

“Church Family Responsibility”, 1 Timothy 5:3-8
Pastor Shawn Newberry, June 21, 2026

I. Care for the Truly Needy (vv. 3, 5)

Honor genuine widows.

A. True widows are without support

- No family to provide care.
- Vulnerable financially, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.
- Depend completely upon God.

B. God has a special concern for widows

- James 1:27 – Pure religion cares for widows and orphans.
- Exodus 22:22–23 – God hears the cry of widows.
- Deuteronomy 10:18 – God executes justice for widows.
- Isaiah 1:17 – God commands His people to defend widows.

C. The church reflects God's character

- God is our refuge, protector, defender, and comforter.
- The church becomes the visible expression of Christ's care.
- Acts 6: The first deacons were appointed to care for widows.

Key Principle:

The church should demonstrate God's heart by caring for those who have no one else to care for them.

II. Honor Parents Through Provision (vv. 4, 7–8)

Family responsibility comes before church responsibility.

A. Children and grandchildren have the first obligation

- Caring for parents is an act of godliness.
- Providing for family is pleasing to God.
- The church supplements family care; it does not replace it.

B. Caring for parents reveals character

- The Fifth Commandment: Honor your father and mother.
- Even unbelievers recognize the importance of caring for parents.
- Neglecting parents damages Christian witness.

C. Historical context

- Jewish firstborn received a double inheritance to provide leadership and care.
- Greek and Roman culture viewed care for parents as a civic duty.
- In Athens, neglecting widowed parents could result in loss of public privileges.

Key Principle:

Our treatment of aging parents demonstrates both our faith and our character.

III. Choose Godliness Over Self-Indulgence (v. 6)

Spiritual life is revealed by where we place our hope.

A. The godly widow lives for God

- Sets her hope on God.
- Continues in prayer and dependence upon the Lord.
- Lives with an eternal perspective.

B. The self-indulgent person lives for self

- Focused on comfort, pleasure, and immediate gratification.
- Ignores eternal realities.
- "Dead even while she lives."

C. Godly stewardship requires future thinking

- Self-indulgence lives only for today.
- Faith looks beyond this life to eternal reward.
- Christians live in light of eternity.

Key Principle:

A person's spiritual condition is often revealed by what they hope in and live for.

Main Takeaways

1. **The church must care for those who are truly needy.**
2. **Families bear the primary responsibility to care for aging parents.**
3. **A godly life is marked by hope in God rather than self-indulgence.**

Big Idea:

God's people honor Him when they care for the vulnerable, fulfill their family responsibilities, and live with their hope fixed on eternity.