

**WIDOWS: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHURCH,
FAMILY, AND WIDOWS THEMSELVES
(1 TIMOTHY 5:3–16)**

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Introduction

1. The Church’s Responsibility: The church must financially support certain kinds of widows.

1.1. She does not have other family to help her but is “left all alone” (vv. 5, 16).

1.2. She is “not less than sixty years of age” (v. 9).

1.3. She is godly (vv. 5, 9–10).

1.3.1. She “has set her hope on God” (v. 5).

1.3.2. She “continues in supplications and prayers night and day” (v. 5).

1.3.3. She had “been the wife of one husband” (v. 9).

1.3.4. She has “a reputation for good works” (v. 9).

1.3.5. She “has brought up children” (v. 10).

1.3.6. She “has shown hospitality” (v. 10).

1.3.7. She “has washed the feet of the saints” (v. 10).

1.3.8. She “has cared for the afflicted” (v. 10).

1.3.9. She “has devoted herself to every good work” (v. 10).

2. The Family's Responsibility: Children and grandchildren must financially support their widowed parents and grandparents.

- 2.1. This shows "godliness to their own household" (v. 4).
- 2.2. "This is pleasing in the sight of God" (v. 4).
- 2.3. This is above reproach; not doing this brings reproach (v. 7).
- 2.4. This is essential for keeping the Christian faith; not doing this amounts to denying the faith and being "worse than an unbeliever" (v. 8).
- 2.5. This frees the church of an extra burden "so that it may care for those who are truly widows" (v. 16).

3. The Widow's Responsibility: Widows must live for God.

- 3.1. Widows should live like *real* widows (see §1 above).
- 3.2. Widows should not be self-indulgent (v. 6).
- 3.3. Widows should not share the negative traits of some younger widows (vv. 11–15)
 - 3.3.1. "Their passions draw them away from Christ" (v. 11).
 - 3.3.2. They "incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith" (v. 12).
 - 3.3.3. "They learn to be idlers, going about from house to house" (v. 13).
 - 3.3.4. They learn to be "gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not" (v. 13).
- 3.4. Younger widows should "marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander" (vv. 14–15).

Conclusion