

Widow – anyone who has experienced the pain and loneliness of losing the one they love.

Who do you know who has been widowed? Have you talked to them about their pain and loneliness?

Have you ever lost someone you love to death?

Have you ever lost some you love to any of these widow makers?

- Death?
- Disappointment?
- Abandonment?
- Adultery?
- Divorce?
- Drift?

Discuss this statement: *“Love is risky. The deeper you love the greater the risk. The only way to ensure you will never experience losing someone you love is to never love.”*

Have you been so hurt by the loss of love that you fear risking ever loving again?

1) Caring for widows will reveal the spiritual condition of children and grandchildren. (4,8)

How is your relationship with your parents? Is there anything preventing you from caring for your parents if they are in need?

2) Caring for widows will reveal the spiritual condition of the church. (9,16)

Why should those with benevolent hearts be careful whom they help? Why should the church be careful to enroll only qualified widows? What happens when you continually do something for someone that they can do for themselves?

Have you ever seen how charity can become hurtful rather than helpful? How can a benevolent donor or church guard recipients from cycling through the following digression?

- Appreciation – “Thank you!”
- Anticipation – “I hope it comes again.”
- Expectation – “I’m living like I know it’s coming again.”
- Entitlement – “I deserve for it to come again. You owe me.”
- Dependency – “I am no longer responsible for my provision.”
- Paralysis – “I have lost all motivation to provide for myself.”

3) Losing the one you love will reveal the spiritual condition of your heart. (5-7, 9-15)

Godly widows have set their hope on God only for their protection and provision. The loss of someone you love always tests where your hope of protection and provision lie. Godly widows do not look to relationships to provide something God never intended for them to provide. Have you ever looked to your marriage, dating relationships, friendship to provide something only God could provide? How did that work out for you?

Have you become bitter, jealous, or reclusive after losing someone you love?

Have you ever blamed God for taking someone you love out of your life?

Read through the qualities of godly widows in v. 19-15. Would you qualify as a godly widow?

Jesus has defeated the widow makers! Read 1Corinthians 15:55-58. Sin and death kill spouses, marriages, friendships, and church.

How does faith in the resurrected Jesus overcome the sting of death known only by those who have lost someone they love?

Additional Scripture

- Exodus 22:22-24
- Deuteronomy 27:19
- Psalm 68:5
- Psalm 146:9
- Isaiah 1:17
- John 4:13-18
- James 1:27