

Caring for Widows in Distress

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The Bible is very specific about the responsibility of both the individual Christian and also the church to the widows (James 1-27; 1 Timothy 5:16).

I. WHY DOES THE CHURCH HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES TO WIDOWS?

- A. Because of the grief they experience at the death of their husband
- B. Because of the loss of their source of livelihood at the death of their husband
- C. Because of their need for comfort following their husband's death

II. HOW CAN THE CHURCH PROVIDE A MINISTRY TO WIDOWS?

- A. By providing a support group for them
- B. By providing through this support group a resource for spiritual healing, and encouragement through the grieving process
- C. Help them overcome the feelings of hopelessness, loneliness, hurt, anger, loss of self-esteem, fear, and disappointment
- D. Provide an atmosphere that will allow a widow to share her feelings, cry, laugh, pray and receive emotional and physical healing
- E. Provide practical attention to remembrance of special days such as birthdays, anniversaries, etc
- F. Provide assistance for needs such as automobile and home maintenance, repairs, yard work, attorney, dentist, etc
- G. Provide transportation when needed

III. FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THAT CAN BE PROVIDED

- A. Monthly meetings
- B. Devotions and Bible study
- C. Visits to museums, conventions, camp meetings, etc.

IV. SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR A WIDOWS' GROUP

- A. Assist Women's Ministry projects
- B. Girl's Club functions
- C. Assist in food pantry packaging and distribution
- D. Nursing home visits and services

The church has a responsibility to help widows in distress so that they may become helpers to others.