

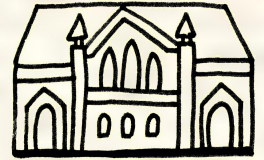
## *Talk: Family matters – 1 Timothy 5:1-16*



Family life??:

- thankful, happy, good memories
  - God's goodness in a fallen world!
- Painful, potentially scarring, would like to forget
  - N.B. By God's grace Joseph managed
- Current joys (weddings, births), current hassles and sorrows (illness, bereavement, splits)
- God has made family important!
- ==> gospel church is meant to be like family

## *Intro: God and family life*



N.T. God is interested in family life

- He is *\* \* th \* r*
- He has *S \* n*
- Jesus is first of many
  - *Br \* th \* rs* (Romans 8:29)
- The N.T. gospel (=message of good news) of Jesus *Christ produces a new family*

OT. LORD has big interest in family

- e.g. Psalm 127 *“sons are a heritage from the Lord ... like arrows ... blessed is the ... quiverful”*
- e.g. Deut 10:18 *“he defends the cause of the fatherless and widow ...”*



# Intro: God and family life



## Principles:

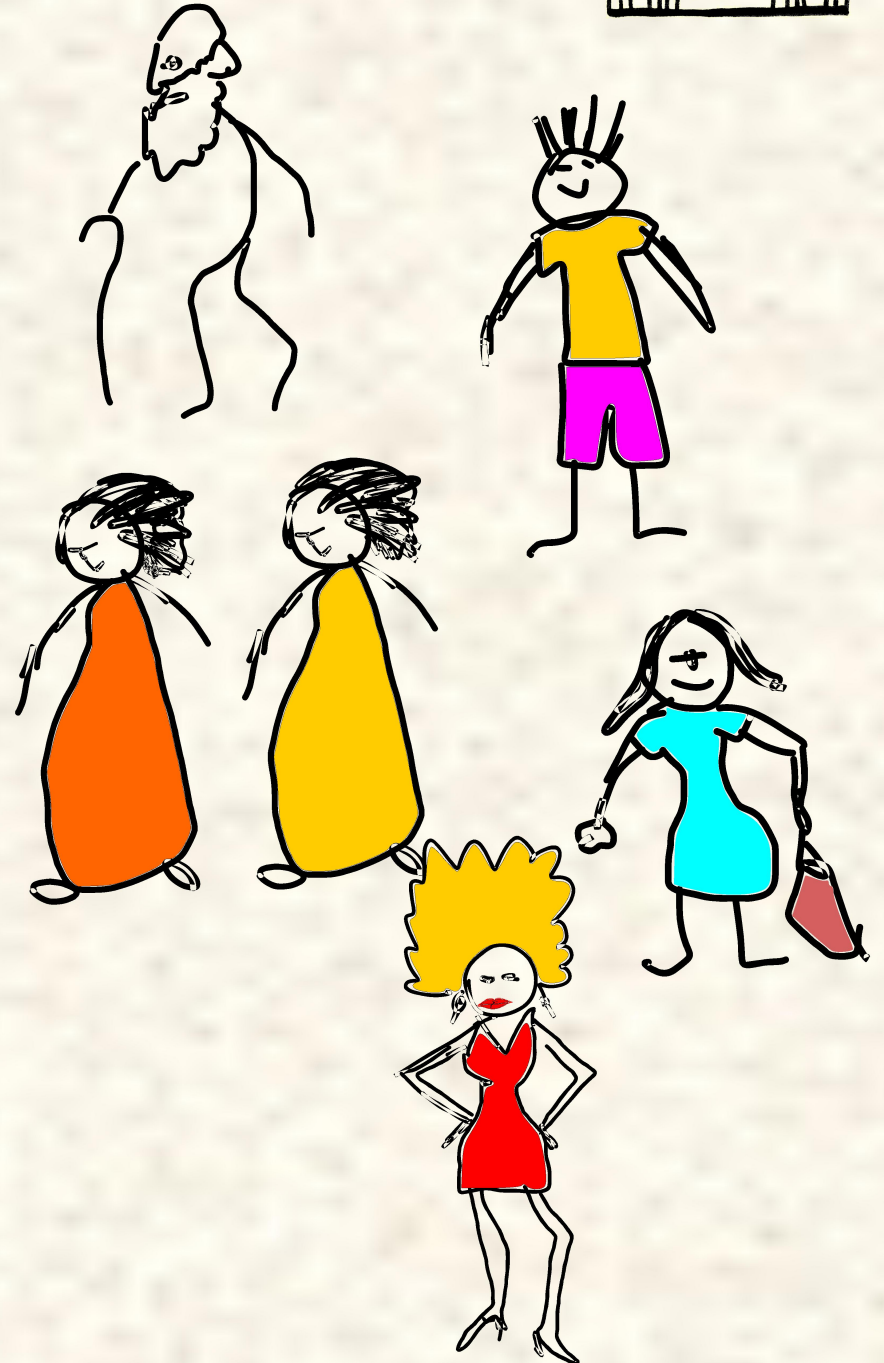
1. The gospel of Jesus Christ is a message that saves for eternity AND changes everything here and now
  - Including human relationships ... personal, sexual, biological ...
  - ==> *has “HE” changed everything for you?*
2. The gospel of Jesus Christ does not obliterate creation order (fathers/sons, mothers/daughters, husband/wife, father=employer, son=employee) but **re-establishes that creation order** in beauty and harmony
  - ==> Christ makes people more human, not less human
  - ==> *how wonderful to have the privilege of showing God’s reality and character in created things... gardening, football, music, walks, washing up, bedtime stories with kids, meal out with spouse, relating to parents and grandparents. All life can be worship!*

## *Intro: God and family life*



### The church family life in Ephesus

- Samuel Senior
- Jimmy Junior
- Joan and Queenie
- Sally Shoes
- Gloria Glitzy
- They belong to the *church* in Ephesus





## Plan



Look at Paul's instruction  
(v.7) to each person in  
turn  
- but mostly, Joan, Queenie,  
and Gloria



## Context!

### N.B. general context

- no welfare state (!) - loss of breadwinner (husband) a big problem
- e.g. “bank of Mum and Dad” ... opposite here
- Care Home ... rather than family home ...
- counter-cultural in West!

### N.B. specific Ephesus context:

- Christian gospel of Great Grace!!  
1:15,2:3,3:16
- false teachers (non-gospel) *already has gone wrong* (1:3)
- False teaching – anti-creation, super-spirituality (4:3)
- Particular issue with *Elders* (3:1,17, 6:11)
- and with the *some women* of the church (2:9,11,5:11 2 Tim 3:6)





## 5:1 Exhorting all = encouraging (*parakalo*)



The specific quality of family life matters

- older men (Samuel Senior)
  - Not have a go at him (v.1)
  - But *encourage*, entreat (v.1)
  - *As if father [son]*

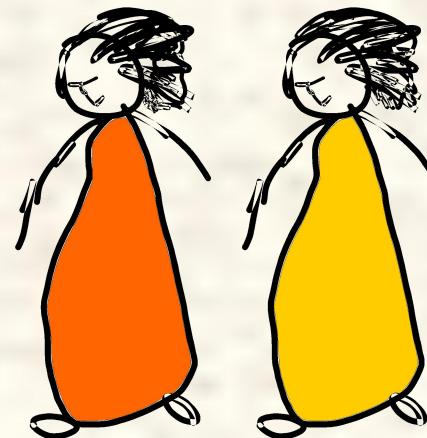


- younger men [encourage]
  - *As if brother*



Older women [encourage]

- *As if mothers [son]*

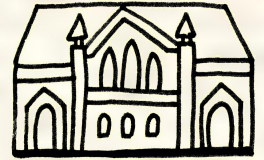


Younger women [encourage]

- *As if sisters*
- *With all purity*

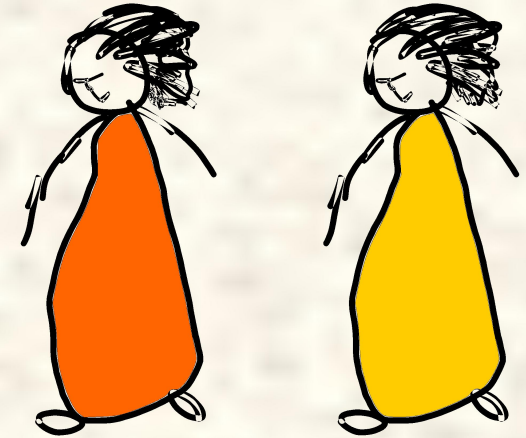


## 1. Joan Alone and Queenie Quiverful



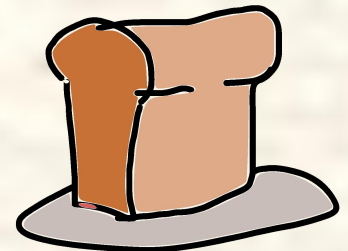
Widows:

- “Widow” = “needy” + female
- i.e. elderly single ladies,  
abandoned, single parents (?)



v.3 give “proper recognition”  
= proper value, proper  
support/care

- Finance, food (Acts 6:1 “daily diakonia of food”)  
==> the church being a caring  
family!



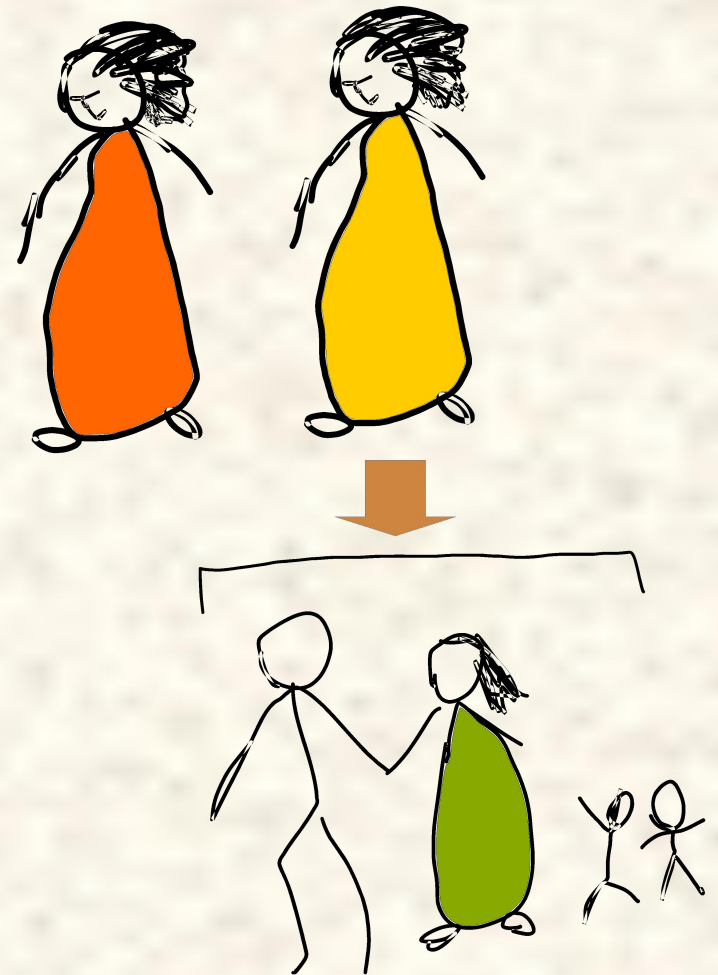


## *Joan Alone and Queenie Quiverful*

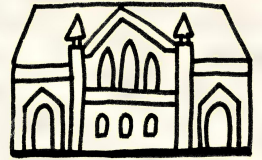


“Truly widows”

- Joan Alone,
- vs Queenie Quiverful
- N.B. Q has biological family.



## 1 & 2. Joan Alone and Queenie Quiverful

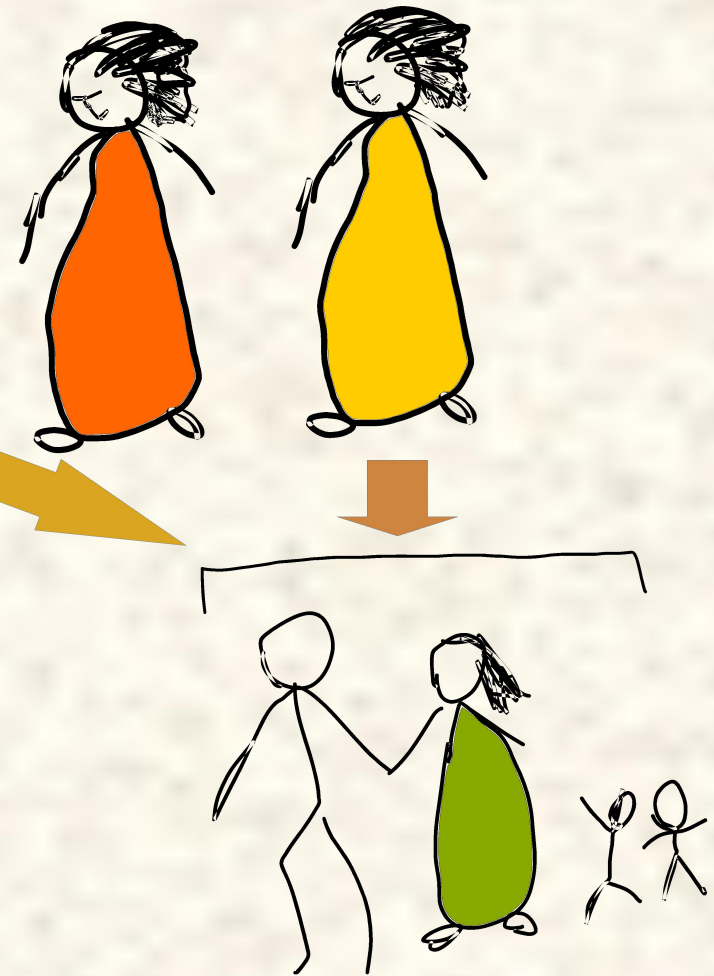


“if truly widows”

– N.B. Q. has children and grandchildren

– ==> family:

- v.4 learn (~disciple),
- first (first importance)
- Religion = good-reverence  
= “godliness” (10/15) 2:2,  
3:16, 4:7,8, 6:3,5,6,11
- Repay ... regive... forbears
- welcome in sight of God !!!



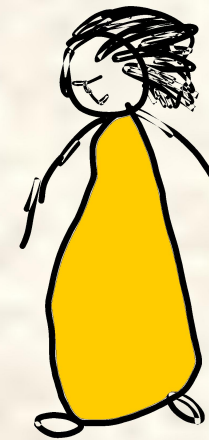


## 1 & 2. Joan Alone and Queenie Quiverful

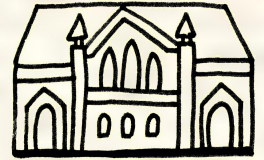


### b. Queenie Quiverful

- welcome in sight of God !!!
- ==> **God's value on biological family;**  
Not cut off, rejected (N.B even unbelievers can do this right v.6)
- ==> **e.g. young people** “on fire for the Lord in evangelism ... but never ring home to talk to Mum and Dad”
- ==> **e.g. financial provision:** caring for parents, grandparents ... (*at least worth asking the question*)

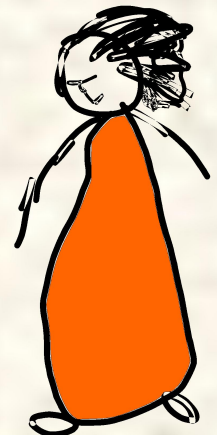


# 1 & 2. Joan Alone and Queenie Quiverful



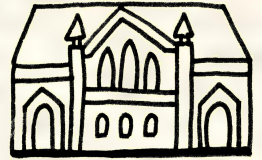
## Joan Alone

- N.B. Paul's esteem for this woman!
  - As Jesus (widow's mite)
  - As Luke (Anna Luke 2:36)
  - ==> providence/ +ve opportunity for spiritual growth
- v.5 practically dependent on the Lord (*"lean on the Lord"*)
- v.5 learned to be a [powerful] woman of prayer
- v.10 known for good deeds
  - One-guy woman
  - Bringing up children
  - Hospitality
  - Helping church people
  - Helping those in trouble
  - Pursued every good work
- *Christian super-woman! (although she wouldn't think so)*




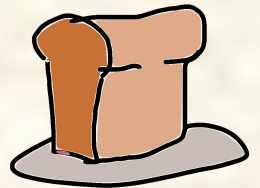


## 1 & 2. Joan Alone and Queenie Quiverful

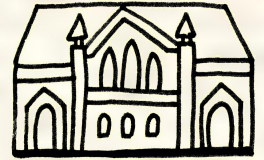


b. Joan Alone = Saint Joan!

- ==> “doing good”
- At home, at work
- In church, in the [real] world
- ==> *what value God attaches to this woman!*
- ==> *wouldn't you like to be this woman? (not in each detail ... but in one's own situation)*
- ==> *the church should recognise, value and support her*
  - ==> *by prayer, word, deed, money* ()
  - = “on the list” v.9 (our list!)



### 3. Gloria Glitzy



v.11 the younger widow

- v.6 “lives for pleasure” = dead!
- [Maybe linked with false teachers]
- Don’t put her on the support list!

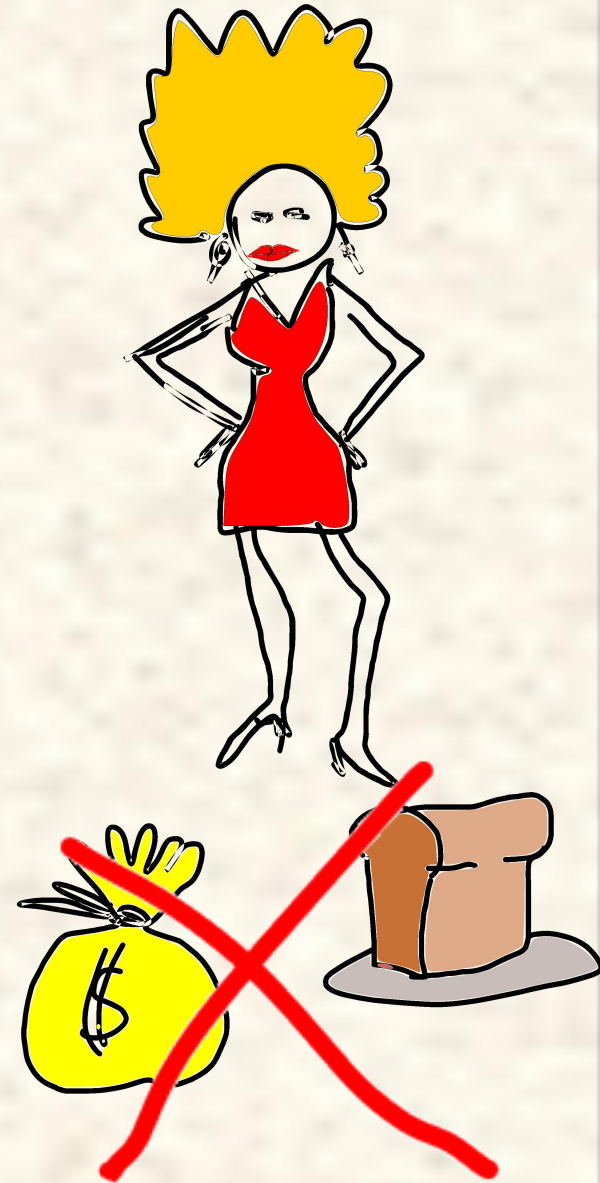
EITHER

- v.11 To go on the list they super-spiritually promised to remain single (4:3) (“you won’t catch me changing nappies”)... but actually can’t, and don’t (5:12) – thus have to break a promise

OR

- They so much want to get married that they marry outside the Lord and get drawn away from faith (5:15)

AND – their idleness v.13,13(unfruitfulness) plays into the hands of the false teachers (“gossip” = bubble speakers)  
– ==> value of having productive (non-paid) work!!





### 3. Gloria Glitzy



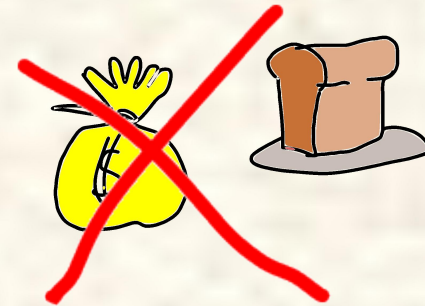
#### What to say to Gloria?

We are not going to subsidise your unspiritual lifestyle (v.11: decline to ...)

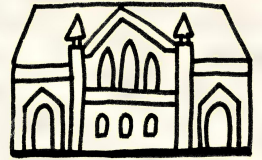
– ==> withdraw support

Stop being proud and super-spiritual v.14

- [if] You have the opportunity to live normal humble human life – please do so
- Marry, reproduce, manage home (home-despot: not demeaning)
- Spiritually significant
  - Witness to outside world :  
Christianity produces human people
  - Defensive action against the Adversary



# *We've met the church family in Ephesus*



The church family life in Ephesus

- Samuel Senior
- Jimmy Junior
- Sally Shoes
- (St) Joan and Queenie
  - Queenie's family
- Infamous Gloria Glitzy

==> what a privilege to belong to God's family!

==> how wonderful to play our particular part ... whoever we are ...

==> Gloria ... you need to get a grip spiritually

==> and a special greeting to Joan ... we value you ... keep on praying my dear sister.

