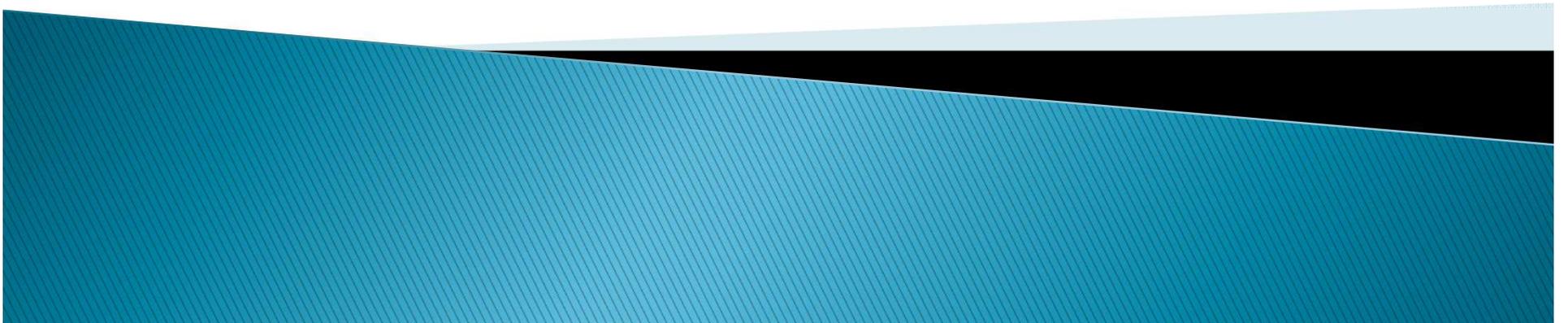


# The Church's Responsibilities concerning Widows

1 Timothy 5:3–16



# Caring for Widows

- ▶ God Cares for Widows – Dt 10:18; Ps 68:5–6; 146:9



# God Cares for Widows

Deuteronomy 10:18 (ESV) — 18 He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.

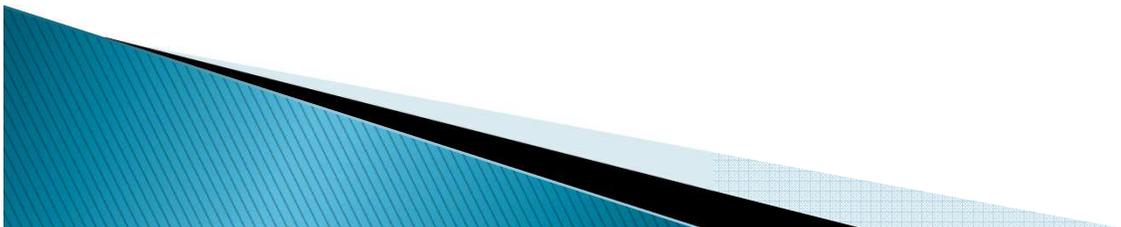
Psalm 68:5–6 (ESV) — 5 Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. 6 God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

Psalm 146:9 (ESV) — 9 The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.



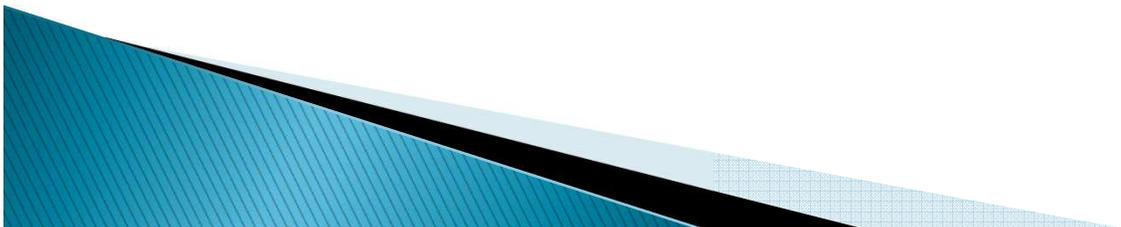
# Caring for Widows

- ▶ God Cares for Widows – Dt 10:18; Ps 68:5–6; 146:9
- ▶ So do the righteous of every age – Job 31:16–23; Dt. 24:17–22; Jms. 1:27



# And So Do the Righteous of Every Age

Job 31:16–23 (ESV) — 16 “If I have withheld anything that the poor desired, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail, 17 or have eaten my morsel alone, and the fatherless has not eaten of it 18 (for from my youth the fatherless grew up with me as with a father, and from my mother’s womb I guided the widow), 19 if I have seen anyone perish for lack of clothing, or the needy without covering, 20 if his body has not blessed me, and if he was not warmed with the fleece of my sheep, 21 if I have raised my hand against the fatherless, because I saw my help in the gate, 22 then let my shoulder blade fall from my shoulder, and let my arm be broken from its socket. 23 For I was in terror of calamity from God, and I could not have faced his majesty.



# And So Do the Righteous of Every Age

Deuteronomy 24:17-22 (ESV) — 17 “You shall not pervert the justice due to the sojourner or to the fatherless, or take a widow’s garment in pledge, 18 but you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this. 19

“When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. 20 When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over them again. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow. 21 When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not strip it afterward. It shall be for the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow. 22 You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I command you to do this.



# James 1:27 (ESV)

27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.



# Caring for Widows

- ▶ God Cares for Widows – Dt 10:18; Ps 68:5–6; 146:9
- ▶ So do the righteous of every age – Job 31:16–23; Dt. 24:17–22; Jms. 1:27
- ▶ So does the church – 1 Tim. 5:3–16



# 1 Timothy 5:3–8 (ESV)

3 Honor widows who are truly widows. 4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. 5 She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, 6 but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. 7 Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. 8 But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.



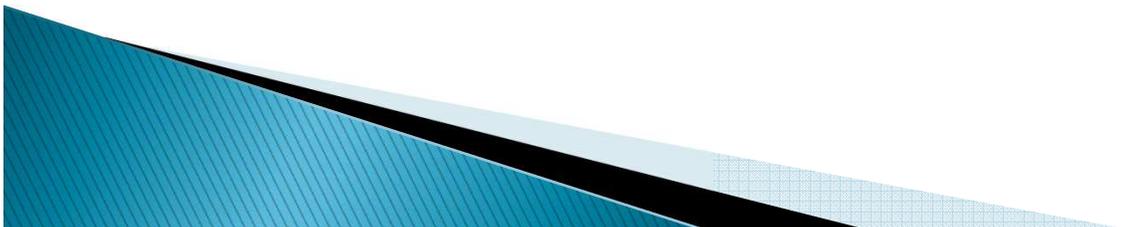
# The Church's Care for Widows

- ▶ Is of two kinds
  - Individual Responsibility
  - Collective Responsibility



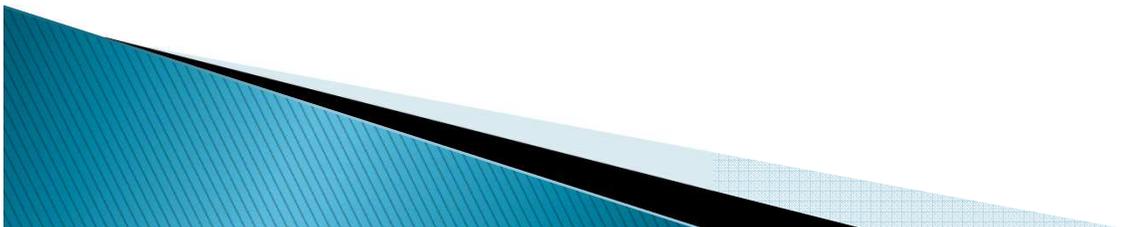
# 1 Timothy 5:3–8 (ESV)

3 Honor widows who are truly widows. 4 But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God. 5 She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, ... 8 But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.



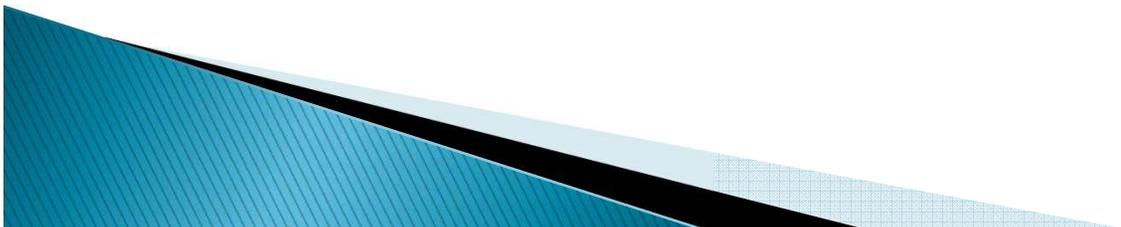
# The Church's Care for Widows

- ▶ Is of two kinds
  - Individual Responsibility
    - Each Christian should care for their own widows
  - Collective Responsibility
    - The church should provide “true widows”



# The Church's Care for Widows

- ▶ Is of two kinds
  - Individual Responsibility
    - Each Christian should care for their own widows
    - Each Christian should visit widows in their affliction
  - Collective Responsibility
    - The church should provide “true widows”



# James 1:27 (ESV)

27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.



# Questions regarding Widows

- ▶ What is a “true widow”?



# 1 Timothy 5:5–10 (ESV)

5 She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, 6 but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives... 9 Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, 10 and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work.



# Questions regarding Widows

- ▶ What is a “true widow”?
- ▶ What does it mean to enroll a widow?



# Acts 6:1 (ESV)

1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.



# Questions regarding Widows

- ▶ What is a “true widow”?
- ▶ What does it mean to enroll a widow?
- ▶ Why should the church not enroll younger widows?



# 1 Timothy 5:11–15 (ESV)

11 But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry 12 and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith. 13 Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not. 14 So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. 15 For some have already strayed after Satan.



# Questions regarding Widows

- ▶ What is a “true widow”?
- ▶ What does it mean to enroll a widow?
- ▶ Why should the church not enroll younger widows?
- ▶ Why should the church not care for widows who have living Christian relatives?



# 1 Timothy 5:16 (ESV)

16 If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them. Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.



# The Church's Care for Widows

- ▶ Is of two kinds
  - Individual Responsibility
    - Each Christian should care for their own widows
    - Each Christian should visit widows in their affliction
  - Collective Responsibility
    - The church should provide “true widows”



# Caring for Widows

- ▶ God Cares for Widows – Dt 10:18; Ps 68:5–6; 146:9
- ▶ So do the righteous of every age – Job 31:16–23; Dt. 24:17–22; Jms. 1:27
- ▶ So does the church – 1 Tim. 5:3–16
  - Collectively
  - Individually



# James 1:27 (ESV)

27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

