



“Listen Up Mature Ladies”
Titus 2:3

Idea: Godly mature women should pass on a godly legacy by reproducing themselves in the younger generation.

Intro: I love to people watch, especially in an airport. You see all kinds of people in a place like that. A few weeks ago while flying out west, I was reminded how different women are. I saw career women talking business on their smartphones and the young college girls headed to the beach. I saw moms pushing strollers with diaper bags and kids hanging from both shoulders and the high school lacrosse girls on their way to a tournament. I sat next to a lady who had to be in her 80s who was texting from her iPad. I also saw young ladies headed out on their honeymoons. There were women from all walks of life. This reality reminds me that Christian women face a very difficult challenge in America today. Pushed in one direction and pulled in another by various groups, many women find it increasingly difficult to get a clear idea of who they really are.

Unfortunately, this is true of men as well as women. We live in a culture that is drowning in gender confusion. The lines have become blurred, and we are groping about trying to understand what it means for a man to be a man and a woman

to be a woman, what it means for a man to be masculine and a woman to be feminine. A presidential candidate a few years back referred to himself as “metrosexual,” a word that refers to a heterosexual male who is in touch with his feminine side. The candidate then went on to say, “I’ve heard the term, but I don’t know what it means.” It is perfectly clear that the cultural engineers that dominate the media, our educational system – from the preschools to the university – and other strategic places of influence want to neutralize, if not eliminate, the gender distinctions and differences God has hardwired into human beings (Gen 1:26-27). This is the consistent drumbeat heard again and again, and unfortunately the church has not been immune to the cadence.

Practicing homosexuals are now ordained as bishops. Divorced pastors continue in places of service as if nothing significant occurred when their marriage covenant was broken. Women (married, divorced, single, heterosexual, and lesbian) now flock to seminaries and fill pulpits across the land declaring their liberation from the oppressive writings of the Bible. Even within evangelical fellowships women aspire to teaching positions that place them over men in small groups, Bible studies, and worship services. The church is being shaped by secular culture more than by sacred Scripture. Never has the church needed more desperately to hear the words of Titus 2. This is a text that makes God’s plan, God’s assignments, and God’s roles for men and women in the church plain and clear. In this passage Paul outlined God’s expectations for each of the four major groups in the church in terms of gender and age. He defined Godly living that is consistent with sound doctrine. Though the word itself does not appear, the driving concept in these verses can be summed up in one important word: discipleship. Older men need to disciple young men, and older women need to disciple younger women. The gospel is to produce godliness in the lives of those within the church, whether old or young, male or female.

Inquiry: What role does discipleship play in building the family? Its role is critical! The confusion that younger

Christian women are having today in regards to who they are to be is largely due to the fact that there is a discipleship vacuum in the American church. Discipleship has been reduced to a 30-minute sermon on Sunday and maybe a six week study periodically throughout the year. Therefore, if we want to see our homes strengthened, it must begin and end with discipleship. If we want to see marriages survive and thrive, it must begin and end with discipleship. If we want to see our children grow up and develop a biblical understanding of manhood and womanhood, it must begin and end with discipleship.

Question...How does a young lady learn how to be a godly wife, a godly mother, a godly member of the church, and a godly influencer in the community? The Bible says that she will learn from the more mature ladies in the church?

Let me say right up front that I know nothing of personal experience about being a woman. Ladies, I don't live in your world. In fact a lot of the time, I don't even understand women. My wife's thought process is so foreign to me. Men are truly from Mars, and women are truly from Venus. I may not understand women, but my God does understand them. He knows everything about you ladies; after all, He created you. Through the inspiration of God the Spirit, we have been given God's Word on women.

Over the next two Sundays, my goal is to answer two basic questions: 1) What is the role of a Christian woman? 2) How should the actions, words, and thoughts of a woman who knows Christ differ from a woman who doesn't know Christ?

The answers to these questions are found in Paul's words to Titus. [Read Titus 2:1-5.](#)

In these verses Paul charged mature women with pursuing God's assignment of godliness in their personal lives as well as in their discipleship of younger women. Why did he put that responsibility on the shoulders of women rather than on men or

himself as the great apostle? Could it be that he knew that no one understands the world of a woman as well as another woman? Lets be honest, we men just don't understand you women.

Top 10 Things Only Women Understand

10. A cat's facial expressions.
9. The need for the same style of shoe in different colors.
8. Why bean sprouts on a salad aren't just weeds.
7. Fat clothes.
6. Taking a road trip without trying to beat your previous time.
5. The difference between beige, off-white, and eggshell.
4. Cutting your bangs to make them grow.
3. Romantic stuff like mushy cards and flowers.
2. The inaccuracy of every bathroom scale ever made.
1. Other women.

Well, I may not know much, but I do know that women know and understand other women. Perhaps that is why Paul instructed the older women in Crete to incorporate four things into their lives. The apostle was under the deep conviction that God expects the more mature women to come alongside younger women in order to spur on spiritual growth and bring health both to Christian families and to the church.

There are 11 qualities found in these verses, and all of them ought to be present in the life of a Christian woman. The first four specifically deal with mature women as they mentor younger women. So listen up mature ladies.

1. Every mature Christian woman should be spiritually healthy.

The term *likewise* connects verse 3 to verse 2. These older women have a parallel task to that of the older men...discipleship. They were also to possess the same qualities that Paul presented to the men. To those qualities, Paul added that women should be "reverent in behavior." The term (καταστήματα ἱεροπρεπεῖς)

literally means “temple fitting.” It speaks of behavior that is appropriate in a temple. The idea is that a mature Christian woman should be honorable and spiritually dignified in both her state of mind and in her actions. It carries the connotation of reflecting holiness in all one’s choices. When people see you they ought to see a reflection of Jesus Christ because you are maturing in your faith. You are becoming more and more like Christ.

One of the distinct characteristics of the Lord Jesus was His holiness. Ladies, God is calling you to exhibit holiness in your choices, holiness in your attitude, and holiness in your conduct. The context of this passage speaks of a lady’s public life.

It is easy to appear holy in the church. The difficulty is being holy away from the church. It is much more difficult to be holy in the market place, at work, at home, and while with friends. Ladies, there ought to be consistency between your public and private lives. Your worship life (church) should not look different from your life away from the church. Ronnie Floyd says, “Your actions in both spheres must match; they must look like twins; they must walk side by side.” A spiritually healthy woman is a holy woman. She conducts herself with grace and a gentle spirit, not with strident inconsistency and harshness.

Are you spiritually healthy? I don’t believe there is anything that brings greater credibility to a Christian lady’s life more than spiritual health.

Appl: How do you become spiritually healthy?

- Spend time with God daily in His Word and prayer.
- Worship regularly with the church.
- Serve faithfully in the church.

- Put into practice the 10 other qualities mentioned verses 3-5.

2. Every mature Christian woman should be truthful.

Godly women speak the truth; they are not slanderers. Obviously, women aren't the only ones who participate in slanderous talk. However, I would venture to say that women seem to be much more prone to it than men are. Several times in Scripture, God addresses this sin.

What is slander? It is making a malicious, false, or defamatory remark about someone. In the Greek, the word is διαβόλους. It carries the connotation of being "devilish." The devil is the great slanderer. Thus, slander and gossip are the languages of hell. They are not to be the language of a maturing Christian woman. Instead, she should control and govern her tongue. She understands that the saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names (words) will never hurt me" is not true. Therefore, when she speaks, she speaks the truth and speaks it in love (Eph 4:15).

When does this kind of destructive activity tend to occur? It always occurs when someone chooses to listen to gossip, the slander of others, and when someone chooses to spread evil rumors, partial truths, and the truth in a harmful way.

The term Paul uses here is used 34 times in the NT to describe Satan, the arch-slanderer. Is it not interesting that the word used 34 times to refer to Satan is the same word used in Titus 2:3? Ladies, when a Christian woman engages in a gossip free-for-all, whether by listening or speaking, God says you're participating in satanic activity. When you hear that kind of language, your response should be, "Get behind me Satan!"

Are you a gossip? Do you slander others? Healthy mature Christian women refuse to allow gossip to attach itself to their lives.

3. Every mature Christian woman should avoid being a slave to alcohol.

The daughter of God is not to be addicted to much wine. The original language is strong, admonishing her not to become enslaved, dominated, and controlled by it. William Mounce points out that “Alcoholism must have been a severe problem since it is an issue in the appointment of church leaders in every list (1 Tim 3:3, 8; 5:23; Titus 1:7). While this is true in almost every culture, it was especially true in Crete where they viewed heavy drinking as a virtue.”

Spiritually healthy Christian women will not allow alcohol to take any kind of control over their lives. This raises a serious question: “Does the Bible teach total abstinence from alcohol?” The answer is, “No.” The Bible does, though, go to great lengths to warn of the dangers of alcohol.

Read Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-35; 31:4-7.

The Bible does not forbid the consumption of alcohol, but if one never takes the first drink one will never have to worry about drunkenness or alcoholism and all the misery that follows in the footsteps of drink. I have never known any good thing that comes from drinking alcohol.

There are two areas of your life which alcohol affects:

- Your comfort
- Your testimony

Many people drink because it calms their nerves. It is a depressant, so it does calm and numb. The problem

with using it to calm and numb is that as a Christian you don't need a bottle to calm down and relax. You don't need a martini or a glass of white wine to wash the day's problems away. You don't need to go to the pub on your way home to settle yourself. If Philippians 4:6-7 is still in the Bible, it tells us that God's job is to do that.

6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. – Phil 4:6-7

The reality is, you can drink the bottle dry, but your problems and heavy heart will still be there when you sober up. God says, however, that you can walk through the lowest valley and through the darkest day and have the peace of God in your hearts (Ps 23).

Some drink to find a sense of comfort. Others drink because they enjoy it. They enjoy the taste, the buzz, and the social aspect. So what's the big deal?

The big deal is that God has strongly warned us about anything other than God gaining power and control over a believer. Paul says, "*All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be dominated by anything*" (1 Cor 6:12).

Scripture warns believers about scarring their testimony for Jesus through unwise behavior.
15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. – Eph 5:15-16

Paul understood the difficulty Christian women would have being what God wanted them to be if they allowed

themselves to become enslaved to alcohol. Ladies, think about it! How can you impact anyone's life eternally if you look and act just like them?

I'm convinced that if Paul had written this letter today, he would have said something a great deal stronger than this. I believe he might have said it like this: "Don't drink any alcoholic beverages at all, because in your drunken culture someone who chooses to drink cannot be a living testimony for Jesus Christ. You need to get yourself completely away from it and its influence, or you will become associated with the evils of alcohol and bring harm to the witness of Christ.

Drinking alcohol has everything to do with your testimony. Paul's instruction to the mature Christian women was for them to be a model and a mentor to the younger women. Life is not about you; it is about God and about others. People are watching you.

31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 32 Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, - 1 Cor 10:31-32

I believe that when you consume alcohol you putting your testimony in jeopardy because your children, other Christians, and the unchurched are watching.

4. Every mature Christian woman should mentor others.

God's plan for discipleship in the lives of women is woman to woman. As a mature Christian woman, God has called and expects you to train younger Christian women and to help them develop God-honoring spiritual and mental attitudes. I can't tell you how many times I have heard older ladies fuss about how younger ladies live, dress, and behave. What have you personally done to help the younger ladies that you're fussing about become a better and a more godly lady?

Ladies, the Lord expects you more mature Christian women to gently correct and instruct the younger women. The text doesn't speak of some sort of formal instruction. Paul wasn't envisioning an 8-week class called *What It Means to be a Christian Lady*. Instead, Paul speaks of the older women mentoring the younger women through words and example in an informal small group manner.

If you don't mentor younger women, who will? Do you have a relationship with a younger Christian woman in this church? Are you pouring the life of Christ in you into them?

Conclusion: As we seek to build the family in the church, it begins with a personal decision to live holy before God and others. It is a decision that involves personal devotion to the Lord as you spend time with Him, serve Him, and encourage the church. It is a decision that involves truthfulness in your speech and conduct. It is a decision that involves protecting your testimony. And it is a decision that involves discipling other ladies.

The health of the families in our church is contingent upon the level of the discipleship you are receiving and giving. Ladies who are you discipling? Who is discipling you? Our mature ladies should be discipling those ladies who are younger and those who haven't been walking with the Lord as long. Our younger ladies should be discipling the young girls in our church. All of you should be teaching other ladies the Word of God, instilling spiritual disciplines, and modeling faithfulness.