***Wisdom Toward Widows***

**1 Timothy 5:3-16 - 3/24/19**

*How can I* *both gain and show wisdom toward widows?*

**1 Timothy 5:3-5**

1) By Honoring & Encouraging Them In The Lord **Vs.5**

We honor and encourage our widows through compassion and care, as well as offering them love and prayer.

We need to be more mindful of those women who have lost their husbands.

We as a church body need to notice, honor, encourage and pray for our widows more consistently.

**1 Timothy 5:6-8**

2) By Discouraging Indulgence & Pleasure, While Prescribing Their Men To Make Ends Meet In The Home/Family

Pleasure won't cure one's life pains; only Jesus brings real relief.

We really need Jesus' life in us!... It's called, resurrection power.

If you take the route of extravagance, indulgence and pleasure, then you're dead even while you live (Vs.6). But if you'll turn to Jesus, then healing, restoration and abundant life can take place!

It's incredible how the very things we look to, too give us life - can actually suck the life right out of us.

*"If I could just find the right person! If I just had the right job/career! If I had a better car/house!"... These can easily become life-leaches.*

Men are clearly prescribed to 'make ends meet' in the home/family. **Vs.8**

Males are to take their responsibility seriously when it comes to being a provider.

**1 Timothy 5:9+10**

3) By Encouraging Them To Be Devoted To Every Good Work

These ladies showed a pattern throughout their lives, of being Proverb 31-type women.

Let's recognize those women among us who are widows, who show similar devotion, character and consistency; and if they need help, let's help them in love, honor and admiration!

*"'How do I know I love God? I believe I love Him yet I want to know.' Look at your gauge... As your* love for your brother/sister is, so *is your* measure of love for God."

If you can't give, then pray... Or maybe come and clean... Or help with yard work or projects... Come spend time with them... Send notes of encouragement, etc.

**1 Timothy 5:11-16**

4) By Encouraging Those Who Are Younger, To Keep A Godly Perspective Of Marriage

Paul isn't criticizing young widows for marrying, as he urges them to marry in vs.14.

Paul takes issue with their spiritual decline, or for throwing divine principles to the curb in order to marry a man.

Many unmarried women are so hungry for marriage and companionship that they don’t conduct themselves in a godly way in regard to relationships - including possibly being tempted to marry an unbeliever.

*"How do I know who to look for?"*... As you're running at the pace you should be, in pursuit of Jesus, and as a man is to be the Spiritual Head of the home - if you don't see him outpacing you, then he's likely not worthy of you.