

1Timothy 5:11–16

Helping Younger Women Avoid Spiritual Danger

Thursday, February 2, 2023 • Read 1 Timothy 5:11–16

Questions from the Scripture text: Who must be refused to be put on the roll of full-time, praying widows (v11a)? In what direction would younger ladies on the roll be likely to progress (v11b)? What would they then desire (v11c)? Why would their particular desire to marry be condemning at that point (v12)? What additional detriment would come from their being on this roll (v13a)? Where would they go (v13b)? What would they add to their idleness (v13c)? What sorts of things would they say (v13d)? What three things should younger ladies do instead (v14)? What would they not give, to whom, to do what? How does v15 describe idle young ladies, who hang out, and end up gossiping and saying wrong things? What might a believing male or female have (v16a)? What are they to do with widows if they have them (v16b)? What does this prevent from occurring (v16c)? What does this enable the church to do (v16d)?

What's a young woman to do? 1 Timothy 5:11–16 looks forward to the second reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these six verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **young widows and young women should seek a life of God-designed labor to protect them from Satan and mature them.**

In vv5–10, the apostle gave instruction for adding to the payroll of widows over 60, who have learned to be content to fellowship with God night and day in prayer. One of the requirements was that this learning would be produced by decades of selfless labor as a wife, mother, neighbor, and church member.

But what if she's not 60? The apostle's answer is: don't put her on the list. Even following the pattern of life described here, the Holy Spirit implies that a woman in her 50s will not yet have had enough maturing. But time by itself will not have the desired effect.

vv11–16 describe the sort of life that a lady should seek to live during that time, if she is to come into the season of life described in v5. If she is not ready for it, then she should not attempt it, lest after making her commitment she come under condemnation (v12), because she discovers that despite her best intentions, Christ simply isn't enough for her (v11). This may come as a desire to marry, as in v11, but there will be earlier warning signs: idleness (v13a) and the spending of life in socialization (v13b) that tends to degenerate into gossip and other sins of speech (v13c).

The culture (and church culture—Lord, have mercy!) in which I write values little the Lord's honorable calling for women or His design for sanctifying them through this calling. Fostering socialization is a top priority for many, and it would be shocking for them to hear that one of the benefits of being a wife and mother is that it severely curtails the ability to socialize.

But this is exactly why the Spirit here praises a life of domestic service. The Spirit characterizes the life of idleness, the life that prioritizes socialization, as “turning aside after Satan” (v15). Young ladies who fall into this trap do not merely inhibit their spiritual progress toward v5-style maturity, but they end up misusing their mouths and give the adversary opportunity to speak reproachfully (v14b).

The remedy, then, in v14 is not too surprising. Younger ladies should marry. The gift of singleness, fabricated within the past century via misreadings of 1Cor7, is not something that is recognizable to 1Tim 5:14. Chastity is a gift, but it is a gift that comes through the Lord's training of our souls via the means of grace, and the knowledge of Christ through grace-dependent living in His wisely ordered providence.

The widows over 60 who have been so trained are “as Paul is” (cf. 1Cor 7:7–8). But the path to get there runs through the life described in v14: marry, and so serve husband ahead of oneself; bear children, and so serve them ahead of oneself; manage the house (including lodging neighbors, washing saints' feet, and relieving the afflicted, cf. v10), serving neighbor and church-member and afflicted ahead of oneself.

Such selflessness cannot come from a lady's own mind. It can only come from having the mind of Christ in her (cf. Php 2:1–30). And it is this domestic life that the Lord has especially designed to bring her into constant lifting of her heart to Him, looking to Him for grace, finding His fellowship to be what sweetens her circumstances and strengthens her heart.

If she is a young woman, she needs either a husband and children (v14) or to be under the care of another household (v16). Not only does this free the church to support the 24/7 praying widows “who are really widows,” but it puts her under the care of one who will do so as keeping his own faith (cf. v8). It must be assumed that in this household she will receive not only material support but family shepherding in the means of grace. Surely, this is an even more vital part of our duty to those who are of our own, and of our own household (v8, 16).

There will be many women who read these verses and think “I'm just not wired that way.” And the paucity of spiritually viable men presents a problem. But this just further underlines the need for a faithful ministry in the discipling of the whole church, and especially of the sort of man who could become a chapter-3-qualified elder or deacon in the discipling of his house. The response of the church must be toward obedience, setting the proper goals and putting in diligent effort, rather than operating as if we are the first generation in which following the Spirit's instruction here would have been challenging. 1Timothy on the whole is written to a man leading a church in desperate need of reformation and revival. And obedience to this section is, after all, a means by which we are to become accustomed to crying out to God night and day.

What is the training ground in which the Lord spiritually develops women who will be 24/7 prayer warriors (or men who may be qualified for the eldership)? Why shouldn't we expect this to be easy? What is your own habit or season of life? How is it training you to a continual dependence upon grace through prayer?

Sample prayer: Lord, forgive us for so highly valuing hanging out and socialization. So many of us are failing to mature in faith, because we do not value the domestic life that You have designed for growing us in faith. Grant unto us to love to serve you in the ordinary, daily life of the home. Grant that such service would cause us to lift our hearts continually to You for grace. Grow us by the grace of Christ and the knowing of Him, we ask in His Name, AMEN!

ARP128 “How Blessed Are All Who Fear the Lord” or TPH128B “Blest the Man That Feareth Jehovah”

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First Timothy chapter 5 verses 11 through 16. These are God's words. But refused the younger widows for when they have begun to grow wanton against Christ. They desire to marry. Having condemnation because they have cast off their first faith. And besides they learn to be idle. Wandering about from house to house.

And not only idle, but also gossips and busy bodies. Saying things, which they ought not. Therefore, I desire that the younger widows marry. Bear children. Manage the house. Give no opportunity. To the adversary to speak. Approachfully For some have already turned aside after Satan. If any believing man or woman has widows Let him relieve them.

And do not let the church be burdened. That it may relieve those. Who are really? Widows.

So, for the reading of God's inspired and Inertward. Still talking about that role of widows who live. The Verse 5, first Timothy five, verse 5, sort of life. The one who is really a widow, and left alone, and trusts in God, and continues in publications and prayers night and day, this dear woman, Who having done, having lived the life.

Having lived the life described in verse 10.

Has been matured by living independence, upon god, and devotion to the good works, that he's given her to do. She's been matured to enjoying fellowship with god alone. As her whole life, which is something that sounds really good. And there might even be younger widows Who think that they could do it.

But if they have not been trained by the verse 10 life, To love the verse 5 fellowship. They are not going to be able to do it however much they wish they could. And think, and imagine that. The, they would be able to And so he says, don't let them if they are under 60 don't don't even put them on.

Doesn't matter how much they feel that they love the lord not. It doesn't matter how much they feel that they would enjoy this life for the rest of their life. In this world, to just have fellowship with god and pray night and day. He says, if they're younger they're going to grow wanting against christ.

They'll desire. Either to marry, or Uh, to fall into the verse 13 errors, which we'll get to in a moment. And whether they wish that they had, not that they had never volunteered. To spend their whole rest of their life in fellowship with god. Uh, praying dan night or whether they become these idol, and then gossips.

And then busy bodies who speak out of place. And say things that they shouldn't. Whichever one of those things they do. They give occasion to the devil. Verse 15 describes that as turning aside after satan, And verse 14 tells us that this turning aside after satan. Gives satan. The opportunity to approach the faith to say, see fellowship with god, isn't all its cracked up to be.

See, praying night and day. Really isn't something that people enjoy. See how wicked these ones are who thought they loved jesus. Ah, Nobody really loves jesus like that. Which is exactly how. Satan spoke about job when god pointed job out, he is eager. To mock and speak, we're approachally of the lord jesus, and the lord's grace in his people.

And so, there's an important principle here that there are Uh, there are services unto God and Ministries and offices. Uh, ways of living that sound good and they would be fine, but we should not think of ourselves more highly than we ought. We need to think about of ourselves with, with sober judgment.

In accordance with the measure of faith that God has given us. Recognizing, we are still being matured, we are still growing. And so the, the younger ones, the ones under 60 are not to be put on this role. Of widows who are on the payroll as those. Who pray night and day.

Rather they are. Uh, unsurprisingly to marry. In verse 14. Why? Because they need something to do if they don't have something to do. And they're not maturity enough yet to Uh, to trust in god and continue in prayer and fellowship with him night and day, you know, end up idle.

They'll end up not working, not serving. That tells us already what a young lady should be doing until she can get married. She should find good work to do. Um, and not Uh, give herself to the sorts of things. That marriage. And being a 60 year old trained widow.

Are to deliver her from. Which is going house to house. Uh, the idea here is socializing with A woman from this house and a woman from that house. Not having her own house. To work hard in and not having good works that she's wearing herself into instead of being Busy with service.

Uh, she goes from house to house. And her tongue gets busy. Should becomes a gossip or a busy body. Spending all her time. Uh, socializing. And Uh, when you socialize, when you spend all your time chatting and hanging out, You fall into something that proverbs tried to warn you about the lord tried.

You weren't the warn you about in proverbs? Where words are many sin is not absent. It is good to keep your mouth shut as much as possible. That is good to learn. Not to indulge always wanting to be. Chatting with people and this. Socializing life. It's not that all socializing is wrong.

But this hunger for socializing, because you don't have enough to do Uh, this is certainly. Something that leads to being a gossip and a busybody and you end up saying things that you ought not. Whether the things are gossip and slander or whether it is, as often as the case.

Theological speculation. Um, or you come up with your own spirituality, we see this. Uh, from From women in the scripture. And whoever this lady was, for instance, in dietera that they nicknamed jezebel Um, Who became a great talker in the church and would not. Uh, be quiet with the things that she shouldn't say.

So, in order to spare them from that, he has, A not surprising solution for the younger women. And notice that it's not younger, widows the word. Widows is an italics error because now the word widows is being supplied by your translators. Uh, but it's just the younger ones. Therefore, i desire that young ones.

Young ladies. Young females, mary. Spare children. And manage the house. That'll give them more than enough to do. They will no longer be idle. They will no longer go house to house. They will no longer want to socialize, they will never, they will no longer have many words, they will no longer have the presence of sin because where words are many sin is not absent.

And as they do, these good works. That God has designed that, god has commanded. Uh, they will. Need much grace. Because husbands are difficult to love their sinners and our own flesh, wants to be in charge once. To manipulate and run, the husband just like sin wanted to manipulate and run cane.

And so the lord said sins desire is for you. But you must master it dominate it rule over it. Immediately. After having said, similar thing to the woman, your desire will be for your husband but he will master you. Um, is not talking about Proper headship in marriage or the wife's affection for the husband.

Um, Resisting. Our flesh is difficult. It requires grace. It will turn you into, you know, if you are seeking to be a godly white, And then, if you're seeking to be a godly mother, Uh, children are even. Uh, less mature than husbands and just as big sinners And it takes a great amount of patience and a great amount of effort.

To do it. Well, to do it, right? So Uh, not just marrying but bearing children. And then managing the house which we know from verse 10 doesn't just mean housekeeping. It means keeping the house in such a way that your house is a help to neighbors a refuge. And a refreshing place, help to neighbors a refreshing place for believers.

And a refuge for the afflicted. And so there's plenty to do here and it requires much grace from god and a few decades doing that. Uh, well. Uh, well, we hope Um, season and mature, the lady. And what's her husband doing all this time? Well, Is providing and he's protecting, but he's especially leading her in worship, praying for her with her.

Uh, discipling her doing loving her. The way Jesus loves the church and washes her with his word, as Ephesians 5 describes to us. Now. The church's care. Uh, for the widows is not just as we've seen material care, but especially spiritual care. And so, when we come to verse 16 and it says, if any believing man or woman has widows like them, relieve them and do not let the church be burdened.

We must not think that this is merely. Uh, financial care. We must remember that spiritual care has been. Uh, the main subject of the chapter. Uh, and if you do have a believing widow over 60, who is content to pray night, and day and have fellowship with God. Well, certainly the believing man or the woman can. Um, can make sure that she has not just enough to get her by, but every bit as much.

A provision as if her husband had still been alive. But if she does have children or grandchildren, whatever state she is in, they are to care for her. Uh, not the church. And they are to carry for her. Uh, with a view toward, especially her spiritual condition. Because that's how we love.

One. Another, the one who does not provide for his own. In verse 8. And deny as the faith and as worse than unbeliever is much worse. If he's not providing for them, spiritually, than if you had not been. Providing for them. Materially. So,

Whatever. The Lord has for you my daughters and the various seasons of life. We will seek. That you would not be idle that you would not go house to house. Become gossips are busy bodies. And we will seek marriage for you. Because 1 Timothy 5 verse 14. Uh, doesn't have caveats about this imaginary gift of singleness.

In 1st Corinthians 7. When Paul says he wishes that all were single. He does not mean that he wishes all were single. He means he wishes that all were chaste. That's the gift. The gift is chastity. The gift is purity. And it's a gift that comes ordinarily by the means of grace.

And by God's discipling us through. A long. Life of good service. That requires dependence. Upon him and he gives us our single-minded hearts towards him. As he matures and grows us and discipled us. Through life with him. Pray and ask him to do that Lord, we do pray that you would bless to us.

This portion of your word this worship time that we have had that your spirit. Would make us to grow. In grace, and And by the knowledge of Christ. And we pray that. As you bless to us, the means of your grace, you would give us opportunity, in all of our life.

For practicing and exercising. The holy faith to which you have called us, And we do, pray that As days turned into weeks, and weeks to months, and months, to years, and years to decades. That we might see you so much touring us, that we would be content. Just with you that we would have a single heartedness towards you.

That we would not need anything else. And that, whatever else we do we would always do And fellowship with you and for your glory. Lord, I pray for this work. That is begun. And my children. Pray for any and whom it may not have yet begun. Um, That you would give life and faith.

Pray, this for my wife and myself. Who are further along and yet not done. Grant to us. To be single-minded wholehearted. Unto you and use. The means of your grace. And the wisdom of your providence. To give us that growth. We ask in Jesus name, Amen.