

Doctrine of the Widow

1. A priest was not allowed to marry a widow.
 - *Leviticus 21:14 A widow, or a divorced woman, or profane, or an harlot, these shall he not take: but he shall take a virgin of his own people to wife.*

2. The Law provided special protection for the widow and orphan.
 - *Exodus 22:22 Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child.*

3. Food was to be made available to the widow.
 - *Wheat. Deuteronomy 24:19 When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands.*
 - *Oil. Deuteronomy 24:20 When thou beatest thine olive tree, thou shalt not go over the boughs again: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow.*
 - *Grapes. Deuteronomy 24:21 When thou gatherest the grapes of thy vineyard, thou shalt not glean it afterward: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow.*

4. The widow was to share in the tithe.
 - *Deuteronomy 26:12 When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled;*

5. Anyone who oppressed a widow through legal maneuvering was cursed.
 - *Deuteronomy 27:19 Cursed be he that perverteth the judgment of the stranger, fatherless, and widow. And all the people shall say, Amen.*

6. Widows have been used mightily in the service of God such as the widow who ministered to Elijah.
 - *1 Kings 17:9 Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. 10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.*

7. In time of personal pressure widows are subject to doubts and fears due to anguish of heart.

- *1 Kings 17:17-18 And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. 18 And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? Art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son? ...20 And he [Elijah] cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?*

8. Widows can be abused by the ungodly. .

- *Job 24:21 He evil entreateth the barren that beareth not: and doeth not good to the widow.*
- *Psalms 94:6 They slay the widow and the stranger, and murder the fatherless.*
- *Isaiah 1:23 Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.*

9. Job defended his life of honor by asking if anyone could prove he had hurt anyone including a widow.

- *Job 31:16 If I have withheld the poor from their desire, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail;*

10. Imprecatory prayers plead with God for revenge upon one's enemies, with special curses such as causing sudden death leaving the children of the wicked fatherless and the wife a widow.

- *Psalms 109:9 Let his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow.*

11. The plight of the widow is well known to God.

- *Psalms 146:9 The LORD preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.*
- *Proverbs 15:25 The LORD will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow.*

12. The Lord declares how society should conduct itself in social terms.

- *Isaiah 1:17 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.*

- *Jeremiah 22:3 Thus saith the LORD; Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place.*
- *Zechariah 7:10 And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart.*

13. God will honor and bless those who look after the widow.

- *Jeremiah 7:6 If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt: :7 Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever.*

14. God will judge those who harm the widow.

- *Malachi 3:5 And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.*

15. The Lord will receive and honor the sacrificial giving and worship of the widow.

- *Mark 12:42 And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. 43 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:*

16. The widow can give more time to serving the Lord, reflected in the life of Anna.

- *Luke 2:37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.*
- *1 Timothy 5:5 Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.*

17. Jesus had compassion on widows even to the raising of one's dead son.

- *Luke 7:12 Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. 14 And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. 15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.*

18. The plight of a widow provided Christ with a sermon illustration on the power of persistent prayer.

- *Luke 18:3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. 4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; :5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.*

19. The early church accepted responsibility for looking after widows, provided certain conditions were met.

- *1 Timothy 5:3 Honour widows that are widows indeed. 4 But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.*
- *1 Timothy 5:9 Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man.*