

CHURCH AND WIDOWS **Honor Widows (#4)**

The following mini-series entitled “Honor Widows” is based on Paul’s teachings on the church and widows.

(1 Tim.5:3) “Honor (timaō/ p.a. impv.2ps) widows (chera) who are widows indeed.”

There are five lessons in this mini-series.

- (1 Tim.5:3-4) Widows in Indeed
- (1 Tim.5:5-8) Families of Widows
- (1 Tim.5:9-10) **Church and Widows**
- (1 Tim.5:11-15) Younger Widows
- (1 Tim.5:16) Widows Assisting Widows

Paul gave six conditions for qualifying widows to be listed for church assistance.

NOTE: You are able to see in the English Bible these six conditions in our lesson text by Paul’s use of the 1st Class Condition ‘if’ (**if and it is true**). We will use Paul’s outline for this lesson.

Paul opened this subject in 1 Tim.5:9 with these words, “A widow is to be put on the list” (katalego/ p.p. impv.2pl/ **command**).” This word was used in the military for enlistment qualifications.

Notice this is a **command** to Timothy and the church (Gal.3:28). This was an issue addressed by the early Jewish church.

(Acts 6:1) “Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a **complaint** arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food.” (Deut.26:12; Ps.146:9)

1. The first condition has three parts:

Text: (1 Tim.5:9-10a)

- The p.p. impv.2ps (**put on list**) connects two participles
 - having been (ginomai/ perf.p.ptc.nsf) (1 Tim.5:9)
 - having a reputation (martureo/ p.p.ptc.nsf) (1 Tim.5:10a).
- The action of the two participles is necessary to respond to the command of “put on the list”
 - “Having been the wife of one man (not Gentile polygamy) (John 4:16-19).”
 - “Having a reputation for good (kalos) works.” (Prov.31)

Note: The next five conditions are all (a.a.ind.3ps) [all verbs]

2. The second condition involves motherhood:

Text: (1 Tim.5:10b) “if she has brought up (teknotropheo) her children.” (Prov.31:25-28; 3 John 3-4)

3. The third condition involves hospitality:

Text: (1 Tim.5:10c) “if she has shown hospitality (xenodocheo) to strangers.” (3 John 5-6)

4. The fourth condition involves washing the feet of saints:

Text: (1 Tim.5:10d) “If she has washed (nipto) the saint’s feet.”

- This is an analogy from the culture of the day.
 - **Abigail** “She arose and bowed with her face to the ground and said, ‘Behold, your maidservant is a maid to wash the feet of my lord’s servants.’”
 - (1 Sam.25:40-41) A sign of grace oriented humility. (Luke 7:38-50 and 44-46)

5. The fifth condition assisting relief of the needy:

Text: (1 Tim.5:10e) “If she assisted (eparkeo) those in distress.” (Prov.31:20; 1 Tim.5:16)

6. The sixth condition is devoted to work of Lord:

Text: (1 Tim.5:10f) “If she has devoted (epakoloutheo) herself to every good (agathos) work.” (3 John 11; Acts 9:36-43) (Tabitha) [gazelle/ beauty]

(Prov.31:29-31) “Many daughters have done nobly, but YOU excel them all. Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, shall be praised. Give her the product of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.”