

Spiritual Maturity

Mature women

Tits 2:1-5

- ¹But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:
 - ²that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;
 - ³the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—
 - ⁴that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,
 - ⁵to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

Instructions to Titus

- **Titus task**
 - Teach what is proper for healthy Christians (correct teaching)
- **Proper** (πρέπω - 4241)
 - to stand out, to be conspicuous, to be eminent
 - to be becoming, seemly, fit
- **Sound** (ὕγιαίνω - 5198)
 - to be sound, to be well, to be in good health
 - metaphorically
 - of Christians whose opinions are free from any mixture of error
 - of one who keeps the graces and is strong
- **Doctrine** (διδασκαλία - 1319)
 - teaching, instruction
 - teaching
 - that which is taught, doctrine
 - teachings, precepts

Starts with the men

- Speaking about the characteristics of older men
 - Abstain or restraint in relation to alcohol
 - To be an honourable person
 - To be self controlled and ruling desires and impulses
 - Sound in what one believes and holds
 - To have love (agape)
 - Patience and endurance

Likewise

- Turns now to the older women
- Your behaviour is to be fitting to your surroundings
- Not one who makes false and malicious statements about someone else
- Some one who has enslaved themselves to much wine
- Some one who teaches what is good

1 Tim 2:9

- ⁸I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;
⁹in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,
¹⁰but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.

Behaviour

- Your behaviour is to be fitting to your surroundings
 - Bigger than just dress (but included)
 - God considers inside
 - Thoughts
 - Attitude
 - Motivations
 - This is what leads to actions
 - c/w Sermon on the mount Matt 5 ff
 - What sits behind action
 - Adultery – Lust
 - Murder - Anger

Reverent

- Men (σεμνός - 4586)
 - August, venerable, reverend
 - to be venerated for character, honourable
 - of persons
 - of deeds
- Women (ἱεροπρεπής - 2412)
 - befitting men, places, actions or sacred things to God
 - Reverent
- Hence
 - respectful and appropriate

Slanderer

- **Slanderous** (διάβολος - 1228)
 - prone to slander, slanderous, accusing falsely
 - a calumniator, false accuser, slanderer
 - to utter maliciously false statements, charges, or imputations about
 - metaphorically applied to a man who, by opposing the cause of God, may be said to act the part of the devil or to side with him (father of lies)
- **Bigger than a gossip**
 - Which is primarily circulating rumours without establish the facts
 - Unrestrained in their speech
- **Out to destroy the reputation of the other person**
 - E.g. I am going to start a rumour that she is stealing from her boss

Wine

- Lit not a slave to wine
 - i.e. implies a dependence
 - I cannot get through the day without a wine (alcohol)
 - Association of alcohol and behaviour
- Again different to men
 - **Sober** (νηφάλιος / νηφάλιος - 3524)
 - sober, temperate
 - abstaining from wine, either entirely or at least from its immoderate use
 - of things free from all wine, as vessels, offerings

Teaches Good

- **Teachers of good things** (καλοδιδάσκαλος - 2567)
- Teaching that which is good, a teacher of goodness
- Encompassing example as well as verbal
- Starts with what is in the next verse

Teaching

- Older women to teach younger women
- **Train/Teach/Admonish** (σωφρονίζω - 4994)
 - restore one to his senses
 - to moderate, control, curb, disciple
 - to hold one to his duty
 - to admonish, to exhort earnestly
- To bring someone back to straight and narrow (God's way)
 - Admonish – warn
 - Exhort - encourage

To love ...

- So they are to instruct/warn/disciple the younger (women)
 - Specifies two things
 - Love Husband
 - Love wife
- However
 - Both these words are based on (philew)
 - That is to have love or affection for
 - In this case
 - Husband
 - Children

Marriage

- Why do you need to teach love/affection
- Modern society looks at marriage as
 - Well if I don't like it I can get out
 - Biblical is marriage is for life
- Need to work at it
- Some evidence also for arranged marriages
 - Isaac – Gen 24
 - Father sent to find a suitable wife

What might this look like?

- Showing appropriate respect home / public
- A show of interest in what he's doing or has done
- Expressions of love and respect, do not criticise in his absence
- Being a discerning support in difficult times
- Consultation before major decisions
- Praying together
- Studying the word together
- Stir each other up to good works

Eph 5:22-29

- ²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.
²³For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.
²⁴Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.
²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,
²⁶that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,
²⁷that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.
²⁸So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.
²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church.

Love

- In Eph it is the word agapaw
 - Only word of God's love for man
 - Tends to be more considered and thoughtful
 - Sacrificial – God's love -> Christ died for sins
 - Love motivated by what is best for the other
- In Titus word is Philew
 - More interpersonal relationship focused
 - Tends to be more affection
- Overlap between the words

Husband

- As Christ loved the church
 - Sacrificial
 - Considering the highest good of mankind (God so loved world)
 - Selfless (see Phil 2:5-8)
- ⁵Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,
⁷but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.
⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

Husband Love

- What is in her best interests
 - Spiritual
 - To get her and my self to be with God
 - Physical
 - He well being on this earth
 - etc
- What do I need to do to make this happen?
- What do I need to give up in order to make this happen?
 - When it's a choice between what I want and what she wants
 - Which way do you go?
 - Why?

Characteristics

- Self controlled and keeping desires under control (same older men)
- Pure – without reproach
 - Chaste -> sexual (focus)
 - However, Greek word is bigger than just that
- Caring for the house, taking care of household effects
 - Responsible for running the house hold
 - Note: most people worked from home during this time (trade/farm etc)
- Subjecting oneself to the husband
 - See above

Interpretation/Challenge

- Women are to stay at home and raise the children
- Then why does the elder qualification say (1 Tim 3:4)
 - one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all
- See also Deut 6:1-9
 - Puts the onus on Men to teach God's word to children
- Proverbs 31
 - Farmer
 - Merchant - garments

Purpose

- In order that -> Purpose
- Do not bring word of God to be spoken evil of
 - See what those who claim to be Christian do!
 - If they are like that then why would you be part of it
- Need to be an example
 - How can you disciple someone to this way of life if you do not live it

To the younger

- What does this imply
- You need the guidance of older women
 - Seek it out
- You need to look to these characteristics yourselves
 - One day you will be the older woman
- You can be admonished / corrected / exhorted
 - Respond appropriately

Consider responses

- When someone admonishes
 - For example over slander
 - How do you respond
- **Deny it**
 - No I didn't
 - That's not slander it's a fact
 - Then walk off
 - I don't want to talk about it
- **Justify Yourself**
 - **Excuses**
 - That happened because of this ... I wasn't really
 - It wasn't really sin then because
 - Get other people to support your case

Response Continued

- **Defensive**

- **Get Upset**
- **Blame Shift** – The old Adam and Eve trick
 - It was Bill not me, I just repeated what he said.

- **Run away**

- Make an excuse (I need to attend to my children)
- Avoid person for a few weeks & hope they forget

- **Play along - to take heat of me**

- **Give right answer**
 - Take heat of
 - Now we can ignore it and do something else
- **Yes I know that**
 - shut them up so you don't feel bad anymore

Response Continued

- **Attack or Fight Back**

- But you did this to me when this happened...
- How dare you accuse me
- You didn't say it to me in the right way
- **Criticise them**
 - Or accuse them of some sin

- **Gang up on the person**

- You go and slander them to everyone else so they won't talk to them either
- Make life difficult for them

Response Continued

- **Rebellion**

- Yes, so what!

- **Reject them**

- You have no right to talk to me like that

- **Revenge**

- I will get you back as soon as you do something wrong!

Is your response to focus on Self

- **Pride**
 - Not wanting to admit you are wrong
 - Self Preservation
- **Anger**
 - How dare you...
- **Self-Righteousness**
 - I am better than you anyway...
- **Verbal Violence**
 - To win in order to not have to deal with the situation
- **Guilt**
 - But bad response

Godly Response

- **Thankfulness**
- **Humility** (Contrite heart) – Heb 3:15
- **Honest evaluation**
 - Compare with the word
- **Love** – 1 Cor 13
- **Godly Sorrow** – Rom 10
- **Change / Repentance**
 - Luke 13
 - Fruits of repentance
- **Seek Help**
 - Prayer

Being Transformed - Heart

- **Treasure and Heart**
- For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Luke 12:34)
 - What you value will set the direction of heart or mind
- Hence if value things of this world then will not give them up
- Can help explain why we do things
- Rather
 - Flee youthful passions or lusts (2 Timothy 2:22)

Being Transformed - Mind

- **Process**
- Identify what is flesh way
 - What do we really value or treasure
- Identify what is Christ's way
 - Word of God
- Replacement of one by other
- Renewed in mind

Being Transformed

- Mind Change ↔ Discernment ↔ Behaviour Change
 - ▫ Attitude ▫ Good / Evil ▫ Put off
 - ▫ Focus ▫ Develop by use ▫ Put on
 - ▫ Thinking ▫ Living it ▫ Living It

Being transformed

- Situation, what is it that leads me to this sin (ways of world)
 - Are there things that I do that make it easier to sin
 - What is it that drags me to this
 - What in the world am I grasping at or hanging on to
 - Is there a pattern of things that lead up to it?
 - How can I break the pattern?
 - I do X
 - It leads to Y
 - Then I find myself in sin
- Am I really convinced that this needs to stop (attitude/thinking)
 - Is there part of me that wants to keep going?
 - i.e. I enjoy doing it and I am not fully committed to stopping
 - Have I set up a half way point that means I mostly give it up

Being transformed

- What have I put in place to actual stop doing this?
 - What is my strategy?
 - What will I change?
 - And How will I do it?
 - Think through scenarios
 - When this occurs, I will respond with that

Dealing with failure

- Recognise failure is possible
 - Spent years training ourselves in unrighteousness
 - Take time to retrain in righteousness
- What strategies have I put in place to deal with failure?
 - What went wrong?
 - This will identify the area I need to work on
 - What went wrong with the strategy
 - At what point did I go off the straight and narrow
 - How can I identify if it occurs again?
 - What are the warning signs?
 - What can I do differently this time?
 - How can I modify my strategy?
 - How can I pick up on those early indicators?

Dealing with failure

- What additional things can I do
 - Share you issue with someone you trust
 - Talk over what happened and discuss how they can help
 - Someone to call when feeling weak

Questions

- Is it optional to teach younger people? How can you develop the characteristics yourself?
- How does your own life help / hinder in the teaching of younger people?
- If someone was criticising their husband/wife in their absence, how would you respond to them?
- Discuss how you would develop self-control. Remember this qualification is for both men and women.