



Titus - Lessons for the Church
Wk. 6 - Teach What is Good
By Pastor Bill Alderson 05/29/2022

Titus 2:1-2 ESV

2 But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. ² Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. ³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

[BACKGROUND]

- Welcome to our 6th week in our series on Titus!
- For the past 5 weeks, Pastor Jody has been working through this series on what it means ***to live on the great commission.***

To help keep ourselves anchored in that point today, let's read Matthew 28:18-20 together:

Matt 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

- As we look at Titus today, let's remember that this command is what motivates Paul's actions and words.
- This is why he's written this letter to Titus, whom Paul calls his "true child in a common faith"
- This is why Titus has turned his life over to God's service.
- And so our overreaching message for this series Titus has been this:

The Gospel **SAVES, TRAINS,** and **FUELS** us to **LIVE** on the Great Commission!



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- Paul and Titus were both living under the command of their Lord **to make disciples, to evangelize them**, and in doing so they were teaching them **to observe all the things** that go with the Gospel.
- **To quote Pastor Jody from last week,**
 - "Please notice the command expands **to all nations**, meaning **ethnicities**. Notice also there are **no limitations as to sex, color, or age**. The Gospel is to go to **all people**, therefore one's strategy must encapsulate **how to do this?** It also means that the churches birthed from this movement should have within them people that represent **all ethnicities, both sexes, and all ages** - and that is **definitely good news.**"
- So picking up from where we left off last week, **Jody was looking at Paul's instruction provided for the older men in the body**. This week we'll be looking at how Paul instructed the older **women** amongst them. Let's read today's verses, I'm going to go ahead and include last weeks as well:

Read Titus 2:1-5

2 But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. ² **Older men** are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. ³ **Older women** likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to **teach what is good**, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may **not be reviled**.

[PRAY]

- Now, in order to understand what required a letter like this, **and the importance of the verses we're looking at today**, we have to remind ourselves what was going on in Crete, and specifically within the churches that had been established there.
- Titus may be a short book, but it packs a wallop. The book is filled with straight-forward commands and authoritative language. Paul wasn't holding back when he wrote this letter - and why was that?



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- Well, as Jody told us in week one of the series,
Pauls' letter to Titus was a counter-cultural Gospel for the Cretans.
- Let's start with reminder of the Greek mythology that shaped Cretan culture. Cretans believed that:
 - Greek gods were mere men and women elevated to deities through benevolent service and gifts to mankind.
 - It was a theology from below rather than above.
 - They held that the majority of the gods were born on their island, Crete, including the chief "**man-become-god,**" **Zeus**, who was allegedly buried there.
 - In their minds, Crete was the central place of the worship of multiple gods.
- This mythology was **so entrenched** in Cretan culture that the churches in Paul's day were integrating their understanding of the one true **Christian God** with the prevailing views about the Greek gods, **mainly Zeus**.
- This, of course, was bad news, especially in light of the kind of "**man-become-god**" **Zeus was**.
 - In a nutshell, **Zeus was a liar and a womanizer**, and the Cretans immortalized him for this.
 - They took pride in his shady character and **underhanded ways**.
 - Now you're starting to get a taste of what Paul was dealing with!
- As we think on today's verses, what we see is that Paul seeks to address this reality by pressing **into the men and women** of the church **to follow God's true word** in order to keep the truth from being "reviled" in says (Titus 2:5).
- We will notice that Paul is not concerned about unregenerate **people seeing Christianity as foolish** when the unbeliever's expectations of Christians **do not match with Scripture** (1 Cor. 1:18-25).
- **HOWEVER**, he speaks **very clearly and bluntly** to the believers in Crete that the Gospel should not be mocked **because Christians have disobeyed God's word**.



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- **This is a concern that resonates throughout the generations.**
A famous quote on this topic some of you may have heard before is from **Mahatma Gandhi**, who was a leader of the Indian people and follower of the Hindu religion. Gandhi had this to say:
"I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ."
- By dwelling in God's word, **by following His commandments**, by *opening ourselves to the work of the Holy Spirit*, by *seeking to live our lives by the example set forth by Jesus*, **we don't give unbelievers any cause** to claim the Gospel is false due to actions on our parts **that can be seen as false, impure, or uncontrolled.**
- On this Paul has laid out in Titus very clear directions for both **men** and **women** in the church. Last week Pastor Jody covered the instruction to older men, so be sure to go back and check that out if you missed it.
- Today we will focus on Paul's instruction to women of the church, specifically the behavior that must be evident in the lives of **older women.**
- Now, **before most of you tune out** because you either are not a "**Woman**," or an "**Older Woman**," hear me out.
 - **To the ladies:**
The verse does not provide a specific age for the "older women" who are to disciple the younger women. Last week Pastor Jody defined the age range to be 40 to 50 or so as a ballpark.
 - **But considering what Titus has outlined for you**, the main qualifications would seem to center on **spiritual maturity.**
 - **Now of course** age provides life experiences that are valuable, but the reality is that every Christian woman should consider herself **both an older and a younger woman.**
 - **Who are you mentoring, and who is mentoring you?**
 - **To the gentlemen:** do you have a Wife, a Mother, a Sister, an Aunt, Female cousins, neighbors, coworkers? **Then this word for you as well**, for God's word is equally fruitful for you to understand how to encourage holiness in the women around you.
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- So today we'll be looking at three key points as we dig into today's verses:
 - Older women are to set an example
 - Older women are to teach the younger women
 - We are called to lives of holiness
- Now let's jump into the text and unfold this **Lesson for the Church** a little more:

Point # 1 - Older women are to set an example

Titus 2:3a

³Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good...

- **Older women likewise are to be reverent**
 - What Pastor Jody covered in last week's sermon about the conduct of older men can also be assumed as part of what Paul means by *reverent behavior*.
 - This includes **self-control, dignity, and sober-mindedness**,
 - All of which are **produced by the Holy Spirit** as older women set their minds on the Lord.
 - We read in 2 Peter 1:3-8
 - **2 Peter 1:3-8**

³His divine power has granted to us **all things** that pertain to life and **godliness**, through the knowledge of him who **called us to his own glory** and excellence, ⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, **so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵**For this very reason**, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶**and knowledge with self-control**, and **self-control with steadfastness**, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection **with love**. ⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, **they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ**.



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- We should note that the traits that the Apostle Peter outlines here are brought about **from the grace of God** through a firm commitment **to biblical teaching**.
- “Reverent in behavior” in the original Greek includes the plural form of the word **hieroprepēs**, which can mean **befitting men, places, actions or things sacred to God**
- What all this means is that Paul is instructing the older woman to conform to **Scripture’s definition of holiness**, which can only be known as she studies the Word of God.
 - **Proverbs 4:23**
Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.
- **Not slanderers**
 - Paul also tells Titus to instruct the older women not to be “slanderers,” which basically means **maligning someone’s character via gossip**.
 - This message is especially pertinent **in our own day**, since it is hard to find **any sin more tolerated** in the Christian church than gossip.
 - How often do both men *and* women repeat stories about people when they are not sure about the truth?
 - In **Proverbs 4:24** we read this helpful verse:
 - **Proverbs 4:24**
“Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you.”
 - Crooked speech, quite literally, is talk that isn’t straight. No brainer.
 - It is bowed, it veers off course - very often swerving you into a tree...
 - Now, sometimes we can have difficulty identifying gossip because it is masquerading as more mundane.
 - I’m sure you have witnessed plenty of prayer requests shared on **someone’s behalf** that seemed to include unnecessary details
 - or private information.
 - You’ve probably heard your share of **“words of concern”** that bordered on speculation.
 - Maybe you have offered such words yourself.



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- In Romans 1, Paul actually identifies gossip **as a character trait:**
 - **Romans 1:29-31**
They are gossips,³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents,³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.
- Gossip is a sin no matter where you find it, whether it's at among family members, at church, online, or at work.
- But gossip is **especially egregious** in a church setting, where it works the satanic ploy of ***undermining the unity of the Spirit and Christ's call to love one another as He has loved us.***
- ***or slave to much wine***
 - While Paul specifically mentions wine in Titus 2:3, this verse also speaks to addiction in a broader sense as well.
 - In Genesis 1:28, God declares that mankind was intended to have dominion over creation.
Genesis 1: 28-29
²⁸ And God **blessed them.** And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, **and have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food."
 - **With an addiction,** however, creation has **dominion over Us,** which takes the good blessing that God has provided and makes it an idol.
 - Alcohol is a physically addictive substance; **it can become anyone's master. And therein lies the danger.** The alcoholic is no longer free to make his or her own choices, **everything revolves around getting the next drink.**



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- So in context of our verse, Paul is referring to the character trait of sobriety, rather than the actual **act** of drinking. In order to be teachers, older women are to **display spiritual maturity and strength of character**.
- This is important because **their example** is what validates **their teaching**.
- Their lives are to demonstrate loyalty to **one master only**, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Point # 2 - Older women are to teach the young women

Titus 2:3b-5a

They are to teach what is good, ⁴and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands

- **They are to teach what is good**
 - Older women are to teach “what is good,”
 - Here Paul has defined an important and primary role for older women, which is to help raise a **godly generation of young women**.
 - This is important to understand – Paul and the leaders of the church placed importance on both the Older Women but also on the **young women** in the church as well.
 - And listen, ladies, as I mentioned at the beginning, you have these younger women in your lives, they are all around you.
 - They are your daughters, your step-daughters, your granddaughters, your daughters-in-law.
 - They are your nieces, your cousins.
 - They are the friends of your children
 - They are the children of your friends
 - They are your neighbors.
 - **This instruction transcends age and role.**
 - Older women can nurture the younger women in the church
 - College women can nurture high school girls
 - Single women and women without children can be **spiritual mothers**



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- And to be clear, we're not talking about some kind of formal seminar here. Don't overcomplicate things when it comes to mentoring.
- The Godly older woman that Paul is painting a picture of here is confident in God's word and the works of the spirit in her life.
- Ladies, come alongside the younger women in your life **and show them** how to live a faithful life, to nurture them to Godliness.
- **and so train the young women to love their husbands and children,**
 - You know, it's funny how quickly we, as a people, lose context of history.
 - Kids - do you know what a Cassette Tape is? I'm reaching back to the 80s here.
 - Do you know how a pencil might relate to it?
 - See what I mean - that was what - 20 or 30 years ago?
 - We live in a modern **western world**, where it can be hard to imagine that a man and woman **would marry for any reason other than love...**
 - It's easy to forget that before the modern era in the West, and still elsewhere in the world today, **love was not** the primary motivating factor for marriage.
 - **Economic needs, social status**, and many other reasons have and still do drive marriage long before love does - if it ever becomes a factor at all.
 - In this respect, married life outside the West today is often **similar to first-century conditions.**
 - In fact, if you recall our deep-dive into the **Protestant Reformation** last fall, you may remember that **the Reformation** arguably brought about a revolution to the concept of marriage.
 - But today, due to our society's failure to remember how **Scripture has shaped its thinking**, the love that is to be the critical foundation of the marital relationship is often understood in very shallow ways.



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- Still, **that people at least try to marry for love in the West** reflects at least an unconscious awareness of the New Testament's call for **spouses to love one another.**
- **This is EXACTLY why Paul's teaching in today's passage is profoundly counter-cultural.**
 - Due to arranged marriages, it was by no means certain in Paul's time that young wives would have **any affection** for their husbands.
 - However, **if they were Christians**, they were obligated to **love their husbands**, for that is how God designed marriage.
 - Older Christian women were to help younger wives **learn to love their husbands and children** in a way that seeks the well-being of **spouse and child.**
- This principle is just as important to be followed today:
 - Older women are more likely **to have been married longer**, and more likely to know **what it takes to love and care for one's family through good times and bad.**
 - The experience and insight of older women **is a very important guide** for new wives who are learning to adjust to these responsibilities.
 - As the older women **with godly marriages mentor younger women**, all the families in the church benefit.
- **to be self-controlled,**
 - In 1 Corinthians 9:25, Paul compared the self-control required in Christian living with an athlete training for and competing in ancient athletic games:
 - **1 Corinthians 9:25,**
Every athlete exercises self-control in all things.
They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.
 - If a runner would win the prize, he must **bring his entire life under the strict discipline** of rigorous training.
 - And if he is to be victorious, he must **refuse many individual freedoms.**



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- Liberties are largely for spectators, **not a champion athlete.**
- Every area of his life must be **brought under control.**

- **And so it is for the Christian as well.**
 - Paul urges believers in 1 timothy 4:7:
 - **1 Timothy 4:7**
"Train yourself for godliness."
 - To pursue holiness, a believer **must hear biblical preaching and teaching**, must **participate in corporate worship**, the **Lord's Supper**, Bible reading, meditation, prayer, and fellowship.

- In addition, the believer must deny themselves **many legitimate pleasures** if they are to win the prize.
 - While it is true that believers **have liberty in Christ** to pursue what is **not forbidden in Scripture**, we cannot allow anything to **gain mastery** over us.

 - Victory always comes at a price, **and the Christian life is no different.**

- So here's the important takeaway: if we are to exercise self-control, **we must relinquish the control of our lives to Jesus Christ.**

- **working at home,**
 - I'll start out by saying that this verse does not indicate that women may never have employment outside the home - **only that they must be sure to focus their attentions and energies on their homes** — on caring for husband and children, submitting to the former and helping the latter **learn to follow the Lord.**
 - The modern Feminist movement, and many unchurched critics, would call this statement **old-fashioned and even oppressive.**

 - However, **even unchurched women in our culture** know that their households should be a priority if they are to have what **they** deem a "good" life.

 - More and more surveys of unchurched "older" women often report the **regret for not devoting enough time to their families.**



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- Counter to what modern thinking might tell you, the Bible **exalts women and their God-ordained position in the home, the church, and the world.**
- The book of Proverbs, **which is FULL of practical instruction for the Christian,** concludes with a riveting description of what an **“excellent wife”** looks like.
- This may be a bit of a long read, but I think it’s worthwhile to go through together:
 - **Proverbs 31:10-31 - The Woman Who Feared the Lord**
 - ¹⁰ An excellent wife **who can find?**
She is far more precious than jewels. - *The value God places*
 - ¹¹ The heart of her husband **trusts** in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.
 - ¹² **She does him good, and not harm,**
all the days of her life.
 - ¹³ She seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands.
 - ¹⁴ She is like the ships of the merchant;
she brings her food from afar.
 - ¹⁵ **She rises while it is yet night**
and provides food for her household
and portions for her maidens.
 - ¹⁶ **She considers a field and buys it;**
with the **fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.**
 - ¹⁷ She dresses herself with strength
and **makes her arms strong.**
 - ¹⁸ She perceives that **her merchandise is profitable.**
Her lamp does not go out at night.
 - ¹⁹ She puts her hands to the distaff, - *a tool used in spinning*
and her hands hold the spindle.
 - ²⁰ **She opens her hand to the poor**
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
 - ²¹ She is not afraid of snow for her household,
for all her household **are clothed in scarlet.** - *The Scarlet thread - The blood of the Lamb*
 - ²² She makes bed coverings for herself;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.
 - ²³ Her husband is known in the gates



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- when **he sits among the elders of the land.** - *Because he is Godly & Righteous man*
- ²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells them;
she delivers sashes to the merchant.
- ²⁵ **Strength and dignity are her clothing,**
and she laughs at the time to come. - *You know why? Because she's clothed in scarlet!*
- ²⁶ She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the **teaching of kindness is on her tongue.** - *She speaks kindness with ease*
- ²⁷ She looks well to the ways of her household
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
- ²⁸ Her children rise up and **call her blessed;**
her husband also, and **he praises her:**
- ²⁹ "Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all." - *You see here he loves her and expresses his gratitude*
- ³⁰ Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman **who fears the Lord is to be praised.**
- ³¹ Give her of the fruit of her hands,
and let her **works praise her in the gates.** - *let her reputation proceed her*

○ **WOW!**

- Ladies, what a beautiful depiction of **who God has called you to be...**
- Many Feminists and atheists will lie and tell you that the Christianity seeks to **diminish women**, but when you read **Proverbs 31:**
 - Does this woman seem to lack in power?
 - In dignity?
 - In faith?
 - **NO!**
 - Her children **love** her, they call her blessed -
not for her works, **but because she is blessed by spirit!**
 - "The heart of her husband **trusts in her**" for "she does him good,
and not harm, all the days of her life"
Why? Why does she do these things?
 - **Because she dwells in the word and
she knows what TRUE love is!**



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- ***“she laughs at the time to come”***
Because she trusts in the sovereign God,
and has **HOPE** in **HIS** kingdom!

- **She considers a field and buys it;**
I mean, come on, that verse is just awesome!

- The Proverbs 31 woman is the **template** of the **godly wife** who brings blessing to **her home** and to **her covenant community**.
- Some may not be able to answer the question, “What is a woman?” - **but God can!**
 - The picture painted here is ***no wilting flower***
 - She is not timid
 - She is not fearful
 - She’s emboldened by the spirit, fed by the word, nurtured by God’s truth.
And guess what, ***her home is dressed in Scarlet!***
 - She is a nurturer
 - She is a caregiver
 - She is a life-bringer
 - She works hard
 - She loves hard
 - She cares for people aggressively

- The wisdom of Proverbs is practical, **it is not theoretical** -
it is intended to guide the everyday lives of God’s people:
 - The “excellent wife” embodies the Lord’s wisdom in fulfilling her ***divinely appointed role*** and in bringing **great blessing** to her family and community.
 - **By God’s grace**, I urge the ladies among, young and old -
strive to become Proverbs 31 women.
 - If that all feels a little overwhelming to you at the moment, remember that a life of holiness is **lead one decision at a time, one day at a time**.
 - **And** for the men among us - **fulfill your role as Godly husband, father, brother, friend** - do what is in your power to assist the women in your life **to become this embodiment of wisdom**.



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- **kind,**
 - We just read in Verse 26:
 - **Proverbs 31:26**
*²⁶She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.*
 - **But what is biblical kindness?**
 - Well, I can tell you what **it is NOT**.
 - It is not a false syrupy sweetness or niceness toward all people.
 - It is not projecting a false cheery and bubbly personality.
 - It is not simply seeking someone's approval.
 - **Galations 1:10**
*¹⁰For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God?
Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man,
I would not be a servant of Christ.*
 - The word for "kindness" in the New Testament carries a second meaning of "usefulness."
 - **Real kindness is providing something beneficial or endeavoring to do real good for someone.**
 - When we put on patience and kindness like this, **it is easier to witness to the truth and the transformative work of Christ.**
 - If we want to love our neighbor, we would do well to remember that the first two words Paul uses to define love in 1 Corinthians 13:4 are "**patient and kind.**"
 - And in Ephesians 4:32 we are told we should "**be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**"
 - Paul also instructs Timothy that:
 - **2 Timothy 2:24-25**
the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of truth.
 - In fact, if we remember that **we were led into our repentance by the kindness of God**, it should urge us to show that same sort of patience and kindness.



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- This attitude is particularly necessary today:
 - We live in an age marked by sarcasm, snarkiness, and meanness.
 - We complain about trolls on social media – unless they are targeting someone that we disagree with.
 - We share YouTube and TikTok videos of cruel pranks, poor behavior, and despicable fights and arguments.
 - We watch shows like American Idol and delight when the “judges” tear into contestants without mercy.

- When we look around today, we can see that patience and kindness are in short supply.

- As Christians, this gives us all the more reason to **practice patience and kindness** as a **fruit of the Spirit**, so that the holiness of God can be displayed.

- Proverbs 21:21 tells us that **if we pursue kindness, we will find life.**

- However, we should also remain aware that our patience and kindness **will not on their own** win people to Christ.
 - Titus 3:5, which we’ll be studying in a few weeks, says that God “saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy.”

 - Salvation is an expression of God’s perfect loving kindness. **We will never love well enough.** Our patience and kindness are good but insufficient. **People must still hear the gospel preached.**

 - Romans 10:17 says,
“Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”



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- **and submissive to their own husbands,**

- The Bible outlines many reasons why a wife must submit to her husband's authority and a husband must love his wife as Christ loves His church.
- Not least of these is **God's absolute authority**. His decrees for us are **right** and **good**, and we are to follow them **simply because God gives them**.
 - **Ephesians 5:31-32**
*"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. **This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.**"*
- Paul explains in Ephesians 5:31-32 that the relationship between a husband and wife is **a picture of the bond between Jesus and His people**. Paul bases this understanding on an Old Testament metaphor.
 - **God's relationship to Israel** is likened to that of a bridegroom to His bride.
 - **Hosea 1-2** emphasizes the love of God for His people, a love so deep that it persisted in the most difficult circumstance of His bride's unfaithfulness.
 - **Jeremiah 2:2** recalls the devotion the Israelites had for their covenant Lord when He called them out of slavery.
 - **The metaphor of God as the husband of His people** shows us that human marriage displays **eternal truths**.
- As husbands and wives fulfill their God-given roles, they **join general revelation** in showing the world truths about our Creator and humanity's appropriate response to Him.
 - Husbands who sacrifice themselves for their wives **depict the self-sacrificial nature of the Lord in redeeming His people**.
 - Wives who rightly submit to their own husbands' authority **remind all people that they must live under God's Word**.
 - We proclaim God's glory and our responsibility to the world **as we fulfill our rightful duties as husbands and wives**.
- But Scripture always presents submission as honoring to women. God never tells husbands to demand their wives' submission; rather, **He bids wives to put themselves willingly under their own husbands' authority**



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▪ **Ephesians 5:22-24**

²² Wives, **submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.** ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

▪ **1 Peter 3:1-6**

³ Likewise, wives, **be subject to your own husbands**, so that even if some do not obey the word, **they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives,** ² when they see your **respectful and pure conduct.** ³ Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— ⁴ but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. ⁵ For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, ⁶ as **Sarah obeyed Abraham**, calling him lord. And you are her children, **if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.**

- To conform to the holy order of things our Father has established, wives must **choose themselves** to submit to the **righteous leadership** of their husbands.
- And here it's important to understand that **only Jesus has kept God's will perfectly**, so we will **sometimes fail** in our roles as Husband and Wife.
- Still, we should always strive by the Spirit to **keep His will.**
 - JESUS loved a church that **was not submissive to him.**
 - JESUS died for a church that **was in rebellion against him.**
- His love in **the hardest times** shows the unfailing, unending love of **Jesus for His church.**
- So while women are called to submit to their husbands, **Men**, this is the kind of **sacrificial Love** that **we are called to model** in our marriages.
 - "For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church"



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Point # 3 - We are living testimonies

Titus 2:5b

"that the word of God may not be reviled."

- The command we hear in Titus for the older generations to teach is clear **BUT** the result of this teaching is vitally important:
"that the word of God may not be reviled" (Titus 2:5b).
 - So that Christians are not the cause of dishonoring God's Word
 - So that Christians are not the cause of badmouthing the church
 - So that Christians are not the cause of people doubting God's saving power.
 - **Colossians 2:16**
Therefore let no one pass judgment on you
in questions of food and drink,
or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.
- In this life we may be ridiculed or even persecuted for our faith, but let it NOT be because we live like hypocrites.
- **1 Peter 2:9**
But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- As a people who have **been called to repentance and confessed faith in our Lord Jesus Christ**, we should not be surprised when ridicule and persecution comes our way – this is, after all, the inevitable result of following a **counter-cultural Gospel**.
- When we go out into the world and reflect God's wisdom, **and speak boldly with both gentleness and respect**, we are a talking testimony, a walking testimony, and a living, breathing testimony **to the glory of God** and for the evangelizing of a lost world.
- We should always remember that our actions **speak as loudly as our words**.



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- **1 Peter 3:15-16**

But in your hearts **honor Christ the Lord as holy**, always being prepared **to make a defense** to anyone who asks you for a **reason for the hope** that is in you; yet do it with **gentleness and respect**, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when **you** are slandered, those who revile **your good behavior** in **Christ** may be **put to shame**.

- We need to live like **this**.

- If this all seems too big for you to handle on your own, **it's because you're right**, it is.

- **But it's not too big for our Lord.**

- Remember that **His grace is sufficient for you**, for **HIS power is made perfect in OUR weakness**.

- **Romans 5:1-5**

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.² **Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand**, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that **suffering produces endurance**, ⁴ **and endurance produces character, and character produces hope**, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because **God's love has been poured into our hearts** through the Holy Spirit who has **been given to us**.

- While our world is always-moving, topsy-turvy, ever-changing, be reminded that **your hope is secure** in the **One** who is constant:
 - *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever"* (Hebrews 13:8)

So as we close out here today, I have a few thoughts to leave with for the days ahead:

- **You older men:**

Are you sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness? These are the characteristics that your God has called you to strive for, that you might set an example for those around you. What are you doing in your life to ensure you are focused on the things that God wants you to be focused on?



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- **You older women:**
Who are you mentoring? Take up the mantle that God has set before you. Be reverent in behavior, teach what is GOOD. Seek to model the Proverbs 31 woman for this next generation of younger women.
- **To you, the Church:**
My question is this: Are you teachable?
Are you open for instruction or rebuke by the Godly men or women in your life, those to whom God has provided experience and wisdom?
Who is the mentor in your life?
- I want to encourage each of you to **live your life** giving of your time, talents, treasures, and testimony.
- Let your thoughts, words, and actions be a powerful testimony for Jesus.
- Go out, and **teach what is good!**

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Hebrews 13:20-21

²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.