

WIDOWS

The Bible is clear that the Lord is concerned about all injustice. One particular group of people that He specifically mentions is widows. There are scriptures that say we are to be concerned about Christians' needs (1 John 3:17-18), however, the Lord mentions in a number of places His desire that we be specifically attentive to the needs of widows.

Acts 6:1

“Now at this time while the disciples were increasing {in number,} a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic {Jews} against the {native} Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving {of food.}”

James 1:27

“This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of {our} God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, {and} to keep oneself unstained by the world.”

The real problem in the modern day church is actually identifying who truly are widows. Every adult Christian female who is single or divorced are often included in a generalized definition of widow and, therefore, accorded a place not afforded them by the Bible. But this is not what the Bible says are widows indeed.

1 Timothy 5:3

“Honor widows who are widows indeed;”

1 Timothy 5:9-10

*“Let a widow be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, {having been} the wife of one man,
having a reputation for good works; {and} if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has assisted those in distress, {and} if she has devoted herself to every good work.”*

And while looking at widows indeed, the church is to take up the burden for them only after looking to the widow's family as the primary people responsible for her.

1 Timothy 5:4

“but if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family, and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God.”

1 Timothy 5:16

“If any woman who is a believer has {dependent} widows, let her assist them, and let not the church be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.”