

“Widows in the Family of God”

I Timothy 5:3-16

God’s special care for widows is a recurring theme in Scripture (Deut. 14:29; Ps. 94:6; Mal. 3:5). God issued special instruction for the care and protection of widows in the Old Testament (Deut. 10:18; 24:17; Is. 1:17). Similarly, in the New Testament, God has given the church a responsibility to care for widows in need (I Tim. 5:3-16).

The Church is responsible . . .

- I. To _____ widows (3)
- II. To _____ widows for support (4-8)
 - A. Widows who are without _____ (4, 8)
 - B. Widows who are godly _____ (5-6)
- III. To _____ widows for service (9-10)
- IV. To _____ younger widows to remarry (11-15)
- V. To _____ families to support their widows (16)

The Greek philosopher Demosthenes wrote, “I regard the man who neglects his parents as unbelieving in and hateful to the gods, as well as to men.”

Aristotle wrote, “It would be thought in the matter of food we should help our parents before all others, since we owe our nourishment to them, and it is more honorable to help in this respect the authors of our being, even before ourselves.”

Plato wrote, “Next comes the honor of loving parents, to whom, as is meet, we have to pay the first and greatest and oldest of debts, considering that all which a man has belongs to those who gave him birth and brought him up, and that he must do all that he can to minister to them; first, in his property; secondly, in his person; and thirdly, in his soul; paying the debts due to them for their care and travail which they bestowed upon him of old in the days of his infancy, and which he is now able to pay back to them, when they are old and in the extremity of their need.”

Philo wrote, “When old storks become unable to fly, they remain in their nests and are fed by their children, who go to endless exertions to provide their food because of their piety.”