

1. Verse 1 has instructions for the young Christian worker in how he should treat members of the family of believers. Older men, for example, are not to be rebuked but to be answered respectfully as fathers. Give a specific example for the other groups:

Younger men:

Older women:

Younger women:

2. What, do you think, is a “real” widow as in verse 3? Consult verses 5-6 in your answer.
3. What are the bad traits shown by some younger widows?
4. See verse 8. How is someone who does not provide for his family worse than an unbeliever?

To put it another way:

1 Tim 1:5 (KJV) Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.

1 Tim 1:5 (ESV) She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day.

1 Tim 1:5 (NIV) The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask God for help.

Cross references:

Lev 19:32 (ESV) You shall stand up before the gray head and honor the face of an old man, and you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

James 1:27 (KJV) Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Luke 2:36-37 And there was one Anna, a prophetess ...And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

Acts 9:36 (ESV) Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity.

5. Verses 9 and 11 refer to deserving widows being enrolled in some type of list. This implies a formal and regular distribution of charitable support by the assembly. Write below at least three general principles of assembly giving which can be drawn from these verses.

Cross references:

Rom 12:13 (ESV) Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Acts 6:1 (NASB) But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. Those who spoke Greek complained against those who spoke Hebrew, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.

1 Cor 7:9 (ESV) To the unmarried and the widows I say that it is good for them to remain single as I am. But if they cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to be aflame with passion.

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Dig Deeper!*