

the GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING

March 15, 2015 – Discussion Questions
1 Timothy 5:9-20– The Gospel and Widows
Rev. Keith Edwards

Introduction

Why study First Timothy?

As individuals and as a church we must be committed to Sound Doctrine and Sound Practice. What we believe is important, but how we live is also important!

Wm Hendriksen answers the question – “Why study I Timothy?” this way:

- a) **It stresses sound doctrine** – What determines whether a doctrine is sound or not?
- b) **It demands consecrated living** – Right believing must be accompanied by right living.
- c) **It teaches us early church practice** – We learn Spirit-led principles in handling issues.
- d) **Through this book** (as through ALL Scripture) **God speaks to us.**

I Timothy 5:9-16 tackles a practical issue in Paul’s day – the care of WIDOWS.

Widows receive special attention in the New Testament Church. In Luke-Acts we have 16 references to widows. The Bible is filled with examples of widows.

Which widows from the Old & New Testaments come to your mind?

Paul mentions 3 kinds of widows.

1. OLDER WIDOWS with NO SUPPORT

- really in need
- has no children or grandchildren to care for her
- puts her hope in God and pleads prayerfully for God’s help – What are some practical ways to deepen your trust in God?

2. OLDER WIDOWS with FAMILY SUPPORT

- really NOT in need because she has family members to care for her

Why are children and grandchildren to support needy members of their family?

What are some practical ways to “Honour our father and our mother?”

Find answers in 1 Timothy 5:3-16

3. YOUNGER WIDOWS who should NOT be SUPPORTED.

Paul warns that these should not be added to the “list” (perhaps an official church list) because of their lack of ‘spirituality.’

Two ‘ways’ of living are contrasted through this passage. Although WIDOWS are the primary examples, each professing believer must examine his/her own conduct and ask God to search our lives. As God reveals sinful motives and actions, let’s confess them and seek His forgiveness (Read 1 John 1:9).

**#1 SELFLESS CONDUCT
GODLY LIVING**

**#2 SELFISH CONDUCT
UNGODLY LIVING**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> faithful to her husband – committed to her marriage (if she is marriage) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> unfaithful to her husband – more dedicated to sensual desires
<p>In Ephesians 5:22-33 Paul illustrates the relationship between husbands and wives as illustrative of that between Christ and the church. As the 'bride of Christ', how faithful are we to be to HIM?</p>	
<p>What is the WISE, GODLY WIDOW known for?</p>	<p>What is the UNWISE, UNGODLY WIDOW known for?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> well known for her GOOD WORKS e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *child raising *hospitality *washing saints feet *helping troubled people *devotion to all kinds of other good deeds <p>What are some of the Christ-like things we may do for others? Take time to pray for God's guidance in your service to Him and to others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battled & lost the battle in several areas e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensual Desires vs. Spiritual Desires *idle – wasting time – Misuse of TIME *gossips – spreading stories among others and creating disunity – Misuse of TONGUE *busybodies – interfering in matters that are not their concern – Misuse of TALENT *speaking unwisely <p>Read from James 3:1-12 Why is the tongue so impossible to tame?</p>
<p>What do these good works have in common? They are all SERVICE oriented. They are SELFLESS acts of SERVICE. They are SPIRITUAL acts</p>	<p>What do these evil deeds have in common? They are all SENSUALLY oriented. They are all SELFISH acts of service. They are SINFUL acts</p>

Take time to pray for the women of this church. Pray that God would mobilize a host of women who would help and not hinder the gospel ministry. Commit yourself to encouraging at least 2 women from the congregation this week.