



“Listen Up Young Ladies”
Titus 2:4-5

Idea: You never will go wrong when you do things God’s way.

Intro: Read Titus 2:1-5.

Building the family begins and ends with discipleship. It is the responsibility of the father to courageously guard his family and to boldly teach them to love God. It is equally the responsibility of the mother to gently and lovingly nurture her children in the Lord while submitting to her husband as the church submits to Christ. If we would see our families grow in the grace and knowledge of God, then we must follow the Bible’s direction for our homes. This, however, is no easy task. The deception of the Enemy leads men to forsake their biblical role of headship in the home, or it perverts headship, turning it into an authoritarian tyranny. Likewise the deception of the Enemy leads women away from the God-given roles of womanhood in the marriage, the home, and the church.

“The best thing that a woman can do for a man is to be a woman.” – Elisabeth Elliot

You never will go wrong when you do things God's way.

Cultural pressure and expectations have robbed many women of the blessings and joys of homemaking and motherhood. The Feminist Movement made promises on which it could not deliver. The fallout has been mammoth and disastrous, and we are still in the midst of the whirlwind. It is obvious from this text that a feminist agenda and the resulting confusion and rejection of God-ordained roles is not restricted to the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. The first century suffered from this malady as well, and so Paul confronted it head on. He laid down God's assignment for the older woman as it related to the younger: "Teach what is good." What good teaching did Paul have in mind? He answers that question in verses 4-5. Listen up young ladies.

1. Every Christian woman should love her husband.

Paul instructs the older women to encourage, admonish, or train the younger women to love their husbands. This is the only time in the Bible where a woman is encouraged to love her husband. Husbands are instructed multiple times to love their wives (Eph 5:25-33; Col 3:19).

Why did Paul instruct the older women to train the younger to love their husbands? He was concerned that a woman's first commitment under the lordship of Jesus Christ was to her husband and her marriage. And he understood that marriage is not easy because the husband can at times be hard to love.

It is amazing how life changes for a couple after they marry. The relationship begins with puppy love. Everything is wonderful. The sky is always blue, and the grass is always green. But something happens as you move into year two, year three, and beyond. Your husband's quirky habits begin to become pet peeves that drive you nuts. If you're not careful they lead you to detest him.

Paul's instruction that older women are to train the younger women to love their husbands tells us that love is a choice. The puppy, honeymoon love that moved along the waves of emotion must begin to move along the waves of personal choice. You choose to love your husband when he leaves his socks on the floor and leaves the seat up on the toilet. The same is equally true of husbands. You choose to love your wife when she covers the bed in a mountain of useless pillows.

Paul uses two different words for love when he instructs husbands and wives to love their spouses. In Ephesians 5 Paul uses ἀγαπάω to instruct men. This type of love is unconditional. There are no strings attached. In Titus 2:4 he uses the conjugal verb φιλάνδρος. It is a combination of two words φιλέω (tender affection) and ἀήρ (man). Paul instructs women to show affection toward their husbands. Don't allow your love for him to become cold and prickly.

Ladies, your husband needs your affection whether you think he deserves it or not. Don't base your affection on his merit. God doesn't base His affection for you on your merit.

2. Every Christian woman should love her children.

Few things are more natural for a mother than loving her children. However, a young mother must move beyond her natural innate affection to a specific lifestyle and plan of action that will cultivate in her children godly character and love. Paul again uses φιλέω, instructing mothers to be affectionate toward their children.

The most important way a mother can love her children is to love them to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. As she loves her

children physically, emotionally, educationally, morally, socially, and spiritually, she always has her eye on their need for Christ.

Mom (dad), the greatest thing you can do for your children is to introduce them to the Lord Jesus.

3. Every Christian woman should have self-control.

The fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:23) is self-control. It is the ability to say *yes* to what is holy and good and *no* to what is evil and damaging. The woman who has self-control is not reactionary. She doesn't fly-off-the-handle when her kids are misbehaving. She is not led by her emotions. Neither is she controlled by alcohol.

As Jesus was able to deny the desires of His flesh, the Christian woman must say no to the desires of her flesh, and so model for her children how to have self-control with what she says, what she does, what she eats, what she drinks, where she goes, and with whom she spends her time.

4. Every Christian woman should be pure.

I'm not sure American culture has any understanding of purity any more. Even in the church a person who pursues purity is often thought of as being strange and peculiar. Yet this is exactly what God calls every Christian to be. Here in verse five, He specifically instructs young women to be pure, to be above reproach in her life and reputation. She is to be a one-man kind of woman.

It may be obvious that you should remain physically faithful to your husband. But Paul's instruction also speaks to your emotions and thoughts. Therefore, ladies you ought to guard what you see, read, and watch.

Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. – Proverbs 4:23

5. Every Christian woman should be a good homemaker.

The home is her primary base of operation and the main focus of her attention. Proverbs 31:10-31 teaches that a diligent homemaker may be involved in a wide range of activities and interests. She is not lazy or a busybody, nor is she distracted by outside pursuits and responsibilities that eat up her precious time and attention. This woman is not seduced by the sirens of postmodernity who tell her she is wasting her time and talent as a homemaker and that it is the career woman who has purpose and is truly satisfied.

The Bible does not forbid a Christian woman working outside the home. However, the blessings and joy you will discover as a wife, mother, and homemaker can never be matched by a career. Ladies, God has a much greater plan for you than the 9-5 grind in the business world. He has given you the responsibility and ministry of your home. It is a high calling.

6. Every Christian woman should follow the leadership of her husband.

Talk about the antithesis of political correctness...homemakers and submission. All throughout the New Testament, the Bible instructs women to submit to their husbands so that the gospel will not be slandered (Eph 5:21-24; Col 3:18; 1 Pet 3:1-5). Submission means to yield in one's will to the leadership and direction of another. It is more of an attitude than an action. Submission doesn't necessitate inferiority. There is submission within the Godhead but no inferiority. They coexist equally.

Therefore, Paul's instruction to Christian women is to submit to the leadership of her husband as the Son and Spirit submit to the leadership of the Father. In doing so, she honors God, His Word, and His gospel.

7. Every Christian woman should honor God with her life.

This last phrase sums up and provides the reason for Paul's instruction. He was deeply concerned about the spiritual condition of the church and the way in which it personified Jesus to a watching world. For this reason he instructed the older women to mentor the younger women, so that the church would live out the Word of God.

Did you know that when you claim to believe God's Word, yet fail to live according to it, you dishonor God and cause others to sneer at the gospel message?

They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work. – Titus 1:16

There were people living in Crete who professed to know God but their actions professed something very different. Therefore, it is imperative that believing men and women model and live out the teachings of Scripture so that no one has a reason to blaspheme God.

Ladies, your children need to see in you a life that honors God. Your friends need to see in you a life that honors God. Your family needs to see in you a life that honors God. Your colleagues need to see in you a life that honors God. Your neighbors need to see in you a life that honors God. Your sisters in Christ need to see in you a life that honors God.

Conclusion: “The Christian faith is meant to be lived moment by moment. It isn’t some broad, general outline. It’s a long walk with a real Person. Details count: passing thoughts, small sacrifices, a few encouraging words, little acts of kindness, brief victories over nagging sins.” – Joni Eareckson Tada

How is your walk with the Lord Jesus Christ? Is it better described as an intimate friendship or a distant acquaintance? How is your discipleship? Do you love your husband and children? Are you self-controlled? Is your home a priority? Do you follow your husband? Are you honoring God in all areas of your life? Are you mentoring others?