

THE BOOK OF 1 TIMOTHY

“The Local Church & Its Widows”

(1 Timothy 5:9–16)

“Instructions On To How We Are To Treat And Care For Each Other” (1 Timothy 5:1–8)



- Introduction / Greeting (1:1-7)
- The Lawful Use of the Law (1:5-11)
- Paul : A Pattern (1:12-17)
- Fight the good fight (1:18-20)
- Pray for leaders (2:1-7)
- Behavior of men & women in the church (2:8-15)
- Qualifications of elders (3:1-7)
- Qualifications of Deacons (3:8-13)
- Behavior in God's House (3:14-16)
- The Great Apostasy (4:1-6)
- The Preachers Work (4:6-16)
- Treatment of One Another (5:1-16)

1 Timothy 5:9–16 (NKJV)

⁹ 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, ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ But refuse *the* younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry, ¹² having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith.

1 Timothy 5:9–16 (NKJV)

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ Therefore I desire that *the* younger *widows* marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. ¹⁵ For some have already turned aside after Satan. ¹⁶ 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.

“Instructions On To How We Are To Treat And Care For Each Other”



WE ARE TO BE A “FUNCTIONAL” FAMILY

“Up to this point in this letter, Paul has been giving instructions on matters that touched Timothy’s relationship with the whole congregation. Almost the whole of the remainder of the letter is concerned with specific directions to Timothy to assist him in dealing with various groups and individuals within the congregation” (Reese p. 217).

“Instructions On To How We Are To Treat And Care For Each Other”



WE ARE TO BE A “FUNCTIONAL” FAMILY

- ¹ Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort *him* as a father,
- younger men as brothers,
- ² older women as mothers,
- younger women as sisters, with all purity.

“The Local Church & Its Widows”

I Timothy 5:1–8



- ³ Honor widows who are really widows. ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day.
- ⁶ But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.

“The Local Church & Its Widows”

I Timothy 5:1–8



- ⁷ And these things command, that they may be blameless.
- ⁸ 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.

“The Local Church & Its Widows”



“Honor True Widows”

- In the New Testament church, the care of widows was an important concern...
- ▶ The church at Jerusalem (Ac 6:1-7)
- ▶ Caring for widows - "pure and undefiled religion" - Jm 1:27
- ▶ Yet it was not a responsibility simply to be thrust upon the church — The local church has its limitations — Family members have their obligations — Even widows themselves bear some responsibility.

“The Local Church & Its Widows”

Qualifications for Widows to be Enrolled For Continual Church Support



1 Timothy 5:9–10
(NKJV)

⁹ 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,

- “Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number”
- ▶ The issue of this chapter is the financial support for widows with no dependents (5:3-4, 16)
- ▶ The church can help any Christian widow (Acts 6:1 ff), but this chapter is talking about permanent and ongoing support.
- ▶ The congregation would support them until they died.

“The Local Church & Its Widows”

Qualifications for Widows to be Enrolled For Continual Church Support



1 Timothy 5:9–10
(NKJV)

⁹ 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,

- “Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number”
 - ▶ Definite qualifications exist.
 - ▶ 60 years of age is the minimum age.
 - ▶ The expression “**taken into the number**” (καταλέγω *katalegō*) means “to set down on a list, to register, to enroll” (Thayer p. 333).
 - ▶ “**The wife of one man**,” i.e, faithful & true to her husband so long as they both lived. (cf. 5:14; 3:2,12; Rom 7:3;

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- “Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number”
- ▶ **“well reported for good works”** — her reputation is what the life of a Christian should be, (Ac. 9:36; Titus 2:7; 3:8, 14. He. 10:24)
- ▶ **“if she has brought up children”** — Obviously the verse implies more than just that she had some children, rather, did she bring them up in the instruction of the Lord? (Ephesians 6:4).

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- “Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number”
- ▶ **“if she has lodged strangers”** — hospitality is demanded. Such is required of a Christian (cf. 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8; 1 Pet. 4:9; Heb. 13:2).
- ▶ **“if she has washed the saints' feet”** — A mark of Oriental hospitality bestowed on the stranger arriving from a journey” (Vincent). (cf. Ge. 18:4; 19:2; 24:32; Lu. 7:38, 44. Jno. 13:5–15).

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- “Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number”
- ▶ **“if she has relieved the afflicted”** — This indicates a sympathizing spirit and one who is ever ready to relieve those in distress.
- ▶ **“if she has diligently followed every good work”** — This extends the list of good works already specified so as to include all others as opportunity afforded (Col. 1:10. 2 Ti. 2:21)

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Qualifications for Widows to be Enrolled For Continual Church Support

A man with a beard, wearing a brown robe, is shown from the chest up, looking down and writing in a book with a quill. The background is a textured, light-colored wall.

1 Timothy 5:11–12
(NKJV)

¹¹ But refuse *the* younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry, ¹² having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith.

- “Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number”
- ▶ **“But refuse the younger widows”** —Those under 60 are to be excluded.
- ▶ **“for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ,”** —the younger women would probably be faced with normal sexual desires which could overcome their dedication to Christ which they pledged.

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Qualifications for Widows to be Enrolled For Continual Church Support

A man with a beard, wearing a brown robe, is seated and writing in a book with a quill. The background is a textured, light-colored wall.

1 Timothy 5:11–12
(NKJV)

¹¹ But refuse *the* younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry, ¹² having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith.

- “Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number”
- **“they desire to marry, having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith”** — Not that marriage would be wrong for them, (5:14; 1 Co. 7:8, 9), but to “grow wanton against Christ” and to “cast off their first faith” would be wrong and this is what would bring condemnation.

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- “Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number”
- ▶ **“they have cast off their first faith”** — Some see in this a requirement that the widows must pledge celibacy in order for them to be taken in by the church. According to some, this is the pledge or vow they would be breaking, thus bringing upon themselves condemnation.
- ▶ The idea is more likely that they leave Christ & the faith in order to satisfy their desires. (14; 1 Cor. 7:39)

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Qualifications for Widows to be Enrolled For Continual Church Support



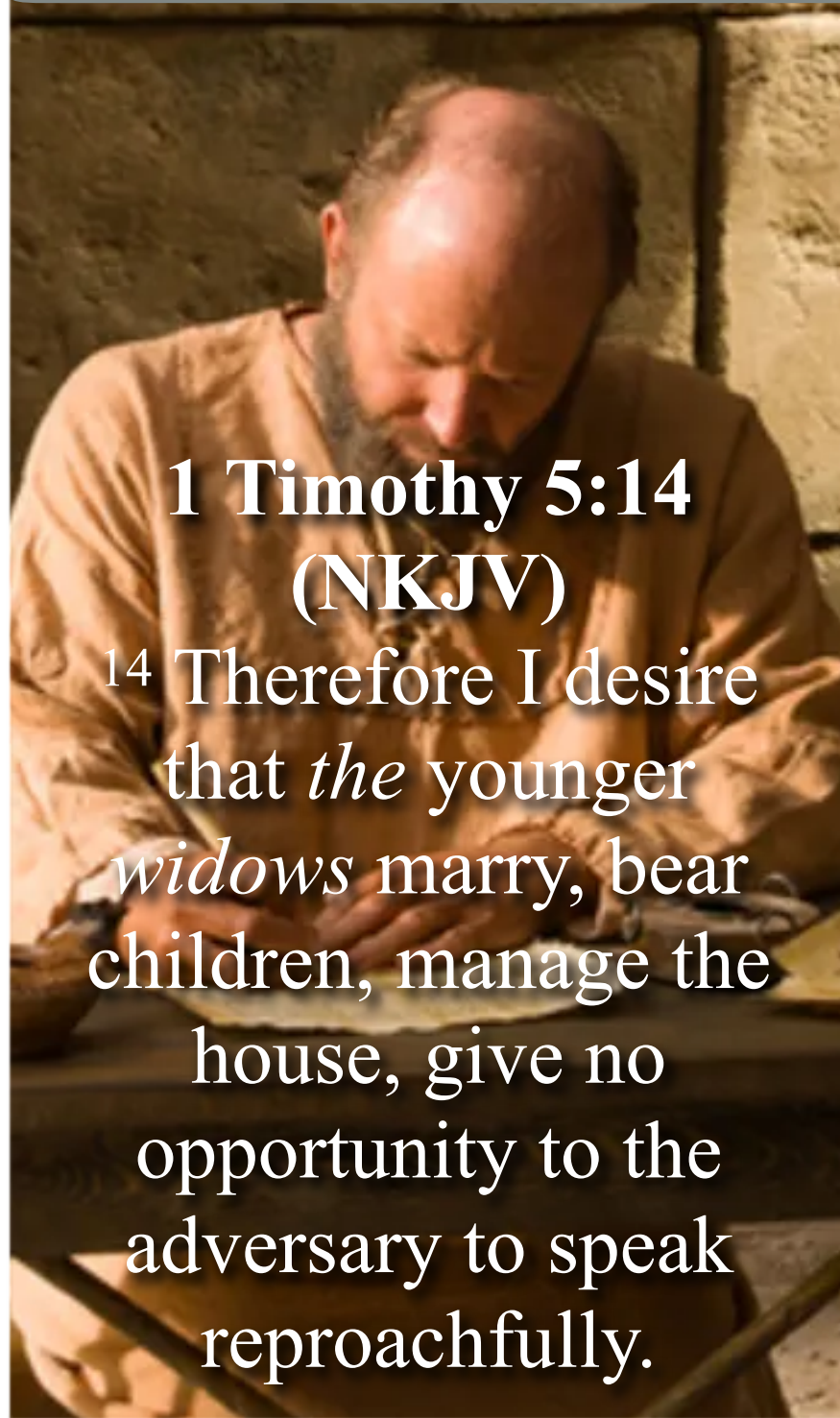
1 Timothy 5:13
(NKJV)

¹³ 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.

- “Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number”
- ▶ **“And besides they learn to be idle”** — Such permanent support at such a young age can lead to idleness, which can be a great curse.
- ▶ **“wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not”** — gossiping & meddling are practices often condemned in scripture. (Pr. 20:19; 2 Th. 3:11. 1 Pe. 4:15)

“The Local Church & Its Widows”

INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUNGER WIDOWS



1 Timothy 5:14
(NKJV)

¹⁴ Therefore I desire that *the* younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

- “Therefore I desire that *the* younger widows marry”
 - ▶ “**bear children**” — To bear children implies their training as well (2:15).
 - ▶ “**manage the house**” — to direct the household affairs. Equivalent of “keepers at home” (Titus 2:5)
 - ▶ “**give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully**” — Paul was deeply concerned about what enemies of the truth had to say about his brethren, his Lord, and his church (cf. Titus 2:5; Rom. 2:24; Ezek. 36:22ff).

“The Local Church & Its Widows”

FINAL WARNING & INSTRUCTION



1 Timothy 5:15–16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ For some have already turned aside after Satan. ¹⁶ 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.

“The Local Church & Its Widows”



FAILURE TO
RESPECT ONE ANOTHER,
EXHORT ONE ANOTHER,
HONOR AND SUPPORT
ONE ANOTHER
FULFILL ONE'S INDIVIDUAL
OBLIGATIONS

**IS a FAILURE TO
RESPECT AND
HONOR CHRIST!**

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“The Local Church & Its Widows”

(1 Timothy 5:9–16)

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Acts 9:36–41 (NKJV)

³⁶ At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. ³⁷ But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid *her* in an upper room. ³⁸ And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring *him* not to delay in coming to them. ³⁹ Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought *him* to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰ But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. ⁴¹ Then he gave her *his* hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive.