

May 28, 2017

## What does the Bible say about widows?

1. A widows is a woman of any age who is left alone in this world either either death, desertion or divorce.
2. God and his church are to have a great heart of compassion toward widows.

*Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction,... James 1:27 (ESV)*

3. While the church is to have a compassionate heart for widows, it should limit its long-term care to those who are truly widows.
  1. If a widows has family, it is the families responsibility to care for their relatives.
  2. If a widow can care for herself, she should provide for herself.

## What does the Bible say about older widows and nuns?

*Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, 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. 1 Timothy 5:9-10 (ESV)*

4. In the early church their was a group of elderly widows that dedicated themselves to serving others. Today, we would call them nuns.
5. What were the qualifications to join this group.
  1. You must be a widow over 60.
  2. You must have been a one-man women.
  3. You must have an outstanding reputation for good works.
    1. Brought up children.
    2. Shown hospitality to strangers.
    3. Washed the feet of the saints.
    4. Cared for the afflicted.
    5. Devoted to every good work.
  6. Every woman should aspire to qualify for this group in their elderly years.

## What does the Bible say to single mothers?

*But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith. 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. So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. 1 Timothy 5:11–14 (ESV)

7. **God wants single moms to set their sights on remarrying, raising children and managing a home.**
8. **A younger widow that pursues singleness is prone to the traps of:**
  1. **Idleness**

Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. 2 Thessalonians 3:6 (ESV)

2. **Gossip**
3. **Busybody**

**Christian women must care for the needs of their relatives, not just their immediate family.**

*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.*  
1 Timothy 5:16 (ESV)



## 1 Timothy 5:9-16

### What Does The Bible Say To Older Widows And Single Mothers?