

A WORD ABOUT WIDOWS

Ben Orchard / April 14, 2024 / 1 Timothy 5:3-16



Week of April 14, 2024

Family first to _____ for their _____ (4, 7-8, 16)

The Church's Responsibility For Widows

To provide support for _____, _____ widows (3-6, 9-10)

To not provide support for _____, _____ widows (11-13)

To provide guidance for _____, _____
widows (14-16b)

1. Thinking back on this week's message, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Concerning widows, what do we learn in Scripture about:
 - a. God's laws concerning widows in the Old Testament (Exodus 22:22-24)
 - b. God's personal involvement in the plight of widows (Psalm 146:9)
 - c. The typical economic state of widows in the 1st Century (Mark 12:41-44; Luke 18:1-5)
 - d. Prioritizing ministry to widows in the early church (Acts 6:1-3)
 - e. The prominence of widow care in worship (James 1:27)
3. Based on this passage and your own research in the Bible, summarize a biblical order of responsibility for the care of others. If someone has a need, who should step in to fill it, and in what order? How is this order being supported or undermined in our American culture?
4. In what ways are the needs of widows the same or different today than they were in Paul's day? Would you add any additional instruction to Paul's teaching to practically care for the needs of widows today?
5. How do the circumstances of a "widow indeed" shape her spiritual life (v. 5)? What are examples of other unique circumstances that shape our faith?
6. Far from being only recipients of provision, what are the unique contributions of widows to the life of the church (see v.10)?
7. What sinful responses does Paul warn against that widows (or others experiencing a trial) could turn to (vv. 6, 13)? How do trials create unique moments of spiritual vulnerability as well as opportunity?
8. What widows, if any, are directly connected to your family or your Life Group? What opportunities might there be to provide care and support for them as needed?
9. On the church website (<https://spokanevbc.org/about-us/elders-and-staff>) you can find the names of all our deacons who oversee the care of widows at Valley Bible Church. Please pray for these men, their wives, and the ministry of VBC to our widows.