

Are You Practicing Pure Religion?

This article is for widows and about widows, but it is also for everyone else, because we all need to know how to better fulfil a vitally important responsibility.

Almost 2,000 years ago, a widow well past 100 years of age became an encouraging example for all generations that would follow; her name was Anna.

Luke 2:36-38 [New King James] *“Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.”*

Notice the emphasis of serving God with fasting and prayer.

At first, that may not seem like much, but actually is one of the most important ways to serve the Creator God.

Older people like Anna, whose families are grown, whose physical strength may have waned, are still a vital part of the work that God is doing at this time.

The poor widow who gave two mites to the temple treasurer is another example of attitude and service for others to follow, [**Mark 12:41-44**].

Another fine example is Dorcas, a woman full of good works, especially towards widows, [**Acts 9:36-40**]. Here was a woman who was so well-known for her work among widows that God saw fit to resurrect her from the dead, a powerful witness that caused many more people to become believers, [**verse 42**].

Dorcas was not old and infirmed like Anna but her zeal in serving others caused her story to be preserved in the Word of God, the Christian Bible, as an example of service, especially to widows, for us all to follow.

Many widows are able to serve the Creator God by teaching younger women.

Titus 2:4-5 [New King James] *“that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.”*

This is not the kind of teaching that a minister may do in a church service, but the kind of personal instruction, encouragement, inspiration and example a widow can give in her own home or as she visits younger women.

We have seen that widows can make a significant contribution to the work that God is doing in the world but there is also a great deal to be done **for** widows.

James 1:27 [New King James] *“Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.”*

Each of us has a particular responsibility towards widows, just as widows have their responsibility to serve.

The office of a deacon in the Church was actually inspired because of the need to serve widows, [Acts 6:1-4].

1 Timothy 5:3-4 [New King James] *“Honour widows who are really widows. But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.”*

If you have a widow in your family, give special thanks for her and honour to her and be certain she has the financial resources to meet her needs.

Even if it is not necessary to provide financial support, there are scores of little things a family can do to lift the loneliness of her life and ensure she feels she is part of the family.

The Creator God has much to say about widows in His Word, the Christian Bible, about concern and care for them, but also the special help widows can give to their families.

If you are a widow, realise how important you are to the Creator God’s plan for all humanity, especially in the way you learn how to serve others using your life experience and knowledge of God’s way of life.

At the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, widows who have kept close to the Creator God through prayers and fastings, and have learnt how to serve other people, will be transformed into powerful spirit beings, created members of the Kingdom of God, and **not** limited in the good they can do to bring others to know the Creator God they have served in their physical life, especially as widows.