

Palmetto Baptist Church – May 9, 2021

The Art of Mothering – Titus 2:1-15

A joyous occasion for some... but a difficult time for others:

- Unable to have children (Christianity Today: “The Calling of the Infertile Who Hope: Why the church needs the testimony of marriages without offspring.” By Matthew Lee Anderson.)¹... Opening Illustration about the couple in the animated movie “UP.”
 - Carl and Ellie growing up together. Falling in love. Making a book of adventures. Inability to have children. The death of Ellie. The introduction of RUSSEL.
 - The adventures of life...
 - The difficulties of life...
 - The unseen blessings in life...
 - Finding renewed purpose in life...

Inside the Text:

I. The adventures of life.

- The Letter of Paul to Titus

Ordain elders... (1:5-16)

Build up the church... (2:1-3:11)

Remember me... (3:12-15)

II. The difficulties of life. (1:10-16; 2:1, 15; 3:10-11)

- A. Confront false teachers. (1:10-16)
 - They must be silenced. (11)
 - Rebuke them sharply. (13)
- B. Teach sound doctrine accurately. (2:1)
 - But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.
- C. Teach sound doctrine passionately. (2:15)
 - Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.
- D. Separate from divisive people. (3:10-11)
 - ¹⁰As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, ¹¹knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

III. The unseen blessings in life. (2:2-10)

- A. *Encourage older men to practice wisdom and discretion. (2)*
 - *Older men should be (nēphalious) **sober-minded**: level-headed / restrained,*
 - *(semnous) **dignified**: worthy of respect,*
 - *(sōphronas) **self-controlled**: prudent, moderate or sensible,*
 - *(hygiainō) **sound**: healthy in their exercise of faith, love, and (hpomonē) steadfastness or endurance... one who is able to bear up under difficult circumstances.*

Deliberately jump over verses 3-5 and come back to this section...

¹ <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2017/may/why-church-needs-infertile-couple.html>

Technically, verses 2-10 is divided into 3 sections ([1]Older men, older women, younger women... purpose statement vs. 5; [2]younger men... purpose statement vs. 8; [3] masters to slaves... purpose statement vs. 10)

- B. Urge younger men to lead their families by example and with instruction. (6-8)
- (neōterous) **younger men**: fresh, new, young
 - (parakalei) **URGE**: to encourage, call to one's side, by verbal or non-verbal means
 - (sōphronein) **self-controlled**: prudent, moderate or sensible (same as in verse 2 for older men and in verse 5 to younger women)
 - (parechomenos) **show yourself in all respects to be**: present or offer up one's self over a duration of time
 - (typon) **model**: copy, example
 - (kalōn) **good**: handsome, praiseworthy
 - (ergon) **works**: deed; workmanship
 - (didaskalia) **in your teaching**: instruction (implies that you as a young man are responsible to lead your home in the tutelage of God's Word!)
 - **Show** (aphthorian) **integrity**: sincerity
 - **Show** (semnotēta) **dignity**: seriousness, befitting behavior
 - **Show** (hygiē) **sound speech**: healthy, accurate speech that cannot be (akatagnōston) **condemned**: it is above criticism
 - **So that an (enantias) opponent**: one who is hostile toward the faith **may be put to (entrapē) shame**: embarrassed
 - **Having nothing evil to say about us (THE CHURCH: BODY OF BELIEVERS; THOSE WHO PROFESS FAITH IN THE GOSPEL)**
- C. Plead with employees to model the Gospel in the work place. (9-10)
- (hypotassesthai) **submissive**: to become subject to another; to voluntarily give up your rights to follow the leadership of your **own masters in everything**.
 - **Not argumentative**
 - **Not guilty of embezzling funds**
 - **Trustworthy**
 - **So that in everything they may (kosmōsin) adorn**: to make beautiful; trim; useful (trimming the wick of a candle) **the doctrine of God our Savior**. [You say you believe the Bible but you don't practice it at work.]

D. Persuade older women to selflessly engage in making disciples of younger women. (3-4a)

Titus 2:3-5 (Bible Knowledge Commentary):

2:3. Titus was likewise to teach the older women to behave reverently, in a way suitable to sound doctrine. They were not to be slanderers (cf. 1 Tim. 3:11) or addicted to much wine (cf. 1 Tim. 3:8). Both were real possibilities for women whose families were grown and who may have had too much idle time on their hands (cf. 1 Tim. 5:13-14).

- Older women should be (heiroprepeis) **reverent**: devout /pious / religious in their (katastēmati) behavior or demeanor,
- NOT (diabolous) **slanderers**: devilish,
- NOT (dedoulōmenas) **slaves**: enslaved; allow something to gain control over you and cause the person to be subject to the master's desires to much wine

Titus was to encourage these older women to develop a ministry of teaching younger women what is good. Younger women with children were to keep their primary focus at home (see Titus 2:4–5), but the older women would do well to reach outside their homes and share what they had learned with those who would profit from it most.

- (kalodidaskalos) **teach**: teacher of what is good
- (sōphronizōsin) **train**: encourage, advise, urge the (neas) **young**: fresh, new mothers

E. Inspire younger women make their home a haven. (4b-5)

Titus 2:3–5 (Bible Knowledge Commentary):

Younger women with children were to keep their primary focus at home (see Titus 2:4–5), but the older women would do well to reach outside their homes and share what they had learned with those who would profit from it most. Paul specified here what he meant by his general reference to “what is good” in verse 3.

Older women could help the younger women in at least seven areas, a list that no doubt represents the apostle’s understanding of a young wife and mother’s proper priorities. This list emphasizes, in the original, first what young wives and mothers are to be, and then only secondarily what they are to do.

They are to be (1) lovers of their husbands; (2) lovers of their children; (3) self-controlled (cf. 1:8; 2:2); (4) pure; (5) busy at home, that is “domestic” (oikourgous, lit., “working at home”); (6) kind (agathas, “good”); and (7) subject to their husbands.

- (philandrous) **love**: have affection-love (warmth, friendliness, care, regard) for their husbands and children
- (sōphronas) **self-controlled**: prudent, moderate or sensible (same as in verse 2 for older men)
- (hagnas) **pure**: holy, without moral defect or blemish
- (oikourgous) **working at home**: busy at home, carrying out household duties; a homemaker
- (agathas) **kind**: useful, to benefit or build up those around you
- (hypotassomenas) **submissive**: to become subject to another; to voluntarily give up your rights to follow the leadership of your own husband.

Titus 2:3–5 (Bible Knowledge Commentary):

By manifesting these qualities, Paul wrote, young Christian wives and mothers would earn the respect of outsiders and thereby prevent God’s Word from being maligned. Today, though the opposite is often true, Christian wives and mothers can still be sure that the Lord will honor those who value what He values, and that He will ultimately vindicate both His Word and those who are faithful to it.

- **So that the word of God may not be** (blasphēmētai) **reviled**: slandered, defamed, blasphemed [You say you believe the Bible but you don’t practice it in your marriage.]

- I. *The adventures of life.*
- II. *The difficulties of life.*
- III. *The unseen blessing in life.*
- III. **Finding renewed purpose in life. (11-14)**

A. The grace of God inspires us. (11)

1. To reflect on Jesus (Titus 3:4-5a) [First advent...the cross...the resurrection...the ascension...]
 - i. Jesus came to make all things new. (Rev. 21:5)
2. To rely on the Holy Spirit. (Titus 3:5b)
 - i. Jesus sent the Spirit to comfort the believer and empower him/her to fulfill the will of God. (John 14:15-17)
3. To relish in the love of God the Father.
 - i. He presented grace to all men, regardless of their merit, background, or status in society [older man, older woman, younger man, younger woman]. (“bringing salvation for all people...”)

B. The grace of God guides us. (12-14) [GPS]

Training: (*paideuouosa*) verb, present, active, participle, singular: to provide instruction for informed and responsible living; with the intent of forming proper habits of behavior

- Same word as found in 2 Tim 3:16 – “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for **training in righteousness...**
1. **To Renounce:** (*arnēsamenoi*) verb, aorist, middle, participle, plural: to refuse, disdain, or deny
 - **Ungodliness:** (*asebeian*) noun, accusative, singular: to live in a manner contrary to proper religious beliefs and practices; deeds that are the product of distorted views of God [TWISTED OR CORRUPT]
 - **Worldly** (*kosmikas*) **passions:** (*epithymias*) noun, accusative, plural: desire, lust, craving; to greatly desire to do or have something [RULED BY YOUR CRAVINGS... THE IMMEDIATE OVER THE PERMANENT] (I John 2:15-15: Lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life)

2. **To live:** (*zēsōmen*) verb, aorist, subjunctive: to conduct oneself, with particular manner specified by the context; the manner in which a person behaves or conducts himself in relationship to other persons and to God
- **With self-control**
 - **self-controlled:** (*sōphronōs*) adverb: to behave in a sensible manner, moderate in one's behavior; to let one's mind guide one's body
 - **With confidence**
 - **Upright** (*dikaiōs*): adverb: pertaining to being right as the result of being justified and deserved [*a type of clam confidence because you understand where your identity lies*]
 - **With conviction**
 - **Godly:** (*eusebōs*) adverb: pertaining to being devoted to a proper expression of religious beliefs; "a devout and God-fearing person together with all his family." (Acts 10:2 – describing Cornelius)

In this present age: (*aiōni*) the system of practices and standards associated with secular society (that is, without reference to any demands or requirements of God) – "world system, world's standards, world"

- Egalitarianism vs. complementarianism
 - The definition of family: same sex couples vs. one man and one woman for one lifetime
 - Reasoning with your toddlers and enforcing "time outs" vs. lovingly disciplining your child with a rod of correction.
 - Social Justice Movement vs. repentance, faith, and dependence
 - Critical Race Theory vs. the theology of image bearing
3. **To wait expectantly:** (*prosdechomenoi*) verb, present, middle or passive: to take up; to welcome; to accept a message for oneself and to act accordingly;

God's common grace is a source of hope for you. (SUNRISE; SNOW FALL; BUDDING FLOWERS AFTER A LONG WINTER)

God's special grace is either a source of comfort or terror for you.

- Terrifying for the unbeliever (2 Thessalonians 2:8)

⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

- Comforting to the believer (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord,^[a] that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The grace of God guides you...

1. **To renounce**
2. **To live**
3. **To wait expectantly**
4. **To work faithfully:** (*ergōn*) deeds, actions, occupation
 - Who are zealous: enthusiastic, loyalist
 - Good works: beautiful, handsome, fine
 - Seen in Titus 3:8 and Ephesians 2:10

Apply the Text:

- **Know what God expects from you.**
 - As an older woman
 - As a younger woman
- **Rest in what God provides to you.**
 - Amazing grace
 - *God's grace is available.*
 - *God's grace is sustainable.*
 - *God's grace is hopeful.*
 - *Victory in your current life.*
 - *Hope for eternal life.*