

“The Importance of the Family”
1 Timothy 5:3-16
(Preached at Trinity, August 15, 2021)

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. In this section Paul has been giving Timothy instructions on the care of widows within the church. The church has an obligation to care for its members – both spiritually and physically.
The early church would have had large numbers of widows so Paul sets some parameters for determining which widows would receive assistance from the church. Paul referred to these widows as “widows indeed.” They would be put upon an official list and used in service to the church.
There were certain questions the church needed to ask.
 1. Does she have a family that could care for her - We have an obligation to provide for those of our immediate family. See verses 4, 8, 16
 2. Has she demonstrated a pattern of godliness – See Verses 5, 9-10
 3. Is she young where remarriage is likely. The church should always promote the importance of the home. See Verses 11-15
2. This week we need to examine this final qualification. The young widows faced particular temptations. Some fell into wanton sin and abandoned the faith. Paul is saying that marriage would help protect the younger widows from falling into sin.
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"
3. This lines up with Paul's words in **Chapter 2**
1 Timothy 2:15 NAU - "But *women* will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint."
An important aspect of Eve's sin was coveting the position of her husband, Adam. The best way for a woman to delivered from falling into this sin is to seek God's purpose for her life. The greatest display of this purpose is found in her care of the home.
4. These things will sound strange in our generation where marriage is considered old fashioned and unnecessary. Where feminists resist any notion of a woman needing a man. Even professing Christians are choosing to cohabit rather than get married. To make matters worse, our generation is redefining the Biblical institution of marriage as being the union of one man and one woman in a lifetime relationship.
5. This morning as we conclude this section dealing with the care of widows I want us to consider the importance of the family. Paul is saying a young widow can avoid the temptations that she would face in her widowhood by getting married. I want us to look at the three elements Paul presents in **Verse 14**
 - I. The Importance of Marriage
 - II. The Importance of Bearing Children
 - III. The Importance of Proper Order in the Home

- I. The Importance of Marriage – “I will that the younger women marry. . .”
- A. From the beginning God created marriage as His design for human beings
1. Creation was a wonderful display of God’s goodness.
 - a. The universe was filled with beauty and excellence. God consistently declared His satisfaction with His creation by benedictions.
Genesis 1:10 NAU - "and God saw that it was good."
We find this repeated in **Verses 12, 18, 21, 25**
 - b. By the time we reach the end of the six-day creation we read:
Genesis 1:31 NAU - "God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good."
 2. But then God gives the first malediction – He saw that something was *not* good. God looked upon the pinnacle of His creation and saw that something was not as good as it ought to be.
Genesis 2:18 NAU - "Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone"
 3. God’s solution was a woman given to Adam in marriage
Genesis 2:22-24 NAU - "The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. ²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." ²⁴ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh."
- B. Marriage is a wonderful gift from God.
1. God designed man incomplete. God designed man to have a partner, a bride. Nothing else would complete him. No other creature. No man. God created man to have a wife. He is incomplete without her, and she is incomplete without him. For their physical, emotional, spiritual, and sexual wellbeing they need each other. God ordered the institution of marriage.
 2. Paul is implying in this passage that it was not good for these young widows to be alone—“I want the younger widows to get married.”
 3. It is tragic today that we are debating this very basic creation ordinance.
 - a. Man may seek to redefine marriage, but this will never change God’s purpose. God created men and women with unique qualities that unique roles and responsibilities. These are best displayed in marriage.
 - b. God has ordained the union of man and woman that together they might be an instrument to display the glory of God. These young widows were wandering aimlessly from house to house because they lacked purpose.
 - c. Eve was called a “helper” not just a companion or even a mate. “Companion” would suggest that the chief purpose of marriage is relational.
The woman was created to help Adam carry out his mandate to subdue the earth maintain it for the glory of God. To display God’s glory together under Adam’s leadership.
Following God’s purpose for her in marriage will prevent this sin of idleness.

- C. Paul said in Chapter 4 that denying God's gift of marriage is a demonic doctrine
1 Timothy 4:1-3 NAU - "But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, ² by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, ³ *men* who forbid marriage *and advocate* abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth."
1. There is nothing wrong if a person chooses to remain single. And there was nothing wrong for these older widows to choose a celibate life in order to commit herself in service to the church.
 2. But we must not deny the importance of God's gift of marriage.
 - a. It is a picture of the relationship of Christ with the church.
Ephesians 5:31-32 NAU - "For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. ³² This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church."
 - b. Marriage is the God ordained means of preventing immorality. Marriage is the only acceptable place for the exercise of human sexuality.
1 Corinthians 7:2 ESV - "But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband."
 - c. Paul is saying the best way for these young widows to avoid being given over to "wanton pleasure" (Verse 6) is to get married.
- II. The Importance of Children – "I want younger *widows* to get married, bear children"
- A. This is God's command to be fruitful and multiply
Genesis 1:28 NAU - "God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth"
Genesis 9:7 NAU - "As for you, be fruitful and multiply; Populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it."
1. God ordained marriage for the procreation of the human race.
 The word matrimony means motherage because it results in virgins becoming mothers - Latin: mater, matris - mother
 2. Having children is an important aspect of marriage.
 Albert Mohler said, "Parenthood is a part of helping to create adults. We grow up by having children. Without that responsibility, we have a generation of perpetual adolescents just growing old..."¹
 3. The Christian women of the early church saw raising children an honor. This was one of the marks of the Godly widow placed on the list—"and if she has brought up children" – Verse 10. This was during a time when marriage held little significance and children were seen as an inconvenience. It was much like our day.

¹ Albert Mohler, *Baptist Press*, (quoted from an article written by Jeff Robinson, December 20, 2005).

William Barclay: "In an age when the marriage bond was very lax, and when men and women changed their partners with bewildering rapidity, children were regarded as a misfortune. The last thing that people wanted was a child. This was the great age of child exposure. When a child was born, he was brought and laid before his father's feet. If the father stooped and lifted the child, that meant that the father accepted the child and was prepared to accept the responsibility for his upbringing. If the father turned and walked away, the child was quite literally thrown out, like an unwanted piece of rubbish. It often happened that such unwanted children were collected by conscienceless and unscrupulous people and raised as *prostitutes, slaves, or gladiators*. In such circumstances it would be a Christian duty to rescue such children from death and worse than death and bring them up in a Christian home."²

4. Paul is implying that children are a great blessing and raising them is a mark of Godliness.

Psalm 127:3-5 NAU - "Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. ⁵ How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them"

III. The Importance of Proper Order in the Home

"I want younger *widows* to get married, bear children, keep house"

- A. Most young ladies in our day see motherhood as unimportant and being a homemaker is seen as demeaning and unfulfilling.
 1. In our society today over half of all pregnancies are out of wedlock. Virginity is facing extinction. The godly young woman is a treasure to find.
 2. Motherhood is seen as unimportant. As I talk to teenage girls today most are more interested in career than in motherhood. How misguided, how misled. How blessed it is to train up virtuous young ladies that will train up the next generation
How wonderful to have in your instruction perhaps a future pastor or missionary
- B. Paul says that a godly woman should guide the home
"guide the home" - οἰκοδεσποτέω – a compound word from οἶκος - House or home
δεσπότης – Master or ruler
To be master (or head) of a house, to rule a household, manage family affairs
 1. This is her primary responsibility and duty
 2. The man is to provide the resources to the home and the woman is to manage them for the care of her husband and children
This is the model of the Proverbs 31 woman.
Proverbs 31:27 NAU - "She looks well to the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness."

² William Barclay, *The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*, (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1960) Page 127

3. It should be the goal of older women to teach the younger women how they might care for the home.
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."

Conclusion:

1. The Bible places great value upon the home. The Fifth Commandment implies that the home is the foundation of social order. It is the place where children learn to respect and obey those whom God has placed in authority.
2. For these young widows Paul stresses the excellence of marriage, bearing children, and managing the home. This is a high calling, blessed of God, and of great importance to the wellbeing of the next generation.
3. The Christian home is always a testimony to the world. They should stand amazed at God's hand upon the lives of His people. The enemy or adversary in **Verse 14** could be Satan, and he is surely our adversary, but it can also point to all who are outside of Christ. May they never be able to look at our homes and use what they see as an object of scorn. William Barclay: "It is always true that the greatest handicap the Church has is the unsatisfactory lives of professing Christians, and it is always true that the greatest argument for Christianity is the genuinely Christian life. And there is no argument in all the world for Christianity like the beauty and the joy and the fellowship of a truly Christian home."³

³ William Barclay, *The Letters to Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*, (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1960) Page 133.