

CARING FOR WIDOWS



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Key verses: 1 Timothy 5:3-11

The Main thing - LOVE

1 Timothy 1:5 *The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*

1 Corinthians 13:3 *And if I were to be so generous as to give away everything I owned to feed the poor, and to offer my body to be burned as a martyr, without the pure motive of love, I would gain nothing of value.*

agapē (ag-ah'-pay)

From G25: love, that is, How God loves us, unconditional, affectionate or offers benevolence;

Agape is also Charity which is from Greek Charis (Grace)

Benevolence

noun

1. the quality of being kind and helpful:
2. the act of giving money or help to people or organizations that need it:

Instructions for the Church

1 Timothy 5:3-11

³*Honor widows who are truly widows. ⁴But 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.*

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

⁷*Command these things as well, so that they may be without reproach.*

⁸*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.*

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

¹¹*But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry*

James 1:27 *True spirituality that is pure in the eyes of our Father God is to make a difference in the lives of the orphans, and widows in their troubles, and to refuse to be corrupted by the world's values.*

Introduce Hilda:

- Needs urgent hip replacement.
- **Member for..... years**
- Served on Ushers for many years.
- Widow, 55 years old.
- Working.
- No family to assist her.

The elders have assessed Hilda's plight and have approved that we offer opportunity to contribute towards her need.

Some thoughts on Giving

Firstly, and most importantly!

We are all on a journey and No Pressure or manipulation – you may already be supporting others or have other commitments.

If you are not in a position to give for whatever reason, then please be at ease and be released from any condemnation.

Testimony R2 – the beginning of an amazing journey.

Why give?

- We demonstrate the heart of our Father.

(Buffalo calves learn from parents to be belligerent)

- We get to share the blessing.

2 Corinthians 1:4 CEV *He comforts us when we are in trouble, so that we can share that same comfort with others in trouble.*

- **Giving is key to our own fulfilment and God's abundant provision.**

Proverbs 11:17 *The merciful, kind and generous man benefits himself (for his deeds return to bless him) but he who is cruel and callous (to the wants of others) brings on himself retribution.*

Proverbs 13:22 *The benevolent man leaves an inheritance that endures to his children's children, but the wealth of the wicked is treasured up for the righteous.*

Proverbs 19:17 *Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.*

(E.g. dad takes his little girl shopping)

All we have is from God.

