

PROVIDING FOR THE NEEDY!

I TIMOTHY 5:9-16

*To my disciple
– preserve, protect, pass!*

THEME OF I TIMOTHY

Preserve, Protect and Pass on
the true faith of the gospel of Jesus Christ

I TIMOTHY 5:1-6:2

Exhibit gospel behaviour in our relationships

I TIMOTHY 5:1-6:2

Exhibit gospel behaviour in our relationships

- The Church should behave like family (vv.1-2)
- Family should provide for needy members (vv.3-8)

I TIMOTHY 5:9-16

Exhibit gospel behaviour in our relationships

- The Church should provide for needy members

I TIM. 5:3

Honour widows that are widows indeed.

WIDOWS: PROTECTION / HELP

- God was her legal protector (Ps 68:5).
- She was provided with the essentials of food and clothing (Dt 10:18).
- Those who denied her justice were cursed by God (Dt 27:19).
- At harvest time the widow might glean the grain in the fields as well as some grapes and olives (Dt 24:19; Ru 2:2, 7, 15–19)
- Early Church appointed faithful men to help minister to them (Acts 6:1-6)
- Class of widows eligible to receive church support (1 Tim. 5:9-16)

I TIMOTHY 5:9-16

Exhibit gospel behaviour in our relationships

- The Church should provide for needy members
Be clear about the priority of help

I TIM. 5:3

Honour widows that are widows **indeed**.

I TIM. 5:9-10

For a widow to be **taken into the number** (*put on the list*)

- threescore (60) years old & above (*likelihood of need*),
- having been the wife of one man (*faithful*),
- well reported of for good works (*good reputation*);

I TIM. 5:9-10

- well reported of for good works;
 - if** she have brought up children,
 - if** she have lodged strangers,
 - if** she have washed the saints' feet,
 - if** she have relieved the afflicted,
 - if** she have diligently followed every good work.

EARLY CHURCH WAS CLEAR ABOUT PRIORITY OF SUPPORT

"In short, the widow to be put on the list is an elderly, faithful, and godly Christian for whom the church should regularly and faithfully care and to whom the church could entrust, if the need arises, tasks she has already performed."

George W. Knight, *The Pastoral Epistles: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 1992), 225.

EARLY CHURCH WAS CLEAR ABOUT PRIORITY OF SUPPORT

- Galatians 6:10

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

I TIMOTHY 5:9-16

Exhibit gospel behaviour in our relationships

- The Church should provide for needy members

Be clear about the priority of help

Minimize potential risks of inappropriate help

MINIMIZE POTENTIAL RISKS

- Understand the true facts and context better

I TIM. 5:11-14

But the younger widows refuse: **for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith.** And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

MINIMIZE POTENTIAL RISKS

- Understand the true facts and context better
- Minimize risk of temptation

MINIMIZE POTENTIAL RISKS

Hi Sir, how are you? I need talk to you. When you free please call me. I need emergency discus to you. Please Sir help me XXXXX

Hi XXXXX, **not free to talk (now), but what happened?**

Sir if I leave my religion and Taking your religion your man can help me get a better job. Church can help me get a better job I & my wife taking your religion (Baptize). If possible please Answer my SMS. Thanks.

I TIM. 5:11-14

But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. **And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.**

MINIMIZE POTENTIAL RISKS

- Understand the true facts and context better
- Minimize risk of temptation
- Encourage the able to be productive

I TIM. 5:14-15

I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. For some are already turned aside after Satan.

ENGAGE THOSE WHO ARE HELPED TO BE PRODUCTIVE

"Deaconesses, or female helpers, had a similar charge of the poor and sick in the female portion of the church. The office was the more needful on account of the rigid separation of the sexes at that day, especially among the Greek and Orientals. It opened to pious women and virgins, and chiefly to widows, a most suitable field for the regular official exercise of their peculiar gifts of self-denying charity and devotion to the welfare of the church. . . . The deaconesses were usually chosen from elderly widows."

- Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church from the 1st to the 19th century*, (Delmarva Publications Inc: USA, 2013) Vol. I, Chapter X, Paragraph 62

I TIMOTHY 5:9-16

Exhibit gospel behaviour in our relationships

- The Church should provide for the needy
 - Be clear about the priority of help
 - Minimize potential risks of inappropriate help

I TIM. 5:16

If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are **widows indeed**.



Golden Blessings 福龄

- Fire & Fall prevention talks
- Health talks
- Exercise
- Craft
- Mooncake making
- Cookery
- Testimony & Gospel



HOPE! 希望!

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PROVIDING FOR THE NEEDY!

1 TIMOTHY 5:9-16

*To my disciple
— preserve, protect, pass!*