

1 Timothy 5:3-15
The Christian's Circle of Concern

Primary Point: Believers take care of their own

Observe the following...

- Responsibility to take care of widows
- Children and grandchildren should be the first to step up
- The widow should maintain faith in the Father in circumstances of need
- Often the Father will use the love of others to meet needs
- Failure to care for one another in this way leaves us open to accusation
- Ultimately, it is sin to not provide for widows in need
- However, the widow is expected to be a faithful person of character
- Younger widows are expected to work
- The church is a secondary (but critical) safety net for widows

Other texts

- Deuteronomy 24-25: The law provides for the feeding of widows
- Acts 6: Widows provided for by the Jewish community that had become Christians
- James 1: "Pure and faultless" religion is to care for widows and orphans
- Acts 4:32-34
- Throughout New Testament: Love one another; offer hospitality to one another; spur one another toward love and good deeds; be kind and compassionate toward one another; serve one another; be devoted to one another; honor one another;

For consideration and discussion

- Who is in your circle of concern to provide for?
- If we excelled at taking care of our own, what message would that send to the world?
- How do we balance our "wants" from another's "need?"
- How do you **want** to respond to this teaching? How **will** you respond?