

# THE CHURCH T-TIMOTHY



# **Concerning Widows**

**God's design for the family and the church reveals His care for all people.**

# Concerning Widows

**1 Timothy 5:1**

**<sup>1</sup>Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, <sup>2</sup>older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.**

**<sup>3</sup>Honor widows who are truly widows. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>She who is truly a widow, left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day, <sup>6</sup>but she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives. ...**

**<sup>7</sup>Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach. <sup>8</sup>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.**

**<sup>9</sup>Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, <sup>10</sup>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.**

**<sup>11</sup>But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry <sup>12</sup>and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith.**

**<sup>13</sup>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. ...**

**<sup>14</sup>So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander. <sup>15</sup>For some have already strayed after Satan. <sup>16</sup>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.**

**During this time of reflection:**

**Are you living faithfully  
according to God's design  
for the family?**