothers, <sup>2</sup> older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity.

1. Honor, respect, purity... the attributes of our interactions with those of another generation.
  - a) Believers are called many things...
    - i) The Body of Christ.
    - ii) A royal priesthood.
    - iii) Children of God, a family!
  - b) We are to speak to one another like family.
    - i) The idea is that of a loving and caring family, not a dysfunctional one.
  - c) There's another attribute in view here.... **Humility** on the part of a young Pastor.
    - i) Leadership positions can often cultivate pride. These instructions are to help keep that in check.
  - d) Young men should not **rebuke an older man**.
    - i) To **rebuke** is to **criticize sharply**.
      - (1) There is a time and a place for rebuking someone, the Proverbs have much to say about that.
      - (2) But it must be done in the right way.

ii) In this case, instead we are supposed to **exhort**, which is to **encourage earnestly**.

2. The motive behind our interactions should be love.

a) Jesus said in **John 13:35** By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

b) **1 John 2:10-11** <sup>10</sup> He who loves his brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him. <sup>11</sup> But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

3. There is also an emphasis on a young lady's **purity**.

a) **Shocking**: According to a recent study, 4 in 10 feel marriage is obsolete<sup>ii</sup>.

b) Purity is God's standard and it must be taught and protected.

**1 Timothy 5:3-4** <sup>3</sup> Honor widows who are really widows. <sup>4</sup> But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.

1. **James 1:27** Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

a) Widows and orphans represent two groups who are in need.

b) God has a heart for those in need. And the church should too!

2. The church can care for all widows, but it is not directed to care for all widow.

a) When family is available, they should be taking care of their own widows.

i) We should help take care of our parents and grandparents.

ii) This is good and acceptable before God.

iii) Doing so is an act of **piety** or godliness.

b) When families care for their own widows, it frees the church to more effectively minister to those who are in need without anyone there for them.

**1 Timothy 5:5-7** <sup>5</sup> Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day. <sup>6</sup> But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives. <sup>7</sup> And these things command, that they may be blameless.

1. The widows that the church is mandated to care for are first believes, they trust in God.
  - a) One who trust in God continues in supplications and prayers night and day.
    - i) Widows should not be focused on how the church is going to provide for them, but instead on how God is going to provide.
    - ii) God often uses the church to do His work here on earth.
  - b) **Galatians 6:10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
  - c) We should most definitely be looking out for one another here.
2. Sadly, the widow who lives for pleasure, their pursuits are spiritually dead.
  - a) There is no gain and no room for growth in faith when ones purpose is to indulge in pleasure.
3. Paul makes it clear to Timothy in verse 7, these principles and standards are to be taught in the church, that all, the widows and the congregation may be blameless.

**1 Timothy 5:8** <sup>8</sup> But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1. Paul is **not** saying you will lose your salvation.
  - a) When you don't take care of your parents or widows in your family you are acting worse than an unbeliever.
  - b) Why, because even unbelievers in that day cared for their family members who were widows.
  - c) Christians are to be known by the love for others and to neglect a widowed family member is unloving.
  - d) The biblical instruction to Honor your Father and Mother is found in...
    - i) Ex 20:12, Deut 5:16, Matt 15:4, Matt 19:19, Mark 7:10, Mark 10:19, Luke 18:20, and Eph 6:2.
    - ii) God has given pretty clear instructions, we are to honor our father and mother and one key way of do that is caring for mothers if / when they become a widow.

**1 Timothy 5:9-10** <sup>9</sup> Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man, <sup>10</sup> well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.

1. Here are the standards, more for the widow than the church...
  - a) The church should care for widows over 60 who are alone.
  - b) Widows should be women of faith and the fruit of their faith should be evident in a good testimony.
    - i) She has brought up children.
    - ii) Cared for those in need (lodged strangers & relieved the afflicted).
    - iii) Served others (washed the saints' feet).
  - c) These are not requirements in order for her to be cared for by the church...
    - i) But rather evidence that she is a true sister in the faith and deserving on the church's care.

**1 Timothy 5:11-13** <sup>11</sup> But refuse *the* younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry, <sup>12</sup> having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith. <sup>13</sup> And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.

1. Here Paul speaks of those younger women are not content with living the life of a widow.
  - a) The church is not to cuddle them for there's a danger if we do...
  - b) They have a tendency to grow wanton against Christ, which is to still have strong passions that carry them away from contentment in Christ.
    - i) Or they may become potential gossips and busybodies as a result of their idleness.

**1 Timothy 5:14-15** <sup>14</sup> Therefore I desire that *the* younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. <sup>15</sup> For some have already turned aside after Satan.

1. Widows are free to remarry if they wish, though they are under no obligation to do so.
  - a) If they are content with remaining single they may.
  - b) The key is that either way, they are to honor the Lord.
2. Danger is that Satan lurks at the door ever ready to pounce on any opportunity he can find to wreak havoc.
  - a) And restless widows who are not content are prime targets.

**1 Timothy 5:16** <sup>16</sup> If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.

1. As it relates to families and the church...
  - a) Families are to care for their own widows so that the church does not have to.
  - b) Why, so the church can focus on ministering to those who are in need without support.

**Conclusion: What's the big take away from this passage?**

1. The principle attribute in view is love.
  - a) The church is a place where we see love in action!
  - b) The church is to be just like a family, one of the most loving places you could ever find.

**Invitation: Revelation 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

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<sup>i</sup> All scripture references, unless otherwise noted, are taken from The New King James Version. (1982). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.  
<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/why-marry-three-generations-tell-their-wedding-stories/>