

An Exercise To Discern Both Good and Evil (Hebrews 5:14)

The Erring Widow

Scenario:

There is a woman who obeyed the Gospel many years ago. She was, without a doubt, a Christian. However, she is erring in many ways. She is part of an apostate congregation. Efforts have been made by her family and others to bring her out of apostasy. Those efforts have not worked. She believes that she is faithful. She is a widow. She has only been married to one man. She has reached a point in time wherein she cannot care for herself. She needs financial help as well as physical care. Her children are spiritually divided. One of her children is faithful to God in all ways. Her other children are in the same position she is. They are in error, but believe their own ways to be the right ways. They too have refused correction.

Statement That Arises From Our Scenario:

One of this widow's children calls for a family meeting to discuss how to care for her. The one who is faithful to God says this: "I cannot be part of this meeting. I have withdrawn myself from you and her. If you want to discuss the error of your ways, we can talk about that. Aside from that, please do not contact me again."

A Later Statement Is Made:

The children that are in error write a letter to the faithful child. In that letter, they argue this: "The Bible says if any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them. The Bible also says honour thy father and mother. You say you are right and we are wrong, but you are refusing to help our mother. Why would we ever listen to anything you have to say. You are willing to allow our mother to starve to death instead of helping her. You are using the Bible to excuse yourself from what the Bible says you must do."

For Discussion: What do you see in those statements?