

WHO IS MY SISTERS KEEPER?

¹ Timothy 5:3-16

Radically Ordinary

1 Timothy 5:3-16

³ Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need. ⁴ But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God. ⁵ The widow who is really in need and left all alone puts her hope in God and continues night and day to pray and to ask

God for help. ⁶ But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives. ⁷ Give the people these instructions, so that no one may be open to blame.

⁸ Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

⁹ No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, ¹⁰ and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in

trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

¹¹ As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry. ¹² Thus they bring judgment on themselves, because they have broken their first pledge. ¹³ Besides, they get into the habit of being idle and going about from house to house. And not only do they become idlers, but also busybodies who talk nonsense, saying things they ought not to.

¹⁴ So I counsel younger widows to marry, to have children, to manage their homes and to give the enemy no opportunity for slander. ¹⁵ Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.

¹⁶ If any woman who is a believer has widows in her care, she should continue to help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.

Who should be responsible for Widows

- 1) The primacy of the family (vv.3-4 & 8)
 - a) Children
 - b) Grandchildren
 - c) Put your faith into practice
 - d) Reflect the values of God's kingdom

Two types of widows

- 1) True widows (vv.5 & 9-10)
 - Puts her hope in God
 - Prays night and day
 - At least 60
 - Faithful to her husband
 - Known for good deeds
 - Raising children
 - Hospitality
 - Washing feet
 - Helping people in trouble
 - All kinds of good deeds

Two types of widows

2) The widow who lives for pleasure

(vv.6 & 11-15)

17 So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. 19 Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. Ephesians 4:17-19

Two types of widows

2) The widow who lives for pleasure

(vv. 6 & 11-15)

Sensual eclipses the spiritual

Idlers

Busybodies

Talk nonsense

Saying what ought not to be said

Follow Satan rather than Christ

Paul's counsel: remarry and accept responsibility

Who should care for widows

1. Children
2. Grandchildren
3. Remarriage
4. Women in the church that are led by the Spirit to offer care
5. The church – where these women are role-models

Take away points

- The primacy of the family in meeting needs of seniors.
- The value of godly seniors in the life of a healthy church.
- The significance of commitments that we enter into in God.
- The impact of giving in to sensuality.
- The differentiation of responsibility on the basis of shared values.

So What

- In a culture dominated by youth what deference should be given to seniors?
- Who are the people who have built into your life? Do they know that you value them?
- How can we avoid the domination of the sensual that might draw us away from God?