

The Total Woman: God's Desires for Every 21st Century Woman of Grace Titus 2:3-5

One of the most amazing dimensions of the Christian life is the liberating knowledge that we can know exactly what God expects from us as we live our lives on earth.

God has designed each of us who know and love Him, with gender-specific roles, and responsibilities. And each day we live we can either be obediently pleasing Him, or disobediently displeasing Him. Amazingly, neither obedience nor disobedience changes His steadfast love: it only impacts our eternal rewards (II Cor. 5:10), and status in Heaven (Matthew 25).

God tells us that those who live for Him in obedience, and by their example and ministry influence others to follow Him—will forever display their rewarded life by shining like the stars (Daniel 12); and sadly, others who don't obediently invest their lives on earth—suffer loss (I Cor. 3). Pleasing God and receiving His eternal rewards all comes down to some:

Simple Choices

As we open to Titus 2 this morning we see a simple, easy to comprehend list of words, expressing clearly what God expects from Christ's Church. This list is the only complete set of life choices that God desires and has written down for every man, woman, and child in the church.

Many other passages give general teachings for all, or specific teachings for some. But here Paul gives to the church God's complete set of desires for every believer.

- **Choose to live according to God's desires** = shine forever reflecting His glorious rewards.
- **Choose to live for self, and disregard God's specific desires for our lives on earth** = suffer loss and not reflect forever His glorious rewards.

God shares this curriculum as one that any believer can accomplish—all you need is to love and follow the Lord, ask for His grace to empower you; and you can start down the Titus 2 track.

This morning, and in the weeks ahead: God is asking each of us to check whether we are living the way He desires us to live.

He wants us to be sure our choices directed towards His desires for us. If we are willing Jesus Christ wants our life to become a pattern of grace that can be used to mentor, encourage, coach, tutor, teach, train and guide another's life towards Him.

That is:

The Pathway of His Desires for Us

There is nothing greater in life than to obey God!

As we stand with our Bibles opened to Titus 2:1-8, listen to the very voice of God speaking not to a select few, but to every man, woman, and child here today:

*¹ But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: ² that **the older men** be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;*

*³ **the older women** likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— ⁴ that they admonish*

***the young women** to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.*

*⁶ Likewise, exhort **the young men** to be sober-minded, ⁷ in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, ⁸ sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you."*

Pray

When God set the curriculum for His Church, thus is what He chose to be taught.

In simple words that everyone alive in the First Century church could comprehend, Paul wrote to Titus. The early believers of Crete not only understood, but they had a picture of this quality burned into their mind from the Roman culture alive and moving all around them.

Note with me the four groupings that make this passage touch every person in Christ's church. If you have never noted these in your Bible, you may even want to circle these four categories of believers as I emphasize them.

- In Titus 2:1-2 God lays down ***six vital qualities He wants to see in godly OLDER MEN*** in the faith to model by their lives.
- In Titus 2:3-4 God has actually laid down ***five strong characteristics He wants to grow in the lives of OLDER WOMAN*** as role models.
- In Titus 2:4-5 God describes the ***seven clear pursuits He wants to plant into the heart of each YOUNGER WOMAN*** needs to learn, that have already been mastered by their "older women in the faith" role models.
- In Titus 2:6-8 God finally sets down ***six non-negotiable character qualities that should be embraced by every YOUNG MAN*** who wishes to be godly and useful for Christ's church.

This morning we begin a twelve week journey. One week on each of these words that God chose for every woman who will hear His voice.

I can't think of anything more thrilling to know as a young woman (under 30 in the Biblical world), or an older woman (30 and older in the Biblical world), that God has spoken directly to me about who I am in His sight, and because of how He made me, what God expects from me as a daily response reflected by my lifestyle.

Another way of looking at verses 3-5 would be to say that they are:

God's Desires For Every Woman of Grace

Think on what these verses say. Let the immensity of what is on paper in front of you, settle over your mind:

God—the greatest person in all the Universe, the most influential, important, and special thing of all: has laid out His desires, for the personality, goals, priorities, and lifestyle of a woman that is totally His.

God's Word—the perfect, errorless, infallible, changeless, clear, direct, personal communication from the God of the Universe Himself, is before you, held and read by you. And those Words from God: describe the choices, the habits, and the personal agenda that every 21st woman of grace should live for.

In life, with time ceaselessly running by at the speed of 60 minutes per hour, and with only one way to grab and invest that time in an eternal savings account, our study of The Total Woman: God's Desires for Every 21st Century Woman of Grace is vital.

Ladies, young and old—do you know what God desires to become your daily choices, habits, and plans?

God has Five Desires For Every Mature Woman of Grace

These five qualities are to become the life-priorities for older women of grace:

v. 3 "...the **older women** likewise, that they be":

1. "Reverent in behavior": God is looking for godly, mature women who will **Live Holy in an Unholy World.**

The first place God wants us to be is consecrated, a living sacrifice, crucified with Christ, surrendered, and yielded, totally His. That's God's desire for you, is that what you are asking Him to do in your life?

2. "Not slanderers": God is looking for godly, mature women who will **Speak Gracefully in a Graceless World;**

God wants to harness the tongue of every woman, He wants no surrender of this most powerful tool. Women of grace have their words used by God for His glory.

3. "not given to much wine": God is looking for godly, mature women who will **Discipline (their) Appetites in an Undisciplined World;**

Nothing is more important, and no priority is higher than God.

4. "teachers of good things"— v. 4: God is looking for godly, mature women who will **Model Godliness in an Ungodly World;**

She lives the walk, teaching by action even before words.

5. "That they admonish": God is looking for godly, mature women who will make it a life long goal to be personally **Investing in others in a Detached World.**

The core value of nurture never ends, she lives to see Christ growing in those her life can touch.

God has a Seven Desires For Every Young Woman of Grace

Paul then asks Titus to address the younger ladies in the congregations. The younger women were to be pointed down a pathway that would lead to them becoming the

godly, older women of great influence in Christ's church. To be that woman of influence, these were the seven characteristics God was looking for on your spiritual resume, Paul asks Titus to explain.

*v. 4b the **young women:***

1. "to love their husbands": The most powerful tool in God's hands for a watching world is a band of godly wives who live out in their marriages, Christ's **Self-sacrificing Love in a Selfish World;**

She goes against the tide, and dies to selfishness, self-centeredness, and self-indulgence so that those around her see the love of God through self-sacrificing life.

2. "to love their children", v. 5: Then these women continue as mothers who demonstrate Christ's **Nurturing Love in a Loveless World;**

Jesus chose the 12 that they might spend time with Him; and she wants to spend time with those God has given her, and that becomes her choice.

3. "to be discreet": The younger women who are in tune with the Lord also are **Focusing on God in a Foolish World;**

While everyone else is distracted and amused, she cultivates a deep and transforming focus upon God through His Word, known and obeyed.

4. "chaste": They seek to be **Pursuing Modesty in an Immodest World;**

She never chooses to display her beauty in a way that could displease God.

5. "homemakers": And, knowing the role God has given to them, they seek His well done good and faithful servants by **Pursuing Homemaking in a Hostile World;**

She transforms even the most menial household duty into an offering of worshipful obedience to God.

6. "good": And all through life they are **Pursuing Kindness in a Harsh World;**

God is good, the fruit of the Spirit is goodness, and she is fixed upon the law of kindness as in Proverbs 31 to be upon all she does.

7. "Obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed": And finally, in step with the Spirit, and energized by grace they are **Pursuing Submission in a Rebellious World.**

She is liberated by lining up and living out her gender-specific role that God has chosen for her, and she rejoices in doing His will.

Titus Two is the Pattern God Gave

If you want to be vital in Christ's church, useful in God's Kingdom, rewarded at Christ's Bema Seat Judgment these verses are your marching orders. There is no clearer pattern for a godly woman in all of God's Word than the twelve character qualities recorded in these verses. This is what God desires, explains, and expects from obedient and godly women.

- If you are looking for a passage to study in depth that can change your life—here it is.
- If you want a special passage to memorize and meditate upon that can transform your thinking and life's direction—here it is.
- And, if you want to go through life confident that you are doing exactly what God wants you to do each day—here it is.

The Results of Titus 2 Women in Ministry

Titus 2 women encourage a grateful army of ***husbands who feel deeply loved by their wives.***

- What was the first thing that the Holy Spirit chose to have taught to the young married women believers? LOVE THEIR HUSBANDS.
- Can you imagine what a deep and lasting impact upon this local body of Christ's church to have men coming home to a wife who is earnestly being taught how to love her own husband?
- Such love is a powerful testimony in a culture where women are being pressed into being worldly, self-seeking, independent, and do-their-own-thing women.
- If nothing else, every family at TBC would be enriched if every younger woman was taught in a practical, simple, and personal way how to love her own husband.

Titus 2 women train younger women in one of the hardest and yet most rewarding investments in life—***children who feel deeply loved by their mothers.***

- The Holy Spirit emphasizes very clearly that the key to raising children is LOVING them.
- Titus 2 women train, teach, model, and mentor moms into the deepening of love for their children that can be felt.
- One of the most common complaints of the 21st century child is that they don't feel loved. Most mothers love their children, but many children are not feeling that love.
- Titus 2 women are coaches that tutor and mentor young moms in ways to show love that can be felt.

Titus 2 women train younger women to be ***discreet, sensible, and wise in the decisions and choices they make.***

- What a rich resource for new marriages and families to have a young woman walked through those days side-by-side with a godly, Spirit-filled woman who will regularly, personally, individually mentor, mother, coach, and cheer on younger women in skillfully living as a wife, mother, and woman of God on a day to day basis.
- Titus 2 women weren't primarily found in classrooms—they were in the kitchen with a younger woman, in the dining room, in the nursery, at the grocery store.
- Titus 2 women were hands-on tutors nurturing younger women in the laboratory of life--walking through life together praying, sharing, learning, and loving.

Titus 2 women train younger women in the ***holiness and purity that pleases God and unleashes the power of the Spirit.***

- The training that a Titus 2 older woman gives is a seven-part package, that is immensely practical not theoretical. Modesty, purity, chaste behavior must be learned, modeled, and practiced.
- God directed the power of godly, Spirit-filled women of Biblical maturity sitting over a cup of tea discussing with younger women what pleased God in dress, in behavior, conduct, and so on.
- Christ's church needed younger women who learned Biblical modesty through a godly older woman lovingly applying God's Word to daily life.

Titus 2 older women teach ***younger women the centrality in God's plan of a woman's priority being her home.***

- Homemaking is a learned art and so many women never have the hands on training that is needed.
- Life is so full that our culture has moved away from homemaking and few young women get mentored in the godly, Biblical art of home making.
- God placed the first two priorities on the Titus 2 list as loving husbands and loving children. Younger women are called to see the priority of their homes; and the only way they can learn that priority is by a long-term relationship with a godly woman that has mastered that art.

Following God's Plan

The standard we are to follow, and for which we will answer to Him is the clear list of character-choices laid down in God's Word.

As we close this morning—what does God see you really are on the inside? Does He see a longing on your part to be all that He wants you to be? Please bow your heads with me.

Have you chosen to surrender to God's plan written in His Word before us today?

As I read these 12 qualities this morning, if you have already surrendered to His revealed will for your life in Titus 2, please stand quietly with heads bowed.

If you have never yet done so, and want to surrender today to His will for your life, please also stand quietly with your head bowed before Him. This is:

God's Desires For Every Woman of Grace

These five qualities are to become the life-priorities for grace-energized women.

Reverent in Behavior: Living holy in an unholy world

Not Slanderers: Speaking gracefully in a graceless world

Not Given to Much Wine: Disciplining appetites in an undisciplined world

Teachers of Good Things: Modeling Godliness in an ungodly world

Admonish: Investing in others in a detached world

These seven qualities are to become the life-priorities for grace-energized young women.

Love Their Husbands: Self-sacrificing love in a selfish world

Love Their Children: Nurturing love in a loveless world

Discreet: Focusing on God in a foolish world

Chaste: Pursuing modesty in an immodest world

Homemakers: Pursuing homemaking in a hostile world

Good: Pursuing kindness in a harsh world

Obedient to their Husbands: Pursuing submission in a rebellious world

With surrendered hearts and lives before our Great God this morning, whisper to Him in your heart that you want to become the person He wants you to be starting TODAY! Now everyone join us in standing before the Lord. Think on what these verses say. Let the immensity of what is on paper in front of you, settle over your mind:

God—the greatest person in all the Universe, the most influential, important, and special thing of all: has laid out His desires, for the personality, goals, priorities, and lifestyle of a woman that is totally His.

God's Word—the perfect, errorless, infallible, changeless, clear, direct, personal communication from the God of the Universe Himself, is before you, held and read by you. And those Words from God: describe the choices, the habits, and the personal agenda that every 21st woman of grace should live for.

Ladies, young and old—will God's desires become your daily choices, habits, and plans?

Pray