

Bible Study 2017-18 (1 Timothy)

1 Timothy 5:9-16: Instructions for Widows

Vv.9-10: “Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man, well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints’ feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.”

- “Taken into the number.”
- Before an elderly widow may be placed on the list, she must meet certain qualifications.
- “If she has brought up children.”
- “If she has lodged strangers.”
- “If she has washed the saints’ feet.”
- “If she has relieved the afflicted.”

V.11-12: “But refuse the younger widows; for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ, they desire to marry, having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith.”

- Refuse younger widows – refuse to put them on the list.

- “Having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith.”

V.13: “And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.”

- Those supported by the church might be tempted to become lazy gossips and busy-bodies.

Vv.14-15: “Therefore, I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. For some have already turned aside after Satan.”

- A woman is called to be a wife, to bear children [2:15], and manage the house [Proverbs 31].
- “Give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”

V.16: “If any believing man or woman has widows, let them relieve them, and do not let the church be burdened, that it may relieve those who are really widows.”

- Paul returns to the believer’s duty to care for the widow in his or her family.