### CARING FOR WIDOWS



By Len Waller Christian Centre Abbotsford

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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.

agape (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
- <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

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.

#### 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

<sup>6</sup> The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

<sup>7</sup> Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

<sup>10</sup>He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11 TPT.... when we take your gifts to those in need

2 Corinthians 9:11 AMPC ....administered by us.

Christian Centre operates in the same way.

Basic budget - Keep the lights on, maintain premises, pay staff etc.

Benevolence and outside ministries.

## Three types of Giving

- Regular giving. To Local church
- Spontaneous giving Luke 10:25; Matthew 25:35
- Extraordinary giving. Special offering which may be administered by local church. E.g. Shack fires.

Extraordinary appeal: Hilda.

# A last word - Please don't disqualify yourself from giving.

('My contribution is insignificant')

#### The Widow's Offering

Mark 12:41-44

#### Appeal for Hilda:

- Operation is R170 000.00
- Her employer has raised R60 000.00
- Friends have raised R10 000.00
- Shortfall R100 000.00

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup> And a poor widow came and put in <u>two small copper coins</u>, which make a penny.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> And he called his disciples to him and **said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in** more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. <sup>44</sup> For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live **on."**