**Learning to Love Your Family**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Titus 2:1-8**

**Wednesday Evening**

**November 23, 2022**

**Titus 2:1-8**

1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: 2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; 3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—

4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. 6 Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded,

7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, 8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

**1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:**

Saints, the word but contrasts this verse with the previous verses. Whereas the false teachers were deceivers, Titus was to promote the kind of living that reflects right teaching.

**1 Peter 4:11**

“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Knowledge and acceptance of “right teaching” should lead to righteous living. Behavior should match belief; thus, in the following verses, Paul gave Titus examples of the right behavior expected of several types of people in the churches.

**Romans 16:17-20**

17 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. 18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

19 For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. 20 And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

**2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;**

Saints, the older men, though technically not “elders,” were the senior members of the community, and should be examples of maturity. They were the “pool” from which elders were to be appointed.

**Isaiah 28:7-8**

7 But they also have erred through wine, And through intoxicating drink are out of the way; The priest and the prophet have erred through intoxicating drink, They are swallowed up by wine, They are out of the way through intoxicating drink; They err in vision, they stumble in judgment. 8 For all tables are full of vomit and filth; No place is clean.

Because they were mature members of the community and examples to younger men, Titus should teach the older men to exercise self-control, meaning that their lives should show moderation and clear-headedness, with an absence of extravagance.

To be worthy of respect means that they should be “serious minded.” They should act as dignified and honorable adults. To live wisely contrasts with the lifestyle in a heathen atmosphere.

They needed to monitor and restrain their passions, anger, and words. Strong faith meant that they were to have a healthy and personal faith in God by maintaining the Christian truth.

Love meant that they should be loving, not bitter; their love was to be personal and outgoing. Patience required endurance and steadfastness.

**John 13:34-35**

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

**3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—**

Saints, Paul’s directive for Titus to teach women was in itself a startling departure from the way women were usually treated.

**1 Timothy 3:11**

“Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things”

The inequalities found in society were not to be brought into church relationships. We honor older people when we consider them capable of still being nurtured.

The older women must also be taught—their lifestyles should be appropriate—dignified, worthy of honor, Christlike. Older Christian women should have a respectful attitude toward all aspects of life and toward people of all ages.

They were not to go around speaking evil of others (gossips), nor should they be heavy drinkers. Instead, these older women should teach others what is good.

This meant not necessarily public sharing, but sharing their wisdom, knowledge, and faith with their circles of family and friends. No woman should regard her life as less valuable when children have left or after retirement from a career.

**Proverbs 22:6**

“Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it”

Nor should they capitulate to despair or loneliness. We need their wisdom, prayers, and examples.

**4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,**

**1 Timothy 5:14-15**

14 Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully. 15 For some have already turned aside after Satan.

Saints, specifically, the older women could train the younger women in the church by word and by example. Paul wanted the older women to teach “what is good” and here he explained that in detail.

First, they could encourage the young women in the church to love their husbands and their children. This seems obvious, but Paul may have included this because of special problems in Crete, or even because of the influence of the false teachers to disregard these responsibilities.

**5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.**

Saints, as with the older men and women, these younger women needed to live wisely. The next word, pure, means to control their passions and desires, remaining true to their husbands (perhaps Paul also mentioned this because of a particular problem in Crete).

These young wives and mothers should take care of their homes (which, as any homemaker knows, can be a challenging and diverse career in itself) and do good.

In addition, the young women were to be submissive to their husbands. Submission between marriage partners is an often misunderstood concept. This text, for example, cannot be used to promote the general subjugation of all women under all men.

For marriage and family relationships to run smoothly, there must be one appointed leader—God has appointed the husband and father to be this leader.

The wife should willingly follow her husband’s leadership in Christ, acknowledging that this is his responsibility.

Maturity provides the key to understanding submission. The husband must not be a tyrant, faithless, unloving, or impatient, as previously mentioned. He should be worthy of respect. Likewise, the woman should not be rebellious, undermining or contradicting the man.

Submission means to accept the relationship that God has designed, voluntarily subjecting oneself to God’s order and fulfilling the responsibilities that come with it. For more of Paul’s advice about marriage, see 1 Corinthians 7:1-40; Ephesians 5:22-33.

**Ephesians 5:22-33**

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Saints, Paul’s purpose in these instructions, and every believer’s purpose in following them, was to glorify God. The believers were being watched; if they lived righteous and blameless lives, they would not bring shame on the word of God.

For the believers to continue living in sin amounted to denying God’s word and God himself, who had saved them from sin and expected them to obey his commands.

**6 Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded,**

Paul urged Titus to encourage the young men to live wisely in all they do. Young men today, as much as in ancient times, may lack this quality.

**1 Timothy 5:1**

“Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers”

If young men exercise self-restraint, balance, and common sense, they can save themselves much trouble in all areas of life.

**7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, 8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.**

Saints, Titus, qualifying as a “younger man” himself, was urged to be an example for the young men in the churches he led.

**1 Timothy 4:12**

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity”

His authoritative words could have no impact if not backed up by a blameless life of doing good deeds. Titus’s teaching should emphasize wise living while his lifestyle should be an example of that.

From speaking of Titus’s actions, Paul turned to Titus’s public ministry of teaching. His life should reflect the integrity and seriousness of what he taught and would contrast him with the false teachers, who taught lies.

This quality of integrity would come from careful Bible study and prayer. This would be especially important as Titus taught or confronted others about spiritual or moral issues.

If he acted impulsively or unreasonably, he would more likely start arguments than convince people of the truth. Seriousness indicates teaching with reverence so that Titus’s words would be respected and taken seriously.

Paul counseled Titus to be above criticism in how he taught. Because of his unique role in Crete, his life must display a remarkable degree of correctness. He would be constantly on display.

Titus’s every word must be measured so that he would remain above reproach and condemnation. His exemplary life, teaching, and speech would shame those who might want to argue with him.

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**