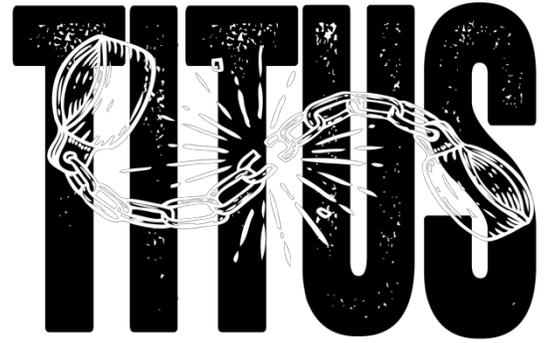


**November 17, 2019 | DAVID ANDERSON**

Paul's Instruction to Younger Women  
Titus 2:4-5



As Christians many of us still have a longing to belong, to be accepted, to fit in to this world. The Bible says we need to calibrate our expectations. We must liberate ourselves from this painful quest of trying to fit in where we will never fit in.

The Biblical fact is that we can't accommodate or adapt or blend in because we are never going to fit into the inner circle of this world. So much of God's Words in Scripture is antithetical to what is acceptable in this world's system. We believe the God of the universe really does love us and wants to graciously lead us and humanity through a very broken and dysfunctional world.

This morning we come to a section of Titus that is such an affront to our culture. What Paul is about to declare in marriage is alienating to the world we live in. The younger women in Crete were living promiscuous lives and abandoning their husbands, children and homes and Paul has some very specific exhortations.

Paul begins in Titus 2 by addressing the older men. He challenges them to be temperate, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, sound in love, sound in endurance. He moves on to the older women. He calls them to behavior fitting for those who are holy, not slandering, not slaves to excessive drinking, teaching what is good. He wants these older, godly women to teach the younger women. What is the "good" that Paul specifically wants them to teach?

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In this way they will train the younger women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be self-controlled, pure, fulfilling their duties at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the message of God may not be discredited.  
(Titus 2:4-5)

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In Titus 1:11, Paul says the false teachers were attacking marriage and whole families and they needed to be silenced. They subverting whole households. The good that Paul desperately wanted the older women to teach centered on their marriage and their families.

Paul says, train the younger women to love their husbands and love their children. The verbs are in the present tense. This behavior should be ongoing, habitual and relentless.

Why does Paul have to command this? Aren't these things natural? There is romance and physical attraction and things that bring us together emotionally where we are attracted to each other, but I don't know if you have noticed this but we run out of natural affection very quickly. Sometimes it only takes a few months or years in marriage or mothering/parenting and emotions and affections get exhausted and tested. Paul wants these young women to know that love at the heart for the Christian isn't puppy love. What the Bible declares is that love can be taught. Love can be acquired and learned. There is a love that the Holy Spirit in us can produce and it is forged at the foot of the cross (Philip De Courcy).

In a very sensual Roman empire, Paul wants these young women to be faithful to their husbands and to be self-controlled and pure (hagnos). The younger women should be like the older women and their behavior should demonstrate that they belong to the Lord and their lives are set aside for worship (vs. 3).

Paul goes on to say, train the younger women to fulfill their duties at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the message of God may not be discredited (vs. 5).

Genesis 1:27 says that God created man in His image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them! Verse 28 says, "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." To whom did God give dominion? Just Adam? No! God said to them! He gave dominion to Adam and Eve.

In Genesis 2:18, God says, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper or companion comparable to him." Moses loved the word ezer (helper/companion). Moses names one of his sons, ezer (Ex. 18:4). Why did Moses name his son ezer? Moses tells us, "The God of my father has been my ezer (help) and delivered me from the sword of Pharaoh. Moses uses it three other times (Deut. 33:7, 26, 29) and it always refers to God as man's helper. This is helper or companion is not talking about a slave or an inferior. Moses uses this term both with Yahweh and Eve; it is a very distinguished role.

Jesus reiterates this whole section of Genesis in Matthew 19, "Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator made them male and female,<sup>5</sup> and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and will be united with his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?<sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

But when Adam and Eve make a mess of paradise, who does God come looking for? He calls out to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" (Gen 3:9). Of course He knew where Adam was but God is confronting the leader of the family. Where did you go Adam? Eve needed you and you failed her.

All throughout Scripture God calls the husband to lead the marriage partnership in God-glorifying directions. In Ephesians 5, Paul calls the husband to love his wife like Christ loved the church and calls the wife as He does here in Titus 2 to yield to the leadership of the husband.

Paul says, younger women should "fulfill their duties at home or homemakers." Remember the Proverbs 31 woman; she is clothed with strength and honor. The noble woman flexes godly strength and brings honor to herself, her family and most important her Lord. She is contributing to the home and what we discover is that she is gifted entrepreneur. She is bold and considers and buys it from her own earnings and is an equal partner in the marriage. Proverbs 31:26-29 says, "She opens her mouth with wisdom, and loving instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed, her husband also praises her: 'Many daughters have done valiantly, but you surpass them all!'"

This is the "good" of vs. 3 that Paul asks the older women to teach the younger women. This type of woman becomes an anchor for her husband and home and stabilizes her children. Paul says, the way the younger women love their husbands and love their children will establish the message of God's grace and not discredit the message.