

Devotional...



Verses: 1 Timothy 5:9-10

⁹A widow who is put on the list for support must be a woman who is at least sixty years old and was faithful to her husband. ¹⁰She must be well respected by everyone because of the good she has done. Has she brought up her children well? Has she been kind to strangers and served other believers humbly? Has she helped those who are in trouble? Has she always been ready to do good?

God is a loving Father, who has always demonstrated care for widows, orphans, the poor and foreigners; those who are most vulnerable and have lost their closest relationships. In this passage we see how the church is to take care of widows who are without support and have lived a life of devotion to Christ.

Paul, in his instructions to Timothy, includes guidelines for determining who should be on the list to receive financial support from the church community. Besides not receiving support from children or grandchildren, they must be true Christ followers. There must have been those who just wanted handouts, but were not really interested in following Jesus, as is often the case today with people seeking financial aid from churches. Bear in mind that this was not random giving to people in dire need, but a list of people receiving regular, ongoing support from the church.

The life of devotion described here applies to all of us, not only to widows. We're all called to faithfulness in our friendships and marriages, to doing good to others, to raising godly children if we are parents, to being kind to strangers, serving other believers, helping those who are in trouble and always being ready to do good.

Our devotion to Christ should be seen in how we treat others.

How is your reputation among those in the church community and outside of it?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help us lead a quiet and peaceable life, a life of devotion to You that is reflected in our good deeds toward others. Thank you for salvation by grace alone. May we grasp the fullness of what You have done for us and respond with lives devoted to You and Your cause. Thank you Father for Your love for us. Help us to love and care for others too, **in Jesus' name. Amen.**