

Church Life: Old and Younger Women, Part 2 (Titus 2:5)

Older women should be teaching what is good and encouraging younger women to love their husbands and their children (v.3-4). In light of the growing pressures of the culture, many young women in Crete were compromising their duties at home.

Older women must encourage young women with a godly vantage point to have:

Self-control: Young Cretan women were not sensible. This is required of elders (1:8), old men (2:2), old women (2:3), young women (2:5) and young men (2:6). Literally: "to have a saved mind." Right thinking will lead to right action.

A sensible woman has command of her mind (with the help of God) and controls what she thinks about. She does not allow circumstances, immorality, or the foolishness of others to distract her attention. She knows her priorities and is devoted to them.

Purity: some translations render this Greek word "chaste." She has a purity of mind and heart. She has marital fidelity and is committed to her husband.

1. God wants young women to know that He values them

From Creation, God created male and female equal in worth and dignity (Genesis 1: 26-30). God gave both Adam and Eve the jurisdiction to act as vassals here on earth.

After the Fall, the wickedness of man grew, and women were exploited. Following the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11), cultures were formed with different languages and customs. With that, came again man's rejection of God in favor of paganism.

The nation of Israel spent 430 years in Egypt and was exposed to pagan culture. As Moses leads Israel out of Egypt, he is given the Law, which protects women who were being mistreated in the nations that inhabited the Promised Land where they were to live.

God intervened at Mount Sinai to protect the nation of Israel from the outside (pagan nations) as well as the inside (from wicked men). The Law was better, but not the best. The Law elevated the status of women compared to the other pagan nations but was never intended to be permanent. It was a shadow of the substance (Hebrews 10:1). Women are equal in worth as image-bearers but have different functions.

Paganism has always hated and devalued women. You cannot truly love anyone if you reject the Word of God.

2. God wants young women to have a godly perspective regarding cultural pressures

For many feminists, a woman being “home” is an archaic expression of oppression and bigotry. Traditional marriage dynamics for many are not relevant today because a woman, with these new opportunities (career, sports, job, education, etc.) can now do what men can do; to revert backwards is to slow the “progress” for women.

Older women are to encourage and give a godly perspective (unlike the culture) on what motherhood is and what God demands from a godly young woman.

3. God wants young women to be sensible about home-making and their priorities

Is this a command for young women with children today to be a “home-worker”? No. While it is not commanded, it is relevant and the most profitable investment for most young families.

Parents with young children are commanded by God to raise them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord and to teach them continually (Deuteronomy 6:7; Ephesians 6:4).

While public and private school can help in the formation of a child, there is no program or schooling that can compete with a godly, dedicated mother committed to raising her own children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

While there is no guarantee that your child will be saved, you can be comforted that your teachings will never depart from them (Proverbs 22:6)

You may have to sacrifice certain cultural comforts to make home-working a priority but be encouraged; that sacrifice does not imply loss. Instead, the investment a godly mother makes in her children through home-making is an eternal, profitable commitment.

Married women have been entrepreneurs (Proverbs 31:16-18) and have “worked,” but the priorities of godly women must be the physical, emotional, and spiritual comfort of their family (husband and children). Work, if possible, must never take precedence over the spiritual formation of their family.

What do you want for your family and what do you want for your young children? What are you willing to give up and what are you willing to pursue to make that happen? What are the spiritual components to your decision?

Your priorities will determine your pursuit. Your children will develop a worldview about the origin and meaning of life, morality, and destiny. Someone will play a primary role in that formation. Will it be you?