

Message #8**Titus 2:4-5**

In January of 2017, one million moms rallied together and got TV land to cancel a sacrilegious and sex-filled program called “Impastor.” Those women petitioned the advertisers and refused to buy their products and, as a result, that show was cancelled. I applaud those women for that. Thank God for them. They took a stand for what is decent and right and this time it worked. But is this the way a woman truly reflects God in grace?

We live in a wild and immoral world and it isn’t getting any better and we need godly women who reflect God’s grace. In this section, the Apostle Paul tells them some ways to actually do that. Some of the things that Paul challenges them to do are not as public or dramatic as getting a program thrown off TV. But these things are very important as we shall see.

Now let’s be brutally honest about what young women are up against today. This world promotes philosophies that are totally opposite of the Word of God. Here is what this world will tell you young ladies.

- 1) Staying at home for a young woman is a waste of time.
- 2) Children are a burden and will slow you down.
- 3) Real success for a woman is education, material success and accomplishment.
- 4) If you have children, put them in childcare while you pursue your own dreams.
- 5) Don’t submit to any man, but demand your rights.

This is exactly what this world promotes and it is exactly the opposite of the Word of God, and older women are to teach the younger woman exactly that. The point of these verses is this:

GOD’S GRACE IS TO BE DEMONSTRATED IN A GODLESS WORLD BY YOUNGER WOMEN AND THE OLDER WOMEN IN THE CHURCH ARE TO TEACH THE YOUNGER WOMEN JUST EXACTLY HOW TO DO THAT.

Now remember, Titus was on the wild island of Crete. It was not a godly island. It was a place of immorality, drunkenness, revelry and crime. People were lazy and frankly were losers. Some moms were more interested in partying rather than parenting.

It is interesting that Paul never tells the believers to move off the island. He never says you just need to get away from that place. He does not tell them to relocate and form a Christian village. What he says is you need to demonstrate God’s grace right there on that island.

Now when you are living on a wild island, younger women are a big part of the party scene. Younger women have always been known to hang out at the beaches and the bars. For many colleges this is Spring Break and many younger women head to Florida for non-stop revelry. Crete was a Spring Break party island every day. According to the hedonists, the party life was a good life.

This philosophy was tempting to the younger women, including one who was a believer in the church. Paul knew it was important for a younger Christian woman to make a difference and statement for God and in this passage, he shows them how to do it.

What is it that younger women can actually do to demonstrate God's grace in a wild world filled with wild and godless things? **Now the assumption of the text is that this is a younger married woman.** Younger women who are not married should develop many of these same qualities, but this is primarily aimed at the younger married women. If you are a younger woman and you don't want to do this, then don't get married.

There are seven character traits that younger married women are to develop and if they do, God will make them and use them as a dynamic testimony for His glory. Paul is very specific with each group as to what they need to do to demonstrate the grace of God.

It is interesting that God does not put in this list anything about public ministry. He does not put into this list anything about creating a woman's group or getting younger women to get involved in more meetings at church. But he does spell out seven traits that will reflect God's grace and power to a wild world like Crete.

Now I am going to make an assumption that these things listed are not automatics. These are things that must be learned and developed. Otherwise, the "older women" would not have to encourage the "younger women" to demonstrate these things (2:4).

So these things are things that must be learned. They are not things that just automatically happen to a younger woman. In fact, wise is the young woman who actually prays about these things. But the woman who learns them and applies them will be a woman God will greatly use. God is actually honored by this kind of woman. Any woman who purposes to do these things will never regret it when she gets before the Lord.

Character Trait #1 - Younger women demonstrate God's grace by loving their husbands. **2:4a**

When you take a young man and young woman and put them together in marriage and put them in the same home, sometimes it isn't smooth and a young woman needs to learn to love her husband. For one thing, the husband will probably do some things that aren't so loveable. Loving your husband will require "deliberate action."

The word "love husbands" is an interesting word. The word for love is not the same word used in Ephesians 5:25 that says, "husbands love your wives." The word used in Ephesians is agape which refers to the highest unconditional love that one may have.

The word used here (philos) is a word that refers to a tender, devoted, friendship kind of love. This word refers to a woman loving her husband and being very supportive of him as his companion and friend. This particular word speaks of one who loves her husband, supports her husband and speaks highly of her husband.

There is nothing more detestable in the sight of God than a wife who is always using her mouth to run down and demean her husband. A wife should pray for her husband every day.

A man's world on Crete was not easy. It was an island filled with evil, lazy, lust-crazed liars. Frankly, a man's world in any area is not easy. He is responsible to provide for his family and to do that he must face pressures and problems with people. What a wonderful joy it is to have a woman who backs you and does not run you down or let others run her husband down. If the testimony of a wife is she loved her husband, it will be a great testimony of the grace of God.

I read an interesting interview with the former husband of a very famous news broadcaster. He was asked what went wrong with the marriage. His answer was intriguing. He was a successful medical doctor. He said when I got home from work I expected to have a meal cooked for me and she didn't want to do that. He said she wouldn't do that. Now this famous woman makes a lot of money but when she gets before God, let's see how rich she will be. She would not even make her husband dinner.

Character Trait #2 - Younger women demonstrate God's grace by loving their children. **2:4b**

The same word again is used concerning love, only this time the younger women are to love their children. Children will try your patience. A younger woman demonstrates God's grace by holding her children as very dear to her. She builds them up and supports them and she is devoted to them. No mother should ever demean her children and call them derogatory names.

A woman who watches over her children as a mother hen watches over her chicks is a great example of the grace of God.

On the island of Crete, some of the women were running to the beach and letting the children fend for themselves. Some mothers are so preoccupied with themselves that they are not taking care of or loving their children the way they should.

Character Trait #3 - Younger women demonstrate God's grace by being sensible. **2:5a**

The word "sensible" is one that means that a woman demonstrates God's grace by being in control of her mind as opposed to being out of control in her mind. Women can become very emotional quicker than men, which means they can potentially quickly let their emotions get the best of them. When that happens, they can say things and do things that actually blaspheme God.

When a woman is surrounded by a world that includes her sinful husband and sinful children, there are plenty of opportunities for the wife and mother to lose control. But a woman who is developing a sound, sane, controlled mind is a woman who demonstrates God's grace. A calm, quiet, stable woman does stand out and the more one stands out the more one reflects God's transforming grace.

Character Trait #4 - Younger women demonstrate God's grace by being pure. **2:5b**

On the island of Crete there was much that was not pure. The word "pure" (agnos) is one that refers to not being involved in things that would make one ceremonially unclean. This refers to not getting involved in immoral things that would make one defiled and guilty before God (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 6). This particular word has to do with a guiltless, undefiled purity.

This does not mean that the wife was some prude when it came to her husband, but it does mean that she was devoted to her husband in intimate matters and did not involve herself in that which was immoral or impure. William Hendriksen said that "younger women must scrupulously avoid any immorality in thought, word and action" (*Titus*, p. 365).

On an island like Crete, when a wife stayed dedicated to her husband and did not involve herself in immoral activity, like the vast majority on the island, it made a wonderful and powerful statement about the grace of God.

Character Trait #5 - Younger women demonstrate God's grace by being workers at home. **2:5c**

Regardless of what our culture says or regardless of what a wild world says, God wants wives busy at home. The wife is the primary homemaker in the mind of God. In fact, the Greek word indicates that the younger woman is the one whose job it is to watch, keep and manage the house (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 313).

This does not mean she cannot work outside of the home. In fact, there is a description of a remarkable woman in Proverbs 31 who did just that. But when you see a woman who takes care of her home it is a great statement for the glory of God.

A wife and mother brings something from God into the home that it does not have without her. When a woman loves her husband and loves her children and takes good care of her home, it is a powerful statement for the grace of God. It is not the way the world typically operates. It didn't on Crete and it doesn't here.

By the way, the older women are supposed to teach the younger women this very thing. We live in a day in which some of the older women of the church want the younger women running here and there and going to all kinds of women's things. Their philosophy is we need to have more things for the women. Well, God says teach the women to stay home and take good care of their homes and families.

Character Trait #6 - Younger women demonstrate God's grace by being kind. **2:5d**

The word "kind" is an interesting word. This word describes an attractive kindness (*Ibid.*, p. 2).

It is interesting that this word indicates that this is not just a woman who just externally does things that appear kind; she actually is inwardly kind. She is a kind person in her person and in her actions.

Now a woman in the home is in the home with children and a husband, and to demonstrate a kindness is certainly an amazing display of the grace of God. Again, wise is the woman who prays and asks God to make her a kind woman.

Some women are mean. Some women who go to church are mean. They are at church going through motions of worship but they are not kind. There are women who are mean and mouthy. Women who reflect God's grace are not like that. Kindness is something that is to characterize a godly, grace-reflecting Christian woman.

Character Trait #7 - Younger women demonstrate God's grace by submitting to their husband.
2:5e

Now Paul does something very interesting here in Greek, he stresses "own." In other words, Paul wanted a woman to be subject to her own husband. In a wild world, a woman can listen to other voices and frankly, most of the advising voices are not interested in a woman reflecting God's grace. This idea here is so foreign to a godless world, but it is obviously important to God's Word and God's world. A wife is to submit to her husband. Now this point is stressed not only here, but also in other Pauline epistles—Ephesians 5:21-24; Colossians 3:18.

Now the word "subject" is a military term that refers to structure and rank of command. This word is not one that stresses the idea that a woman is inferior to her husband; but it does stress the fact that she is subordinate in rank to her husband.

In other words, God has established a rank structure in the relationship and a woman is to willingly place herself in subjection to the rank of her own husband. She is to recognize that in the home she is second in command. The participle "subject" is middle voice meaning this is to be a willing subjection which a wife does, in and of herself, like Jesus did to God the Father.

There is nothing worse than to see some big-mouthed woman who leads her husband around by the nose. Now it may be that the husband has allowed her to do it. I have known of some men who are so wimpy that if you asked them to go for a cup of coffee, they would have to get their wife's permission.

But that kind of woman does not reflect God's grace in any way, shape or form. Shame on women who don't promote the idea that men are to be men.

According to the Word of God, a wife is to esteem her husband as a leader. He is the commander in charge. Well, you say I don't see too many women who think like this or do this in these times. That is exactly the point.

When a woman does manifest these character traits she stands out as a tremendous display of the grace and power of God.

Now suppose you are a woman and you say I am not going to do that. I am not going to go to work on those traits in my life. If you think for one moment that I am going to let some man minister tell me this is what I should do, you can just forget it. Actually, I am not supposed to be the one telling you that; the older women are supposed to be telling you that.

Actually I will forget it, but God won't. **You see at the end of verse 5 the woman who refuses to operate like this “dishonors the word of God.”**

These aren't my words. These are the words of the living God who cannot lie. Go ahead and reject this. Get mad at this. Argue with this. Throw some temper tantrum over this. But know this, there will be four results:

Result #1 - The woman who refuses to develop in these traits will not reflect God's grace.

Result #2 - The woman who refuses to develop in these traits dishonors and blasphemes God's Word.

Result #3 - The woman who refuses to develop these traits will miss the joy of life.

Result #4 - The woman who refuses to develop these traits will face God and lose.