

# Titus 2:1-5

BEING A GODLY WOMAN  
IN A GODLESS SOCIETY



# We are to stand apart from people in society (2:1)

<sup>1</sup> *But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.*

- *"But as for you"* - Titus is to contrast those who are influencing people, families and the churches in Crete
  - Titus is to contrast false teaching of those who range from legalistic Jews to degenerate heathens
  - What the people of Crete were, they are no longer to be (*"Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."* This testimony is true. 1:12)
  - In many ways this is like the society surrounding us
- *"teach what accords with sound doctrine"*
  - *"teach"* - speak, talk (not just formal instruction)
  - All the communication Titus shares, on whatever topic, is to be in line with the principles of Scripture
  - All our communication and conduct are to be truth-based and Holy Spirit-empowered

# Older Christian men stand apart from people in society (2:2)

*<sup>2</sup> Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.*

Christian men seasoned with years of life and marked by walking in wisdom are to be:

- *"Sober-minded"* - free from intoxicants and any accesses that cloud biblical judgment
- *"dignified"* - Scriptural consistency causes their lives to shine in an exemplary manner
- *"self-controlled"* - displays of emotional impulsiveness are reined in by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit
- *"sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness"* - Paul groups the final three as a package of qualities indicating these seasoned men are in good spiritual health
  - **Sound in faith** - trusting in God through the gospel work of Jesus Christ is healthy and holy in them
  - **Sound in love** - love of God that inspires Christ-centered love for others is healthy and holy in them
  - **Sound in steadfastness** - perseverance in walking in biblical truth and justice, in the midst of trial and affliction, is healthy and holy in them

# Older Christian women and younger Christian women stand apart from women in society (3-5)

Godly qualities of older Christian women (2:3) - <sup>3</sup> *Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,*

- *"Older women"* - women past child-bearing age whose children are older or grown
- *"likewise"* - the instructions Paul gives to women are also in line with sound doctrine
- *"reverent in behavior"* - God is to be honored in the conduct of women at all times
  - There is to be no duplicity
  - It is a delight to watch women live all of life worshipfully
- *"not slanderers"* - διάβολος (diabolos) - devilish, malicious, slanderous
  - It is part of our sinful human nature to see fault in others and share that criticism, casting others in a negative and disparaging light
  - Critical words are destructive and dividing
    - Proverbs 18:8
    - James 3:7-10

# Older Christian women and younger Christian women stand apart from women in society (3-5)

- *"or slaves to much wine"* - drunkenness is condemned in Scripture
  - Godly women know it is important not to have their biblical judgment impaired
  - Wise women know that intoxicants are not the way to deal with the pressures and challenges of life
- *"They are to teach what is good,"* - What women learn about walking with God in truth is to be shared in fellowship with other women for their good and God's glory
  - Women are not to grow old, sour, and separated
  - Women are to grow old, sweet, and compassionate
  - The wisdom God imparts is meant to be shared with grace and humility

# Older Christian women and younger Christian women stand apart from women in society (3-5)

Godly teaching shared by older Christian women (2:4-5) - <sup>4</sup> *and so train the young women to love their husbands and children,* <sup>5</sup> *to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.*

- *"train the young women"* - Older women come in contact with younger women in the church
  - God is providing compassion and concern for women in need
  - The demands of being a biblical wife and mother in a society that mocks truth is challenging and can be disheartening
- *"train the young women to love their husbands and children"*
  - Loving husbands and children is necessary to counteract the pressures of self-serving societies
    - Titus 1:10-11
  - Society, in opposition to God's standards and wisdom, mocks husbands and supplants the biblical guidance of children
    - Husbands are ridiculed continually in academia and advertising
    - Children are seen as an incumbrance to mom's career and are handed off to "caregivers" for the bulk of their teaching and training
    - Biblical homes are countercultural and mature women help younger wives and moms understand God blesses obedience

# Older Christian women and younger Christian women stand apart from women in society (3-5)

- *"self-controlled"* - under the guidance of truth by the power of the Spirit of God
- *"pure"* - in a morally and sexually decadent world, a godly wife needs to keep her heart free from distractions and compromise
- *"working at home"* - Paul's instruction and the Lord's intent is that a wife and mother see the honor and beauty of domestic excellence
  - Her desire is to sustain a God-centered, peaceful and joyful atmosphere at home
  - God's purpose is not to restrict a woman's public presence or movements
  - A godly home is a place where a woman's husband and children delight to be and where guests are sad to leave
- *"kind"* - blessing others by being virtuous
  - Most of the areas of this woman's life overflow with God's grace
  - There is a God-honoring and people-blessing sweetness to her life

# Older Christian women and younger Christian women stand apart from women in society (3-5)

- *"submissive to their own husband"* - her own husband is the focus of her loyalty and support
  - She trusts God's design and structure to promote biblical oneness
  - The husband is responsible to lead His wife and children to God in truth and righteousness, and the wife is to support his leadership
  - A godly wife will desire to join her husband in a united pursuit of God and godliness, and she delights to follow his lead
- *"that the word of God may not be reviled"* - biblical domestic structures communicate God's truth to the world
  - We do not seek the world's approval
  - We trust God's truth, obeyed by God's people, to impact the world for Christ
  - These Cretan Christian women are to emerge from the Cretan society as those who stand apart - not conformed but transformed!

# Questions to Consider

- In what biblical ways does your life stand apart from most people in our society?
- Women and mothers, how do you see the roles God entrusts to you as a blessing?
- What are some of the battles you face to be the woman and mother God desires you to be?

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