

Sunday, August 29, 2010—Titus: The Practice of Grace—Titus 2:4-5a: That the Word of God be not Blasphemed

### **Introduction/Review**

- Last Sunday we began looking at how Paul address the believer’s life and conduct as we moved into the Titus Two.
- First, we saw in verse one, There are certain actions, behaviors, and life styles that become or fit with sound doctrine. While there are others that are unsuitable. Action must flow from belief and belief of the truth will produce actions that become sound doctrine.
  - Ephesians 5:1-4
  - I Timothy 2:9-10
- Second, we studied Paul’s instructions to the “aged men” in verse two.
- Third, we looked Paul’s instructions to the “aged women” in verse three. We saw that everything Paul says to “aged men” applies also to the “aged women.” In addition, we noted three additional admonitions Paul gives to the older women: 1) not false accusers, 2) not given to much wine, 3) teachers of good things.
- God has ordained the aged women to be teachers within the local church. The role of the aged women is to teach the younger women what it means to be a woman of God, i.e. how the doctrines of grace apply to the unique challenges of being a wife and mother.
- This morning we are going to look at what the “aged women” are supposed to be teaching the “younger women.” Therefore by default we will also be looking at the attitudes, behaviors, and actions that are supposed to be indicative of the “younger women.”
- Before we study through verses 4 and 5 I need to ask to remember that we are reading God’s word not studying my own private thoughts and opinions.

### **Titus 2:4**

- ***“That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,”***
- The first thing we need to notice about verse 4 is that those who are teaching the “younger women” are the “aged women” from verse 3. As such the “aged women” are supposed to be teaching some very specific things.
- *Sober*—as we have seen already throughout our series of studies in Titus, the word “Sober” has a couple of different meanings. In this case it is not referring to the excessive use of alcohol.

Rather it carries the following meanings: restore one to his senses, 2) to moderate, control, curb, disciple, 3) to hold one to his duty, 4) to admonish, to exhort earnestly (*Strong's Concordance*).

- In this case “sober” means to do one’s duty, be moderate, self-controlled, thoughtful, and learn to make wise decisions and judgments.
- This means that the “aged women” have the responsibility to teach the fundamentals of the faith to young women in order to establish them in the faith. It is only through sound Bible teaching that one is able to be sound or sober in thinking.
- It is extremely important that older women recognize that God has committed unto them the ministry of teaching the Word of God to those who rock the cradle and train the future rulers of this world.
- *To Love Their Husbands*—don’t get confused by the plural tense here. The idea is that each young wife is to love her respective husband. Literally the instruction here is for young women to be “husband lovers.”
- It is interesting to note that this is the only time in the New Testament that wives are specifically told to love their husbands. In contrast, five times husbands are told to love their wives.
  - Ephesians 5:25, 28, 33
  - Colossians 3:19
- In verse 5 Paul tells the “young women” to be obedient unto their own husbands. What does Paul mean here in verse 4? After much study and reflection I believe Paul speaking about the physical aspect of the marriage relationship.
- Ephesians 5:28-29, 31—the result of the leaving and joining together is one flesh.
- I Corinthians 7:1-9—every man knows that his wife’s disinterest in him sexually is a reflection of her heart towards him.
- Hebrews 13:4—God intended sex to be enjoyed between a man and his wife (Proverbs 30:18-19).
- *To Love Their Children*—the compound Greek word here literally means “children lovers.” As a result of sin, disobedience to God, self-love often replaces the divinely instilled child-love; therefore, young mothers must be told to love their children.
  - Proverbs 22:6—the woman who invests herself in a child’s life will be the one whom the child loves and the one with whom he will bond when he is older.
  - III John 1:4

### **Titus 1:5**

- ***“To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”***
- *Discreet*—the Greek word translated “discreet” herein verse 5 is the same word translated temperate in verse 2. It means 1) of a sound mind, sane, in one's senses 2) curbing one's desires and impulses, self-controlled, temperate (*Strong's Concordance*).
  - Genesis 41:33, 39
  - Proverbs 11:22—Prudence, or knowledge and prudence; that discernment which enables a person to judge critically of what is correct and proper, united with caution; nice discernment and judgment, directed by circumspection, and primarily regarding one's own conduct (*Webster's 1828*).
- *Chaste*—the “aged women” are to teach the “younger women” to be chaste or pure in thought word, and act modes and honorable in all things.
- According to *Webster's 1828 Dictionary* the word chaste means: Pure from all unlawful commerce of sexes. Applied to persons before marriage, it signifies pure from all sexual commerce, undefiled; applied to married persons, true to the marriage bed.
- There are three areas in particular in which young women are to be chaste or pure in according to Paul.
  - Maintain sexual purity before marriage—II Corinthians 11:2
  - Maintain sexual purity with their husband—I Peter 3:1-2
  - Maintain purity in terms of standards of dress—I Timothy 2:9-10, I Peter 3:3-4
- Deuteronomy 22:5—according to the Bible, the common garment for a man was a skirt or cloak. Seventeen times the Bible speaks of men (Boaz, King Saul, Aaron) wearing skirts. Modesty is the principal rule for female dress.
- *Keepers At Home*—Keepers = being on guard, watching, caretaking. Home = seat of domestic life. Taken together, “keepers at home” means caring for the house, working at home, a) the (watch or) keeper of the house, b) keeping at home and taking care of household affairs, c) a domestic (*Strong's Concordance*)
- I Timothy 5:14—the primary focus of the “younger women” is to guide their household, i.e. working at home taking care of the physical, spiritual, and psychological needs of their children.
- Proverbs 31:11-18—the virtuous woman works hard to take care of her family.
- Does this mean that it is wrong for women to have careers or work outside of the home? Why would a woman need to do this? Child out of wedlock, Divorce, Widowed.

- I Timothy 6:8—a married couple particularly with small children needs to evaluate why is the wife working. Is it to make ends meet or simply to maintain a standard of living that is beyond what is necessary.
- Under grace a women is free to work outside of the home. However, by choosing to do so they are greatly complicating their lives.
- Genesis 2:15—women are to keep, guard, and protect their homes the same way Adam did the Garden of Eden. A young mother's place is in the home, keeping it, guarding it, watching over those entrusted to her.