

## What to do about Widows

I Tim. 5:1-16

Believers should interact in a way befitting family relationships (3:15), which means treating each other as fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters; but the major focus here is how we treat our widows.

### *Problem: Widows will often need some type of support.*

- ◆ Widows' frequent struggles: Isa. 1:17, 10:1,2, Matt. 23:14, Lk. 18:3-5.
- ◆ See concern for widows in Acts 6:1-6, Js. 1:27, OT: Dt. 24:19ff., 27:19.
- ◆ Paul is clarifying which widows can be on "the list" (v 9), which includes a pledge (v 12) and appears to be a more substantial type of support than just daily meals (Acts 6:1b). In fact, idleness could be a result, 13.

### *Solution: We need to help widows who indeed qualify for support.*

- ◆ Even though our widows/single women may not need this degree of support, it is important to note the many qualifications that determine who should be supported and who shouldn't. Recall also a big list of qualifications for who can be an elder or deacon.
- ◆ What are the principles behind these qualifications?
- ◆ What should husbands do because of Jesus' words in Jn.19:26,27?
- ◆ Compare v 14 to I Cor. 7:7,8,39,40. Some younger women abused the widows' relief system and were idle gossips, 5:13, as in II Thess. 3:11. Raising a family can help a woman resist Satan, cf. 2:14,15.

## Widows versus Widows indeed

