

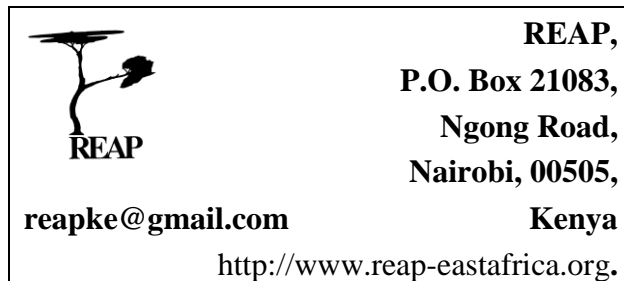
Other relevant passages in the general thinking behind widows:

"Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd, and do not show favouritism of a poor man in his lawsuit." (Exodus 23:2)

In relation to how tradition relates to what is in the Bible Jesus challenges us:

"You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the tradition of men." (Mark 7:8)

How does this passage relate to the traditions we hold onto with regards to widows?



A BIBLICAL VIEW ON OUR TREATMENT OF WIDOWS

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT GOD'S ATTITUDE TO WIDOWS?

He is: *"... A defender of widows ..."* (Psalm 68:5)

"He defends the cause of ... the widow ..."
(Deuteronomy 10:18)

"The LORD ... sustains ... the widow," (Psalm 146:9)

"Your widows too can trust in me." (Jeremiah 49:11)

What laws did God give His people in relation to widows?

"Do not take advantage of a widow..." (Exodus 22:22)

"Do not oppress the widow ..." (Zechariah 7:10)

He also made provision for them in the tithes:

"At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, so that ... the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied ..." (Deuteronomy 14:28-29)

WHAT DID GOD SAY IN THE BIBLE IS THE PROPER WAY FOR HIS PEOPLE TO BEHAVE?

"Learn to do right ... Plead the cause of the widow." (Isaiah 1:17)

"This is what the LORD says: ... Do no wrong or violence to ... the widow ..." (Jeremiah 22:3)

"Give proper recognition to those widows who are really in need." (I Timothy 5:3)

"Religion that God our father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after ... widows in their distress ..." (James 1:27)

HOW DOES THE BIBLE SAY THE WICKED BEHAVE TOWARDS WIDOWS?

"They slay the widow and the alien." (Psalm 94:6)

"This is what the sovereign LORD says: O city that brings on herself doom by shedding blood in her midst and defiles herself by making idols, ... in you they have ... ill-treated ... the widow." (Ezekiel 22:3&7)

WHAT IS GOD'S REACTION TOWARDS THOSE WHO EXPLOIT WIDOWS?

"Cursed is the man who withholds justice from ... the widow." (Deuteronomy 27:19)

"Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making the widows their prey ..." (Isaiah 10:1-2)

"So I will come near to you for judgement. I will be quick to testify against ... those who ... oppress the widows ..., but do not fear me," says the LORD Almighty." (Malachi 3:5)

Our treatment of widows may be an indicator of God's pleasure in us:

"If you do not oppress ... the widow .. I will let you live in this place." (Jeremiah 7:6-7)