

Caring for the Needy

1 Timothy 5.3-16

- **God is concerned**
for those on their own
widows, orphans, displaced
Ex 22.22; Dt 10.18; 24.19;
Psalm 146.9; 68.5-6
James 1.27
 - **The Church showed concern**
 - **a powerful demonstration**
of love in action Acts 4.34-35
 - **a practical example Acts 9.39**
 - **a problem area Acts 6.1**
 - **clear guidelines needed vs 7,15**
- 1. Christians Have A Duty Of Care**
towards members of their own family
- **children to elderly relatives v4**
 - **failing to provide denies the faith v8**
 - **relieve burden on church v16**

2. Prioritise The Most Needy

- *those with no other support v3*
- *those depending on God v5*
as seen in their praying
Anna Luke 2.36-38
not pleasure seekers v6
- *those with a track record*
of service to others vs 9-10
 - *faithful to husband*
 - *nurturing children well*
 - *friendly to strangers*
 - *humble service to believers*
 - *help for the troubled*
- *target limited resources*
avoid irresponsibility vs 11-13

3. Marry if you Can! v14

- *marriage is good 4.3; Gen 2.18*
providing it is to a fellow believer
1 Cor 7.39

All Alone? prove God's sufficiency v5