

# Principles of Ministering to Widows

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As Christians, our desire should be to please our Heavenly Father. Nothing could ever repay Him for the gift of salvation He has given us through our Lord Jesus Christ. There is a way we can please God ... the Bible calls it "*Pure Religion.*" If you want your church or ministries to be blessed, there is a mandate to be followed, and that mandate is "... *to look after the orphans and the widows in their distress...*" (James 1:27 NIV)

## I. Statistics (2000 US Census)

- A. 12 million widows live in the United States
- B. 45% of women become widows by age 65
- C. 80% of married women will become widows
- D. ½ of all the women 65 and older today earn \$550/month or less
- E. The average age of a widow is between 53-55

## II. The Need of Widows

- A. He allows their covering to be removed (spouse)
- B. They are left vulnerable
- C. He knows what this has done to them
- D. He becomes their priesthood - we (the church) are His hands

## III. Biblical Emphasis on Caring for Widows

- A. Over 120 scriptures mention widows (Genesis to Revelation)
- B. Exodus 22:22 - *God hears their cry*
- C. Psalms 54 - *Defender of the widow*
- D. Deuteronomy 14:29 - *Bless all the works of your hands*
- E. Isaiah 1:17 - *Plead for the widow*
- F. Isaiah 54 - *Husband to the widow*
- G. Acts Chapter 6 - *first council to be established*
- H. James 1:27 - *Pure Religion*

## IV. How Can We Minister to the Widows?

- A. *Find* the Widows (Silent/Overlooked Population)
- B. *Minister* to the Widows (Honor them - I Timothy 5:3)

### C. *Empower* the Widows

1. These women can be the *greatest force in ministry* in the last days.
2. God is bringing them out to help harvest the fields—time is short.
3. Women are called to be prayer warriors.

## V. What the Widow Won't Tell You & How the Church Can Bring Empowerment

### A. "I'm vulnerable."

1. Be a covering, assign a seasoned widow & elder
2. Financial guidance
3. Car care, home maintenance

### B. "I'm hurting."

1. Grief recovery groups
2. Widows helping widows
3. Listening ears & teacups

### C. "I'm hungry."

1. Widows fund/vouchers
2. Adopt a grandma
3. Monthly luncheons & fellowship

### D. "I'm lonely."

1. Synergy with the fatherless
2. Card and phone ministry
3. Visitation with leadership

### E. "I need purpose."

1. Prayer ministry - Exodus 22:22-24
2. Setting the boundaries – Proverbs 15:25
3. Isaiah 54 - Enlarging your tent
4. Titus 2 women

## Conclusion

Job was a great man whom God trusted to do right. Job gives us a picture of righteousness in the 29<sup>th</sup> Chapter:

*11 Whoever heard me spoke well of me,  
and those who saw me commended me,  
12 because I rescued the poor who cried for help,  
and the fatherless who had none to assist him.  
13 The man who was dying blessed me;  
**I made the widow's heart sing.**  
14 I put on righteousness as my clothing;  
justice was my robe and my turban.*