

Good Things Part 2

Titus 2:4-5

Titus 2:4-5 is the list of *good things* with which the older women are to admonish the younger women. The older women must meet the criteria in Titus 2:3 to teach these things. These *good things* are seven virtues that, when lived out, exemplify a godly woman. The virtues in these verses represent Biblical femininity. These are the responsibilities we are to live by under the role God established for women at creation. This week, we will look at the first four.

Many women believe these verses are not meant for today, saying they are legalistic and old-fashioned. We must reject these claims. Some women state that these rules were only for the culture of that time and therefore are not applicable today. However, that is a false doctrine. This is God's Word and if it was true then, it is true today. We cannot pick and choose what to obey. His Word must be the authority in our lives. We must be willing to be holy and contrary to the culture.

1. Review Lesson 2. What was the order God established for men and women at creation?

2. Review Lesson 3. What are the attributes older women must have to disciple younger women?

3. Read Titus 2:4-5 and list the seven virtues.

As we go through these verses, it may seem they apply best to married women with children. If you are unmarried today or don't have children, don't disregard this portion of our study. While they may not seem applicable today, the principles are still worth learning. You may be given an opportunity to encourage another woman with what you learn from this passage. God's Word is always relevant!

The first virtue is *loving your husband*. Married women are to love their husbands. The Greek word for love in this passage is *philandros*, which means *a love for a husband*.

Philandros is from the root word *philos* or *phileo*, and this is the only time the word *philandros* is used in the Bible.

Phileo love is a type of love that describes the love between very close friends. It comes from the heart and is an outward expression of affection and tenderness. It means to cherish.

It differs from another love mentioned in the Bible—*agape*—which means unconditional love that comes not from the emotions but from the will or the head. Husbands are to show their wives this type of love.

4. Read Ephesians 5:25-28. How are husbands instructed to love their wives?

Agape love may come more naturally to women, so God instructs wives to love their husbands with a love that does not come easily. *Phileo* love would include random acts of affection and affirmation. Most men crave and respond to this kind of love.

5. Do you think *agape* love or *phileo* love would come more naturally to you in a marriage relationship? Write down some ways wives can show their husbands he is cherished.

Wives loving their husbands is not a suggestion. Nor is it conditional on the husband fulfilling his responsibilities. It is a command to be willingly fulfilled as a loving response to God, Who has called women to be helpmates.

6. How can showing *phileo* love to one's husband be of help to him?

7. According to Ephesians 5:31-32, what does marriage represent? (Read the NLT for clarification.)

The ultimate goal of wives loving their husbands is for non-believers to see Jesus.

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or *whatever you do*, do all to the glory of God.

- 1 Corinthians 10:31

The second virtue is *loving your children*. Mothers are to love their children in a way that is similar to the way wives should love their husbands. The Greek word for love in this verse is *philoteknos*, which means *love for one's offspring or children*. It is love that is expressed by maternal love for children. The words used to describe love for our husbands and children are distinct words not found anywhere else in scripture.

Philoteknos also comes from the root word *phileo*. Meaning we are to love our children with a tender and affectionate love.

Agape love comes more naturally to mothers than *phileo* and is expressed in nurturing, feeding, clothing, sheltering, and protecting kids from birth. It isn't an emotion or feeling; it's almost instinctive. And yet here, we are instructed to love with a love that is exhibited by one delighting in our kids and enjoying them.

8. If you have children, what type of love comes more naturally to you? Give examples. If you don't have children, what expressions of maternal love meant the most to you?

9. Read the following verses. How does God's Word view children?

Psalms 127:3-5

Colossians 3:20

Luke 18:15-17

10. What do the following verses teach you about raising children?

Proverbs 13:24

Proverbs 22:6

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

11. In what ways can an older woman encourage young wives to love their husbands and children as instructed in Titus 2:4?

The third virtue is being *discreet*. To be *discreet* means *to be sober, temperate, and self-controlled*. This is a virtue the older women are also instructed to possess.

12. Review Lesson 3 and record what it means to be temperate and sober.

To be *discreet* is to be self-controlled. *Self-control* means *to be of a sound mind and sane*. It can also mean curbing one's desires and impulses and saying no to sinful desires.

13. What do the following verses teach you about self-control?

Galatians 5:22-23

2 Corinthians 10:5-6

2 Timothy 1:7

What is the opposite of self-control? To be: unrestrained, impulsive, having no discipline, having no rule over your spirit. Therefore, not being filled with the Spirit.

Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.
- Proverbs 25:28

One area where we can exercise self-control is with our tongues, being discreet in what you say and being careful with our words. The older women are not to be slanderers and not to be given to gossip; they are to serve as an example to the younger women, as they admonished them to be discreet.

14. Do you have self-control over your tongue? How can you improve in this area? How would a wife and/or mother who exhibits self-control in this area love her children better?

15. How do the following verses encourage you to be self-controlled with your words?
Psalm 34:13

Proverbs 17:28

James 1:19

Another area where we can exercise self-control is with our thoughts. All the things that come out of our mouths start in our minds.

16. What does 2 Corinthians 10:5 command us to do?

17. Taking thoughts captive can seem like a heavy task. How do we do this? Hebrews 12:1-2 has very practical tips for applying Scripture to our personal growth. How can you apply this Scripture to taking your thoughts captive?

18. Consider the ungodly thoughts that could lead to corrupt speech. Read Philippians 4:8. What should you replace ungodly thoughts with? What specifically could these thoughts be? (i.e., whatever things are pure = God's Word.)

Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit. As we grow in our relationship with God, self-control and the other aspects of the fruit of the Spirit should be more and more evident in our lives. Let your thoughts and words be pure.

The fourth virtue is being *chaste*. *Chaste* means *to be pure*: pure from carnality and modest.

Purity begins in the mind and requires self-control. We need to choose sexual purity. God's Word calls each of us to be sexually pure, whether we are unmarried or married.

Sexual purity within the marriage relationship was established at the beginning.

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

- Genesis 2:24

A man (husband) and a woman (wife) become one flesh. There is no room for anyone else.

19. What is the command given in Matthew 5:27-28?

Adultery is sex with someone other than your spouse. Matthew 5:28 applies to both men and women. Therefore, we must keep our thoughts pure. We can do this if we rightly love our husbands and practice self-control.

20. Read Hebrews 13:4 and record the truths found in this verse.

Honorable - held in honor, esteemed, especially dear

Undefiled - pure, free from adultery

If you are single, stay pure. Wait. Sex is for marriage.

21. Read 1 Corinthians 6:15-19 and record the truths regarding sex outside of marriage.

Waiting is hard. Sex is unique in that it is considered a sin outside of marriage, but the opposite when it is expressed inside the marriage. God made it to be good, but it must be within the sanctity of marriage. When you wait, you not only honor your God with your obedience but also honor your future husband. Therefore ...

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

- Colossians 3:2

There is beauty in waiting. In waiting, we also learn to be self-controlled. As you wait for a future husband, take this opportunity to grow in your knowledge of God's Word. Set aside any desire to chase after a man and, instead, draw closer to the Lord, allowing Him to transform you into the woman of Titus 2:4-5.

If you have sinned against the Lord in this area, please know adultery and premarital sex are not unforgivable sins. God is full of grace and forgiveness; whatever is in your past, simply confess and ask for forgiveness.

22. Read 1 John 1:9. List the characteristics of God found in the verse. What is the promise for each one of us?

23. Once you have sought forgiveness, commit to honoring God by living chastely. Read Ephesians 4:22-24. What can you actively do to keep from going back to old ways? Don't just copy the verse. Think of practical ways you can apply these verses.

Chaste also refers to *modesty*. We find the word *modest* in only two places in the Bible (NKJV). 1 Timothy 2:9 and 1 Timothy 3:2.

In 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, but which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.

- 1 Timothy 2:9-10

Modest in this verse means *well-ordered, of good behavior*. According to the Vines Dictionary of New Testament Words: *The well-ordering is not of dress and demeanor only, but of the inner life, uttering indeed and expressing itself in the outward conversation.*

We began our study in Titus chapter two, learning God's good order. Titus 2:3-5 stresses the importance of good behavior. In other words, a Titus 2 woman is characterized by *modesty*.

24. Review God's order from Lesson 2 and the virtues from Lessons 3 and 4. Consider the definition of *modest* and summarize what it means to be a well-ordered woman who exemplifies good behavior.

25. It all begins with God's good ways. When we conform to His order, we can become the godly woman He desires. How has this study inspired you to live differently thus far?

A Character Study: Review of Titus and Examples to Follow

Crete was under Roman rule at the time of this letter. The people were under heavy pagan influence, with several misguided notions about the roles of men and women. In addition, there was an increasing movement among women to prioritize their personal desires above everything else. This is why the older women are told to **train** the younger women. In other words, these younger women needed someone with sound Biblical doctrine to teach them what the Bible had to say about Biblical womanhood. They needed to be taught the standard and then work on proficiency through practice and ongoing instruction. In his letter to Titus, Paul highlighted a **specific area** that was lacking: wives' love for their husbands and children.

There is not a lot of information recorded in the Bible when it comes to the details of women expressing *philandros* in their marriages, but we can look for evidence of it.

26. Briefly read the following verses and record bullet points of Jacob and his marriages to Leah and Rachel.

Genesis 29:11, 16-18, 21-30

Genesis 29:31, 30:1, 3, 9

Genesis 30:22, 31:17-19, 25a, 30, 32, 34-35, 55

Genesis 35:16-20

The Bible does not record when Leah died, but we do know that she outlived her sister, Rachel. Genesis 49 records Jacob's final blessings on his sons and his end-of-life requests. Which of his wives did Jacob choose to be buried with? (Genesis 49:31)

27. **THINK:** What do you think made Jacob want to be buried with Leah over Rachel?

God instructs wives to respect, obey, and **cherish** their husbands because God created us, and He knows what is best for us.

28. Consider the following and record how each action could demonstrate *philoteknos* in a mother's relationship with her child.

Sharing/Giving

Being Present/Focused

Having Fun/Celebrating

Speaking kindly to and of

Expressing joy and happiness

29. Proper self-control requires knowing the expectations set forth in Scripture. It is this knowledge that should guide us in making decisions, controlling our thoughts, and determining our actions. Record what you have learned so far about the Biblical standard for:

Older Women _____

Wives _____

Mothers _____

Purity _____

30. How does this differ from the prevailing thought in today's society when it comes to what a woman should aspire to be and do?

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works...”

- Ephesians 2:10