

# “Family Matters: Correction for Young Widows”

1 Timothy 5:9-16

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**1 Timothy 5:9-16** <sup>9</sup> A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, *having been* the wife of one man, <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> But refuse *to put* younger widows *on the list*, for when they feel sensual desires in disregard of Christ, they want to get married, <sup>12</sup> *thus* incurring condemnation, because they have set aside their previous pledge. <sup>13</sup> At the same time they also learn *to be* idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper *to mention*. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, I want younger *widows* to get married, bear children, keep house, *and* give the enemy no occasion for reproach; <sup>15</sup> for some have already turned aside to follow Satan. <sup>16</sup> If any woman who is a believer has *dependent* widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.

**1 Timothy 5:9-10** <sup>9</sup> A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, *having been* the wife of one man, <sup>10</sup> 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.

A. Widows **enrolled** on the **list** have:

1. **Demonstrated** a track record of **godliness**.
2. **Devoted** themselves to God’s **service** in the **church**.

**Titus 2:3-5** <sup>3</sup> Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, <sup>4</sup> so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, <sup>5</sup> *to be* sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

B. **Young** widows are **ineligible** for the list because:

1. **Natural** desires will override **spiritual** commitments.

**1 Timothy 5:11-13** <sup>11</sup> But refuse *to put* younger widows *on the list*, for when they feel sensual desires in disregard of Christ, they want to get married, <sup>12</sup> *thus* incurring condemnation, because they have set aside their previous pledge. <sup>13</sup> At the same time they also learn *to be* idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper *to mention*.

**Ecclesiastes 5:1-5** <sup>1</sup> Guard your steps as you go to the house of God and draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not know they are doing evil. <sup>2</sup> Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few. <sup>3</sup> For the dream comes through much effort and the voice of a fool through many words. <sup>4</sup> When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it; for *He takes* no delight in fools. Pay what you vow! <sup>5</sup> It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.

**Numbers 30:1-4** <sup>1</sup>Then Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the sons of Israel, saying, “This is the word which the LORD has commanded. <sup>2</sup>If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or takes an oath to bind himself with a binding obligation, he shall not violate his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth. <sup>3</sup>“Also if a woman makes a vow to the LORD, and binds herself by an obligation in her father’s house in her youth, <sup>4</sup>and her father hears her vow and her obligation by which she has bound herself, and her father says nothing to her, then all her vows shall stand and every obligation by which she has bound herself shall stand.

**Deuteronomy 24:21-23** <sup>21</sup>“When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not go over it again; it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow. <sup>22</sup>You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this thing.

2. **Unfulfilled** desires can lead to spiritual **bitterness**.
3. **Ungodly** pursuit of natural desires leads to **spiritual betrayal**.

**1 Timothy 5:14-15** <sup>14</sup>Therefore, I want younger *widows* to get married, bear children, keep house, *and* give the enemy no occasion for reproach; <sup>15</sup>for some have already turned aside to follow Satan.

C. Young widows are **commanded** to remarry:

1. To **protect** her from **dishonoring** Jesus.

**2 Timothy 3:6-7** <sup>6</sup>For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, <sup>7</sup>always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2. In order to **resume** the **normal duties** of a wife.