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| 11 Timothy 5:9-16 Sermon Outline“Reflecting God’s Heart For Widows, Part II”INTRO: Mother Teresa = prime example = Christian love/charity  -Roman Catholic -All evidence pointing to: not a believer = universalist If you sincerely believe in Buddha = salvation = then = salvation for you Now if M. Teresa was able to sacrifice her life for poor in India, how much more should church do that Believers = actually possess love of God Believers = actually can love from a right motive to honor and glorify the Lord | 2MAIN POINT: You’re going to see today how church can and should reflect God’s heart for widows. This is part 2 of “Reflecting God’s Heart For Widows”REVIEW:Paul transitioned from laying doctrinal foundation = practical, theology in practice How we relate to one another in body of Christ 5:1 = older and younger men and women in church Then focuses on widows: Not all widows merited financial support She needed to be godly and have no other means of support BODY:  |
| 35:9 *“A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, having been the wife of one man, having a reputation for good works; and if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints’ feet, if she has assisted those in distress, and if she has devoted herself to every good work.”*Paul further details = put on list list/enrollment = not official list for today but may have been back then  -to keep track of all the widows in church Point is: not less than 60 years old Why 60? = acknowledged = sexual passion = began to wane  -A lot less likely to be remarried Age of retirement to life of contemplation  | 4Plato = men + women priests/priestesses More likely to have time, maturity, character, reputation, compassion to serve Lord and church 60 = not hard and fast rule = general rule 59 = qualified 61 = unqualified 60 = safe to assume widow wouldn’t desire to get remarried Every church would have to discern and use godly wisdom on case by case basis Next qualification: “one-man woman” = “one-woman man” = overseer/deacon = Absolutely faithful in marriage Thirdly, V. 10 = reputation for good works What does that mean?  |
| 5Good works like = raising up children, showing hospitality to strangers, washing the saints’ feet, and assisting those in distress “and” = italicized = not in original good works…if she has…if she has…First example: Raising up children Naturally as formerly married = raised up children doesn’t exclude those who are widows who unable to have children = she is responsible adult who put children’s needs before her own Another example: hospitality to strangers Mentioned previously = hospitality = huge/important inns = immoral, dangerous, unsanitary  | 6Open up your home is sacrifice, but blessing to stranger = reveals a lot about your character Not just house them, but keep them company, feed them, wash them, and even go on a certain leg of the journey for their well being Next example: “If she has washed the saint’s feet” Some believe = foot washing = third ordinance Argue Jn 13:15 *“For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you”* Problem: foot washing not as significant today as it was back then Ancient times = no shoes/socks, etc. feet = dirtiest part of body Lowest of slaves cleaned/washed feet  |
| 7So for Son of God to do that like a slave = shocking That’s why: Peter rebuke “Lord, you can’t wash me!” One of most kindest acts of hospitality = wash somebody’s feet after long journeywhich is why “washing feet” comes right after “showing hospitality to strangers” Final example: “assisted those in distress” Mentioned before Acts 9 = Tabitha/Dorcas Ministry = tunics/garments = widows ILLUS: George Muller orphanage and orphans in Bristol, England Doesn’t have to be formal ministry = point is = if you are a widow, where is your heart at?  | 8Is your heart for serving the Lord and his church or for yourself? Paul rounds off = V. 10 “*If she has devoted herself to every good work*”These are examples to us, but actual things widows did in those days While you’re not going to “wash someone’s feet” today what are “good works” that you can do in the church for the church today that bring honor and glory to God? Even though Marianne is not a widow, I think of her quilt making ministry = similar to Tabitha/Dorcas’ ministry Or Barb and Shelley helping others in the church with practical needs Inviting others to home  |
| 9Just finished = godly widow looks like to be put on list Now focus on opposite woman V. 11 *“But refuse to put younger widows on the list, for when they feel sensual desires in disregard of Christ, they want to get married, thus incurring condemnation, because they have set aside their previous pledge.”*Not on list = younger widows Several reasons 1. More likely for younger widow than older widow to want to get married again 2. Problem = making pledge or singleness and devotion to Christ but breaking that pledge “sensual desires” = 1 Corinthians 7 = “burning” for marriage She might see godly hunk of a man 6 foot 5, comes in shame-faced because she made a rash vow previously  | 10But it gets worse V. 13 = they were also being “idle” Not just idle = going from house to house and gossiping and being a busybody = things not proper to mention = not their business They were still weak in the flesh in this area Prov. 11:13 *“He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.”*More tempted maybe even to covet and try to steal a husband away!The point is all sorts of things can go wrong with putting a younger widow on an official support list to serve others Possibly more than that going on… |
| 11May have even been influenced by false teachers Godliness = rejecting marriage and certain foodsTeachings of demons! Women = not being submissive to husbands and male leadership/teaching in church Prevent same error as Eve = 1 Timothy 2:15 “*But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint*.”Married woman’s true fulfillment = embrace motherhood not reject it and be like a man Similarly, Paul gives similar command When she does this = gives enemy no occasion for reproach Satan = loves discord and disunity in the church  | 12He loves it when God’s Word and order in the church is subverted But God has created an orderly church so that we can be unified in one purpose and one mind A church that consists of people that are establishing their own authority is like condition of the era of the judges: Everyone was doing right in their own eyes Paul concludes 5:16 like V. 8 “*If any woman who is a believer has dependent widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed*.” Like V. 8 reiterates = importance of family to take care of their widowsChurch has only finite resources = church called to practice wisdom/discern who is truly in need of financial help  |
| 13V. 16 expands on V. 8 = not only family but if you are a believer who has dependent widows (somehow) = you need to take care of them Now….Certain Scripture passages not clear cut in application = this is one of them Rome’s economic situation = different than 21st c. America However principle is clear = church is obligated to look out for and help those who can’t help themselves financially = Could be widow or could look like quadriplegic, etc. etc. Many scenarios  | 14One of most beautiful examples of this principles lived out in church Acts 4:32-35 *“And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring theproceeds of the sales and lay them at the apostles’ feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.”*You know why communism will never work in a fallen world? A: Because people are sinful All it takes = one greedy/corrupt person to ruin it all Acts 4: everyone was looking out for each other’s interests = rare + testimony to a cruel Roman world = starvation, poverty = rampant  |
| 15Acts 4 = not there to show you that communism can work if people are not corrupt…= there to show you what transformed like looks like in area of meeting needs It is showcasing the power of the gospel Who can you think of that perfectly modeled considering other’s needs before your own? Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: Phil. 2:6 *“who although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”*  | 16*For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*”Because of what God has done for you…Not withholding His only Son for you…therefore you can….*“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”*More and more society gets corrupt = more destitute and poor are trampled on and forgotten  |
| 17Social justice warriors get right = something terribly wrong with this world Not what original world was = disparity of rich and poor, abuse and getting taken advantage of What they get wrong = solution Solution not = leveling playing field of everyone’s walletsNot Marxism But it is gospel! Only Gospel can truly transform society where everyone is treated equally and looks out for one another Jesus is coming again very soon = establish kingdom = redeemed treat one another = like Acts 4 except perfectly for all eternity  | 18There will be no incidents of Ananias and Saphira lying to the Holy Spirit about their finances In this kingdom, no sin because sin will be judged and sinners will be judged into hell Those who live their whole life for themselves and not for Christ will face the penalty of eternal suffering in the lake of fire Question: Are you one of the redeemed? Are you one who has been forgiven by the blood of Christ? 2 Cor. 5:15 “*died for all the redeemed, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf*.” |
| 19Christ died so that you would no longer live selfish life. He died so that you would count others as more important than yourself and in doing so, exalt the power of the gospel in your life Has Christ died for your sins? Let’s pray  | 20 |