

• JULY 8, 2018 •

Caring for Widows, Part 2

1 Timothy 5:9-16

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1. Qualifications for the “enrolled” widow (1 Timothy 5:9-10)

2. The challenges for younger widows (1 Timothy 5:11-15)

3. The priority of blessing the church (1 Timothy 5:16)

Table Talk

- 1) What were the blessings of being “enrolled” as a widow? Why is it that there are qualifications beyond physical need in order to be enrolled? (vv. 9-10)
- 2) What are those qualifications? Of these, which is the most challenging for you? Why are some qualifications based on prior behavior? Does that seem “unfair” for one who did not, for example, have children or show hospitality, but now has a great financial need?
- 3) How would you describe Paul’s attitude toward younger widows? (vv. 11-15) Are there times when something considered “harsh” is actually compassionate and vice versa? Give some examples unrelated to the problem of caring for widows.
- 4) What are the hazards of having financial support and nothing to do? How is Paul being realistic about the “passions” of widows? What hints do we get that the behavior of younger widows is already a problem in Ephesus?
- 5) Why is Paul concerned about the church not being “burdened” by needs? How can we likewise have the same heart? What would you say to a person who harshly says about any particular need, “I don’t see why ‘the church’ isn’t doing something about this!?”
- 6) How do these very practical principles about caring for widows connect with the Gospel of grace? Does Paul contradict grace by these principles?