**A widow’s qualification before the church**

**supports her**

“Let not a widow be taken into the ***number under threescore years old***, ***having been the wife of*** ***one man***. ***Well reported of for good works***; if she have ***brought up children***, if she have ***lodged strangers***, if she have ***washed the saints’ feet***, if she have ***relieved the afflicted***, if she have ***diligently followed every good work***. But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. For some are already turned aside after Satan. If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; ***that it may relieve them that are widows indeed***.” ***1 Timothy 5:9-16***

The Holy Scriptures do give instructions for how the church is to rule on whether or not to financially undertake supporting a widow. In 1 Timothy the Apostle Paul lays out the qualifications for the matter. They are listed below.

1. She is to be at least 60 years (threescore) of age. (***vs. 9***)
2. She is to have been faithful to her husband. (***vs. 9***)
3. She is to have a good reputation. (***vs. 10***)
4. She is to have brought up children (her own or others) well. (***vs. 10***)
5. She is to have shown hospitality to strangers. (***vs. 10***)
6. She is to have washed the saints’ feet. (***vs. 10***)
7. She is to have been fruitful in various good works. (***vs. 10***)

The passage also instructs that if a qualifying widow has kin that can support her, that they are to take on the care of her instead of the church in order that the church may care for those that do not have such. (***vs. 16***)

Disqualifications

1. Younger than 60 (threescore) years old. (***vs. 11***)
2. Could wax wanton against Christ. (***vs. 11***)
3. Might marry. (***vs. 11***)
4. Possibly will cast off their first faith. (***vs. 12***)
5. Idle. (***vs. 13***)
6. Tattlers and busybodies. (***vs.13***)
7. Speaks things they should not speak. (***vs. 13***)

“Let all things be done decently and in order.” ***1 Corinthians 14:40***

 “Let all your things be done with charity.” ***1 Corinthians 16:14***