

“Older women are ... to encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, SO THAT the Word of God will not be dishonored” (Titus 2.4-5).

In our day, we desperately need *Titus 2* women...

- We need the **BIBLE** as our Guide. [our *map*]
 - We need the **OLDER** as our Mentors. [our *mentors*]
 - We need the **SPIRIT** as our Enabler. [our *ability*]
 - We need the **GOSPEL** as our Motivation. [our *motivation*]
-
- We desperately need the **Older Women** to help, to actively serve, to diligently disciple the **young women**.
Titus 2:4 — so that [the older women] may encourage/teach/urge —
-
- Paul teaches us that the younger woman’s first and foremost priority is in the **home** (to the husband, children, domestic duties & Godly conduct).

The HOME is the place where the mother virtually impacts every member of society – as children begin to learn values, relational skills, compassion, honesty, respect for authority, and above all, the application of biblical truth to daily life (Pastor Steven Davey)

THESIS — These verses address *Biblical Womanhood*. What is God’s call for all young women? It’s listed in 7 virtues here.

1. Pursue the Delight of Loving Your Husband
2. Enjoy the blessing of loving your children
3. Prioritize the Safety of Self Control
4. Cherish the Pleasure of Sexual Purity
5. Pursue the Honor of Working at Home
6. Anticipate the Rewards of Kindness
7. Prize the beauty of biblical submission

I. PURSUE THE DELIGHT OF LOVING YOUR HUSBAND (4)

II. ENJOY THE BLESSING OF LOVING YOUR CHILDREN (4b)

III. PRIORITIZE THE SAFETY OF SELF-CONTROL (5a)**IV. CHERISH THE PLEASURE OF SEXUAL PURITY (5b)**

Some practical helps for women to be “pure” and “modest” in their clothing/dress:

1. Clothing is to be modest (1 Tim 2.9-10)
2. Clothes can be beautiful in materials, style or color.
3. My clothes can reflect quality workmanship
4. I should not be overly concerned or consumed with worry about my clothes (Matt 6)
5. I should select my clothing with discretion & with deliberate caution!
“A woman who lacks discernment/purity is like a gold ring in a pig’s nose” (Prov 11.22)
6. My clothing should be feminine (and others should discern I’m a woman; cf. Deut 22.5)
7. Character is ALWAYS emphasized over clothing (1 Pet 3.3-4)
8. The clothes I wear should NOT be a stumbling block or present a temptation to others; especially to men (1 Cor 10.32)
9. I am a steward of the resources God has given to me.
10. I should honor and glorify God even in the way I dress (1 Cor 10:31)
11. I am called to be sexually pure & sexually exclusive in my marriage with my husband (1 Cor 7:3-5)
12. I am IN the world but not OF the world (Rom 12:1-2).

Some principles for a Godly wife to pursue purity with her husband (and with no one else!)

1. be attractive (see the entire Song of Solomon); not physically/externally alone, but the beauty of a gentle & quiet spirit.
2. be available (1 Cor 7.3-5); belong entirely and unreservedly to each other.
3. be anticipatory (long for sexual intimacy with the husband; cf. Song of Songs 5:10-16)

V. PURSUE THE HONOR OF WORKING AT HOME (5c)

The man is oriented *to the task* to work; the woman is oriented *to him* to help. (Doug Wilson)

the home mother and godly woman is **GRACIOUS**:

- am I teachable (Prov 1.7)
- am I organized (Prov 31.27)
- am I flexible (Prov 19.21)
- am I devoted (Phil 2.3)
- am I mature (1 Tim 6.6)
- am I intentional (Prov 22.6)
- am I gracious (Prov 11.16)

VI. ANTICIPATE THE REWARDS OF KINDNESS (5d)

The reputation for goodness *begins in the home*. At the heart of our commission as women to do good is in the well being of our family members. Our husbands and children should be the primary beneficiaries of our good works (Carolyn Mahaney).

VII. PRIZE THE BEAUTY OF BIBLICAL SUBMISSION (5e)

“Your Christian character becomes evident each and every time you choose from your heart to bend, to yield, to honor, to submit to your husband. Submission to your husband is one way that you, as a woman, after God’s own heart, honor God. So won’t you transfer the idea of submission from the human realm into the heavenly? Look full into God’s wonderful face and then submit to your husband as unto the Lord. And what if you have no husband? God gives each of us, His children, a multitude of opportunities every day to develop a heart that honors people. Out of honor for God, you can give preference to other people in your life (Rom 12.10). Your dedication to honoring people honors God and brings beauty to your life that reflects your heart after God” (Lisa Tatlock).

*What’s the **purpose/reason** for all this?* (v.5b)

How can you do this? Some very practical suggestions for the older to come alongside of the younger...

1. picnic in the park
2. go out for ice cream
3. make cookies together
4. go for a walk in the park together
5. take a trip to the Zoo
6. let the kids run & play at a playground
7. a weekly phone call conversation
8. early morning coffee get together
9. go over and fold laundry together

Beware! Of a few ditches!

1. Self-righteousness! — *I’ve got this. I’m doing it. It doesn’t apply to me. I’m excluded from these instructions.*
2. Giving up! — *I can’t do this; I can’t measure up. I could never do this.*

Elizabeth Elliott comments on this:

- It is doubtful that the Apostle Paul had in mind Bible classes or seminars or books when he spoke of teaching younger women. He meant the simple things, the everyday example, the willingness to take time from one’s own concerns to pray with the anxious mother, to walk with her the way of the cross—with its tremendous demands of patience, selflessness, lovingkindness—and to show her, in the ordinariness of Monday through Saturday, how to keep a quiet heart.... Through such an example, one young woman—single or married, Christian or not—may glimpse the mystery of charity and the glory of womanhood.
 - To teach biblical womanhood is not shallow or frivolous. Titus 2 is not the Pinterest passage of Scripture. It is “the way of the cross.” It is a call to Christian women to help other Christian women glimpse “the mystery of charity and the glory of womanhood.”
 - Titus 2 calls women to a deep and profound understanding of the gospel that issues forth in a genuine and sacrificial love of family and home, a counter-cultural purity and self-control that is only possible through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Can you conceive of anything that sets forth the beauty of the gospel jewel more brilliantly than the gospel behavior of those who have received it? Consider the loveliness of a woman who passionately adores her husband, who tenderly cherishes her children, who creates a warm and peaceful home, who exemplifies purity, self control, and kindness in her character and who gladly submits to her husband’s leadership, for all the days God grants her life. I dare say there are few things that display the gospel jewel with greater elegance. And **THIS IS TRUE FEMININE APPEAL AND BIBLICAL FEMININITY!** (Carolyn Mahaney)

THE CHURCH’S ONE FOUNDATION

The church’s one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the Word:
from heav’n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

The church shall never perish!
Her dear Lord to defend,
to guide, sustain, and cherish,
is with her to the end;
though there be those that hate her,
and false sons in her pale,
against both foe and traitor
she ever shall prevail.

Yet she on earth hath union
with the God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Elect from ev’ry nation,
yet one o’er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev’ry grace endued.

’Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.