

“Duties for Young Women”
Titus 2:4-5
(Preached at Trinity, March 19, 2023)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we enter chapter 2 Paul is speaking to Titus personally and particularly.
Titus 2:1 NAU - "But as for you,"
The work of Titus delivered a great contrast to the false teachers plaguing churches throughout Crete. Instead of the false doctrine that the false teachers were promoting, Titus was to deliver sound doctrine. This is a universal charge to the church. Sound doctrine was not the focus of Titus and the other elders alone. Sound doctrine is church business. This is Christian business. Sound doctrine must always be translated into sound behavior. Doctrine and practice must never be separated. True doctrine will always instruct a person unto godliness.
 2. Paul breaks it down among the various groups in the church.
Older men, older women, younger women, younger men, and bondservants
Last week we began looking at **Verses 3-5**. Paul gives God's standard for women. These are the virtues that God sees as lovely in a woman. They are radically different from today's standard. Few believe these things today. But they are God's standard, and it is a high standard. These virtues should be the goal of every Christian woman.
 3. Paul began by directing our attention upon the older women in the church.
Titus 2:3 NAU - "Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good"
She is well fed from God's Word. She is a teacher of "good things"
Paul lists this good instruction that the older women must pass on to the younger women.
 - A. That they might love and respect their husbands
Verse 4 – “To love their husbands”
Verse 5 – “to be subject to their own husbands”
 - B. That they might manage their home well
Verse 4 – “To love their children”
Verse 5 – “workers at home”
 - C. That they might carefully guard their lives
Verse 5 – “sensible, pure”
- I. To love and respect her husband
 - A. True love is the denying of yourself for the sake of others.
 1. The word translated "to love their husbands" is a single word - *φίλανδρος*
This is also true of the word “to love their children” - *φιλότεκνος*
 2. It is an unselfish love. It expresses a tender affection or kindness.
 3. True love is a heart of sacrifice and self-denial.
Paul expressed it in the duty of husbands.
Ephesians 5:25 NAU - "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,"

4. Love for her husband brings her to look to the needs of her husband before her own. Committed devotion.
Martha Peace from her book, *The Excellent Wife* – “God’s will for every Christian wife is that her most important ministry be to her husband. After a wife’s own personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, nothing else should have greater priority. Her husband should be the primary benefactor of his wife’s time and energy, not the recipient of what may be left over at the end of the day. Whether her husband is a faithful Christian man or an unbeliever, God wants every Christian woman to be a godly wife.”¹

B. **Verse 5 – “to be subject to their own husbands”**

1. A Godly wife shows reverence to her husband
Ephesians 5:33 NAU - "Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see *to it* that she respects her husband."
φοβέω – to fear or be in awe of
2. The wife is to recognize and submit to the leadership of her husband
1 Corinthians 11:3 NAU - "But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ."
Ephesians 5:22-24 NAU - "Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body. ²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything."
3. The husband is to provide, protect, and nurture his wife and she is to submit to this headship.
4. This is an unknown standard to the modern world, but this is clearly God's standard.
There is nothing worse than a woman who constantly seeks to usurp the authority of her husband particularly in front of her children.
Lloyd Jones – "A matriarchal society with the woman as the head and center of the home is a denial of the biblical teaching, and is, indeed, a repetition of the old sin of Eve."
5. This is the meaning of Paul’s words in 1 Timothy 2
1 Timothy 2:11-15 NAU - "A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. ¹² But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. ¹³ For it was Adam who was first created, *and* then Eve. ¹⁴ And *it was* not Adam *who* was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. ¹⁵ But *women* will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint."

¹ Martha Peace, *The Excellent Wife*: (Bemidji: Focus Publishing Incorporated, 1995), Page 4.

II. “To be sensible and pure”

A. sensible

1. Paul uses this word four times. (σώφρων) - Once in 1 Timothy and three times in Titus. Twice regarding elders and the other two regard older men and older women.
1 Timothy 3:2 NAU - "An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,"
2. In other words, Christian maturity results in mature thinking, sensible thinking.
 - a. The older women teach this to the younger women.
 - b. We seldom see this among young women today—of duty and responsibility. Marriage is being delayed or abandoned altogether. Greater attention is placed upon career, personal appearance and fashion, material possessions, and having a good time without a serious contemplation of life.
 - c. In contrast Paul described some of the younger widows.
1 Timothy 5:13-14 NAU - "At the same time they also learn *to be* idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper *to mention*.¹⁴ Therefore, I want younger *widows* to get married, bear children, keep house, *and* give the enemy no occasion for reproach;"
3. “Pure” - ἄγνός – The word can also mean “chaste.”
2 Corinthians 11:2 NAU - "For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin."
 Very few young women value their virginity. It is considered an old-fashioned value from the past. Almost none would consider unmarried sexual activity a moral evil, wickedness in the sight of God.
 In 1965 24% of black infants and 3.1% of white infants were out of wedlock. By 1990 it had soared to 64% black and 18% white.
 By 2022 for the first time in history, the majority of all births were out of wedlock.
4. Paul is instructing the older women to encourage purity, to stress the importance of marriage, of caring for the home.

III. “To love her children”

- ### A. Not just a sentimental feeling – though we cannot deny a maternal love. Parents have a natural love for their children.
1. We must always guard against the worship of our children.
 2. There is always the danger of allowing children to diminish our devotion to God. God will never allow rivals to His worship.
Luke 14:26 NAU - "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple."

3. Love for children must always be a love that focuses on pleasing God instead of simply doting over our children. How can my child bring God the greatest glory?
- B. Loving our children means doing what's best for them.
1. Loving our children means not allowing them to be disrespectful or disobedient.
Proverbs 13:24 NAU - "He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently."
 2. The world's standard prohibits spanking – the godly woman will stick with God's standard.
 3. She is interested in teaching and training them to become godly adults. She continually keeps Christ at the center of the family. This means taking your responsibility seriously

III. "Workers at home"

- A. οἰκουργός – devoted to home duties
1. She is Industrious - The home is her domain
 2. οἰκουρός is from two Greek words οἶκος and ἔργον – house, work
 3. A similar expression is used in 1 Timothy 5:14
1 Timothy 5:14 NAU - "Therefore, I want younger *widows* to get married, bear children, keep house, and give the enemy no occasion for reproach;"
- οἰκοδεσποτέω – from οἶκος and δεσπότης – house ruler. The home is her domain.
- B. Though not popular today, God intended for women to stay at home and organize a well-ordered household.
1. This is her God appointed purpose. We are happiest when we live consistently with God's purpose.
 2. This is not to say that it is never permissible for a woman to work outside the home.
There are circumstances where it may be unavoidable – sickness, unavoidable financial difficulty.
A young woman should train herself for such an unforeseen circumstance. But she must always examine her motive.
Is it out of a desire for self-expression?
Is it out of a desire to gain more material things?
Or is it for the wellbeing of the family?
 3. Both husband and wife must strive for the wellbeing of the home
- C. **Proverbs 31** describes the labors of the virtuous woman –
Proverbs 31:27 NAU - "She looks well to the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness."
the home is her domain.

1. This is consistent with this passage
Titus 2:3-5 NAU - "Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, ⁴ so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ *to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.*"
οἰκουργός – οικος, ἔργον
 2. The point is whether she works outside the home or not the home is her domain, her duty, and her responsibility.
If the home does not function well it is her responsibility—and she is her husband's responsibility
- D. There are some important things a single person needs to understand. And older women need to keep these things in mind as well.
1. There is nothing reproachful about being single.
 - a. We would never presume that the life of Christ was somehow less fulfilled because He was single.
 - b. We have to remember that God is the Master of all things, and He orders our lives.
 - c. It is excellent to desire a mate, but it is wrong to desire it above all else.
 - d. Christ must be our first love. Our contentment and joy are always found in Him
 - e. That God has delayed sending us a mate does not mean there is something wrong with us.
 2. Young men and women must never stop the preparation for marriage. This is true also for those who are married.
 - a. We should seek to make ourselves attractive as mates. Some wrongly presume that attention to personal appearance is somehow carnal.
Personal appearance should not be diminished. I'm not saying that all attention is placed upon beauty. I'm saying that all of us should adorn ourselves to the glory of God. We should wear modest, but attractive clothes.
 - b. A Godly person is seeking a Godly mate. If a person is seeking a Godly mate they should seek to adorn themselves in Godliness.
 - c. We should all be students of what it means to be an excellent wife or husband. Single people should seek interaction with married couples.
 - d. It is always good to become proficient in nurturing children whether we are single or married.
 3. Singleness should be seen as a blessing for the season of singleness. It offers unique opportunity and liberty that a married person does not have. Never forget the examples of Paul and of Jesus who chose to remain single in service to God.

1 Corinthians 7:32-34 – “One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; ³³ but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, ³⁴ and *his interests* are divided. And the woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband.”

Conclusion:

1. The purpose in all of this: "so that the word of God will not be dishonored."
Failure in these virtues brings a great reproach to Christianity. Indeed, to Christ Himself.
2. In other words, the infidel will say, "what difference does this Christianity make in her life?"
3. But a virtuous woman is a treasure indeed -
Proverbs 31:10 NAU - "An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels."
4. The world pokes fun at the June Cleavers but are we interested in the world's standard or God's? God looks upon the heart.
Psalm 45:13 – "The king's daughter *is* all glorious within: her clothing *is* of wrought gold."