

1. We begin this week with a review of last week's study, Lesson Four "The People You will Encounter" which completes our study of Titus Chapter One.
 - A. Paul warned Titus about the people he will encounter on **Crete**. Paul said the Cretians are:
 1. **Unruly and vain talkers**. They rebel against the **authority** of the Bible. They lie and in the end what they say is meaningless. **They are deceivers**. They use smooth words and biblical sounding terms to present their **false** teaching.
 2. One of their own people, Epimenides, a famous poet and a pagan prophet, describes the Cretians as liars, evil beasts, and **slow bellies**. As evil beasts they were wild, rude, crude, and cruel. As slow bellies they were lazy and lived off other people's money whenever possible. They were gluttons for food and pleasure and refused to take responsibility for themselves.
 3. In addition to this variety of difficult people, Paul warns Titus about the **Judaizers** who were also on Crete and were perverting Paul's gospel of grace. These Judaizers are also called "the circumcision". They were Jews who believed Christ was their Messiah and they were saved by believing in the **Kingdom** gospel, which included circumcision and keeping the law for salvation. This is the gospel **Peter** and the apostles preached to Israel.
 - a. Paul was given a different gospel from the **risen** Jesus. It is the gospel of grace and requires **no** works for salvation but is simply believing by faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ as all that is needed for salvation. It is for both Jew and Gentile in the dispensation of **grace**. It is the gospel that saves us today.
 - b. Some believing Jews were going into the churches telling those saved by Paul's gospel of grace that they must also follow Jewish customs to be saved. Some Jews believed they must be circumcised to be saved, while others from the sect of the Pharisee thought one must be circumcised and keep the law to be saved. While this was sound doctrine for those Jews saved by the Kingdom gospel, it was false doctrine for those saved by the gospel of **grace**. Paul tells Titus these **Judaizers** must be stopped. Rebuke them sharply!
 - B. Paul warns against paying attention to Jewish fables and the commandments of men because these things will turn you away from the truth. Those things "extra biblical" are **outside** of the Bible and rely upon man's experiences and feelings. Only the Bible is our standard of **truth**.

2. In this week's Lesson Five, "The Things which Become Sound Doctrine", we begin our study of Titus Chapter Two.

"But speak **thou** the things which become sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1)

(Question #1)

1. Paul begins with "but thou" because he wants Titus to pay particular attention. Paul has used the phrase "but thou" **six** times in his epistles to Timothy and Titus, and each time he is **challenging** his sons in the faith, who are pastors of churches, to true godliness.
2. He is **directing** Titus to teach and preach the truth of God's word, rightly divided, which includes the mystery truths revealed to Paul by Christ Jesus.
3. Paul is saying that it is the sound doctrine you have **placed** within your mind and heart that **produces** these godly characteristics and behaviors. Paul identifies the characteristics and behaviors that sound doctrine produces in men and women; both young and aged.

"That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience" (Titus 2:2).

3. Aged men. Paul has already given Titus the qualifications for elders earlier in his epistle, now he turns his attention to the church body. We will now look at the godly characteristics and behavior of men.

(Question #2 part A)

A. Aged men should be:

1. Sober (**sensible**)
2. Grave (dignified, **calm**)
3. Temperate (**prudent** and thoughtful)
4. Sound in faith (**firm** grasp of the gospel and the mystery truths)
5. Charity (benevolence, goodwill, loving **kindness** to others)
6. Patience
 - a. The quality of bearing offenses and injuries without anger or revenge, having perseverance.
 - b. He is kind and understanding in the way he deals with others. He makes **allowance** for others and **encourages** them to grow in the Lord.

(Question #2 part B)

B. Examples of godliness the aged men give to the younger men.

1. Through their **experiences** in raising a family and in marriage, they can encourage younger men to "hang in there" when the going gets tough and not give up. Sometimes just knowing one isn't **alone** in experiencing problems is enough to persevere.
2. More importantly, these godly aged men may be the only ones **advising** them how to solve their problems in a godly way. Just their **presence** every week at church is a testimony that one remains faithful even in – especially in – old age.
3. Godly aged men are the **backbone** of families and churches.

"The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things" (Titus 2:3).

4. Aged women. We will now look at the godly characteristics and behavior of godly women.

(Question #3 part A)

A. Aged women should display:

1. **Holy behavior.** Their behavior shows they are set aside for the **use** of God and that they seek after those things which honor God. They walk by faith not by sight. They demonstrate **grace** and kindness towards others. They show a reverence for God's Word in how they talk about the things of God and in how they study his word.
2. **Not false accusers.** They are **careful** about the information they share with others. They **stop** and think before they speak and they do their best not to participate in slander or gossip.
3. **Not given to much wine.** The same principals concerning alcohol use pertaining to an elder also applies to aged women. Even one drink affects our **judgment** which affects our testimony and our ability to give the Lord our very **best** for his use.
4. **Teachers of good things.** The aged godly women have a **responsibility** to teach the younger women about the things of God. They rejoice in the mystery truths given to Paul. Younger women need to **see** and **hear** how the aged godly women have preserved in their faith throughout all that life has given them. They need to hear how they did it by following the Word of God. The world offers advice based upon man's wisdom, which leads you away from God.

(Question #3 part B)

B. A woman's outward appearance. Let's consider what Paul and Peter wrote concerning our outward appearance as compared to who we are inside, our "inner man". Before we read these verses we need to cover three definitions.

1. In the Bible the word "**shamefacedness**" means you are bothered by things that are inappropriate and this shows on your **face**. You are both embarrassed and ashamed by what you have just seen or heard. The word "**sobriety**" means you exercise self-restraint and **discretion**. You maintain **control** over your temper and emotions; remaining stable in every situation.
2. A woman who has a "**meek and quiet spirit**" is a woman who continually seeks the Lord above all things and it shows in her spirit. Her strength is under the control of God's Word which guides her **thinking** and **actions**.

1Timothy 2:9-10: "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearl, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."

1Peter 3:3-4: "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

What these verses tell us about the character of godly women:

1. They are **not** focused upon drawing attention to how they look.
2. They are **not** focused upon being the prettiest or best dressed woman at church. They are not competing with other women (even if only in their mind!) in how they look.
3. Because they **guard** their minds from ungodly things they easily become embarrassed and ashamed when exposed to something inappropriate. It shows on their **faces**.
4. They handle themselves with restraint and keep their **emotions** under control in difficult situations. They are stable in their actions.
5. They understand and embrace that what **God** finds attractive comes from godliness shown by their good works and their meek and quiet spirit.

Ladies, it's important for us to note that it **isn't** sinful to do what you can to look presentable and make the best of what God has given you. It's your **attitude** as you consider what you are wearing and how you look. It's a matter of the heart. Do you consider it a part of simply being your **best**? Does how you dress honor God? Does it honor your husband? Is it **modest**?

(Question #3 part C)

C. How can women apply Titus 2:3, 1Timothy 2:9-10, and 1Peter 3:3-4 in their lives?

1. Aged women show by how they live that they have set themselves **apart** for the things of God. They are mature in their understanding of scripture; yet they continue to hunger after God's word. By their example they show that we're **never** too **old** to learn more about the Lord!
2. They stay **away** from gossip and slander. Before they speak about someone to another person they examine their motives by asking themselves these questions: Why do I need to give this person this information? Is it being helpful? If they don't have a clear conscience about sharing they should remain **silent**.
3. They choose to stay away from all **alcohol** because they are offering their body as a living sacrifice to God, holy and acceptable unto him. They are giving him **100%** of their mind for his use at any moment. They put God **first** in their lives.

4. They are willing to **teach** the things of God to the younger women. They understand that the younger women will benefit from hearing how they have **persevered** in the faith by applying God's word in their life. The younger women will be encouraged to hear how God has been **faithful** to them throughout their lives.

D. Back to the basics – Why did God create you as a woman? Let's consider what the world says our purpose should be and compare it to the reason God says He **created** you as a **woman**.

(Question #4)

1. **What the world says:** You should fulfill your **wants** and desires. You need to fulfill your potential. You can do **anything** a man can do – probably even better so go for it.

(Question #5)

2. **What God says:** "And the LORD God said, It is not good that the **man** should be alone; I will make him an help meet **for** him" (Genesis 2:18).

In Ge 2:18 the words "help meet" describe the woman God created for Adam. God created a "help" for Adam and this help was "meet", or suitable, fit, or proper for him. The word "meet" is an adjective for the word "help". God created Eve as helper suitable for Adam. In order to produce children Adam needed a help meet, and to provide companionship since it is "not good that the man shall be alone..."

(Question #6 part A)

3. What important point is made in 1Corinthians 11:8-9?

"For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man" (1Corinthians 11:8-9).

- a. The woman came **from** the man. The woman was created **for** the man. The man **wasn't** created for the woman.

(Question #6 part B)

4. Knowing this, how should this affect the way we **relate** to our husbands?
- a. God has designed the woman to **complement** the man. Together they are one flesh since the woman came from the man. It is God's **plan** that the woman see herself as a helper to her husband. She should encourage him to be the man **God** desires in the big ways and in the little ways. She shouldn't **compete** with him, rather she should be focused on how she can **help** him be the leader in their home. This doesn't mean he doesn't help her, it means that her **desire** is to help him.

(Question #7)

5. How does God **value** women and men?
- a. Now is a good time to remind ourselves that both male and female are **one** in Christ. We are **joint** heirs according to the promise.

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26-28).

E. Back to basics – which do we value most: being happy or being holy?

(Question #8)

1. **What the world says:** You should be doing the things that **you** want to do. You should be having fun and if you're not then find something else to do, or find someone else to be with. **Morals** are old-fashioned, so do whatever **you** want. Being holy is just a bunch of rules and rituals so be happy and be **yourself**. If you want something **you** should have it!

(Question #9)

2. **What God says:** **God** wants us to behave in a way that pleases **Him**. He wants us to flee from sex outside of marriage and learn how to have self-control over our bodies. We shouldn't **chase** after the worldly things like those who don't know **God**. Nor should we take advantage of someone or deceive them in any way. **God** wants us to understand that He will avenge those wrong-doings. **God** has not called us to live like the world but to live separate from the world.

"Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness" (1Thessalonians 4:1-7).

(Question #10)

1. **There is a difference between being happy and being joyful.** Being happy in the Lord is always good! The following are examples of being happy in the Lord:

"Happy is *that* people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is *that* people, whose God is the LORD" (Psalm 145:15) They were happy because their God is the LORD. They **worship** the **true** God.

"He that despiseth his neighbor sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he" (Proverbs 14:21). They were happy because they showed **mercy** to the poor.

"But, and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: AND BE NOT AFRAID OF THEIR TERROR, NEITHER BE TROUBLED" (1Peter 3:14). They were happy because they **suffered** for righteousness sake. They suffered because they **choose** to obey God rather than man. They were honoring God.

2. In our daily lives, our happiness usually comes from having a good **experience** with our family, friends, certain events, or satisfying our flesh with the things this world offers. But happiness from these things doesn't **last** because people **change**, circumstances change, events end, and sin **mares** relationships. Our degree of **happiness** changes day to day.

(Question #11)

F. Our joy comes from Christ

"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice" (Philippians 4:4).

1. Joy is a condition of the **heart** that is based upon God, who cannot change and does not lie. **Christ** is the source of our joy. We can trust him and what he says will **never** change. So our joy does not change. Actually, as we mature in the Lord our level of joy **increases**!

(Question #12 part A)

2. We can **apply** God's word in our lives to have more joy – Philippians 4:4-13)

- a. Look to the Lord and what he has done for you and what he has promised as your source of joy. Don't look for joy from people, who can change, or from the things of this world which will one day go away. **Focus** your attention on the things which are **eternal**.
- b. Don't **worry** or fret about things. Pray, letting God know what your concerns are. Do this with a grateful heart, being thankful for what you already have. Then rest in his will being done.
- c. In our dispensation of grace God offers us peace throughout our trials as we trust in His will for us. God sees the big picture which is why we trust him.

(Question #12 part B)

G. Being joyful in the Lord will help us to be holy.

1. Christ is the source of our joy and we are focused upon the prize that is **in** Him. Our attention is upon those things that are eternal and not the things of this world which pass away. Our joy comes from knowing who we are **in** Christ and appreciating the spiritual blessings we have **in** Christ. Therefore, we eagerly anticipate being with Him in heaven. We serve Him out of our love for him with good works. In this way we are holy unto Him. We follow Colossians 3:1.

"That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children"
(Titus 2:4)

4 The godly behaviors the aged women should teach the younger women: to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children. Let's look at each one individually.

(Question #13 part A)

- A. To be sober.** To be level-headed and **sensible** in their thinking. To be aware of their surroundings and the testimony they are giving to others and to their children. To realize that their children learn more from what they **do** than from what they **say**.
- B. To love their husbands.** One important way we show love to our husband is to show him the **respect** that he needs. Ephesians 5:33 says "...and that the wife see that she reverence her husband." These are some practical ways we can **show** our husbands respect:
 - a. Ask his **advice** and then listen. Be prepared to follow his advice. Find something **positive** to say about it even if you don't agree.
 - b. Don't try to **change** him in spiritual areas. That is God's job. **Pray** for him instead and pray for yourself. Encourage him with any small improvements that you see without being condescending.
 - c. **Ask** him to pray at meals or when it's just the two of you. Genuinely thank him for doing so. Don't criticize, **correct**, or judge how he prays.
 - d. Don't make a **habit** out of correcting him when he speaks. Unless it is a major flaw it's often best to let it pass, just how important is it really? It's more important that he feel competent and **respected**.
 - e. Refrain from **interrupting** him when he is talking.
 - f. Ask him about his day and really **listen**. What he has done that day is important because he is **important**. That's how you want him to feel.
 - g. **Dress** in a way that shows you value what he likes, so long as it honors God.

(Question #14) A godly wife does the following ...

h. **Honor God by trusting in Him to lead you.**

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding"
(Proverbs 3:5)

i. **Honor your husband by practicing integrity in your relationship by keeping confidences.**

"A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter"
(Proverbs 11:13).

j. **Plan/budget their money** (she follows this model).

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come" (1Corinthians 16:2).

k. **Our money is from God to be used carefully and to share.**

"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life"
(1Timothy 6:17-19).

l. **Honor your marriage by being faithful.** Your relationship with your husband must be pure in all ways.

"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4).

m. **A model for us to follow** (The Proverbs 31 woman)

"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life" (Proverbs 31: 10-12).

C. **To love their children.** Children need their **mother's** attention, support, love, and time. They also need training from a biblical view, not from the world's view. The Bible gives us direction in how to **love** our children.

(Question #15)

1. **Psalm 127:3-5:** "Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

A mother realizes that children are a **gift** from God. It is good to have many children. They are a blessing so she is grateful and thanks God for them. She **honors** God in how she loves and raises them.

2. **Proverbs 22:6:** "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

If a Mother trains her child to know God and his Word, then he will learn God's **will** for his life. Even if the child turns away from what he has been taught he won't **forget** it. And one day he may turn back to God because he knew God as a child. A vital part of loving a child is teaching them about God.

3. **Proverbs 22:15:** "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."

A mother should **not** withhold discipline. **All** children have a sin nature just like we do. They need to learn early that sin has consequences. Corporal punishment hurts just enough to get their attention so they grasp that turning from godly instruction leads to something unpleasant. Just like acting out on sinful desires brings unpleasant things. Always do it with a **calm** and loving spirit. Don't withhold your love after the discipline is done.

4. **Some other practical applications from these verses to love your children:**

- a. Children learn more from what they see than from what they hear. Let them **see** you reading and studying your **Bible**.
- b. Let them **see** you pray. **Pray** with your child and **teach** them how to pray.
- c. Take them to church that rightly divides and teaches the mystery truths given to Paul. They will grow up truly understanding the Bible.
- d. Teach them to **respect** others. They need to see that other people are valuable to God too.
- e. Teach them how to **wait**. If they learn how to wait on earthy things they can understand why we must wait on God's **timing** too.
- f. **Look** at your child and really **listen** to what they say. Give them plenty of hugs!

(Question #16)

5. **There is a principal we can learn from the Israelites about raising children** from

Deuteronomy 6:5-10. God commanded the Israelites to continually **place** the word of God before the eyes of their children. The principal for us to apply is to ensure our children are **continually** seeing and hearing things that honor God. Some practical ways to do this are:

- a. Incorporate Bible teachings into your daily conversations with your child. Show them that **God** is the **focus** of your life and should be **their** focus too.
- b. **Read** the Bible to them daily. Have children's books of Bible characters that they can read and look at the pictures. Place Scripture verses on the fridge or on the wall.
- c. Allow them to only watch TV and movies that truly honor God. Don't think that the **subtle evil** found in cartoons goes over their heads. It doesn't. Their minds are like **sponges**. **Guard** their mind, heart, eyes, and ears from the evil influences of this world.
- d. While you can't be with them all the time to protect them they will know by your example what you value. They will see God honored at home in a **genuine** way.

(Questions #13 part B & C)

In closing

Aged women should strive to display the godly characteristics Paul has identified. **All** women should **follow** God's plan for them as women. God has called the aged women to teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands and to love their children. The younger women will not hear **godly** advice from the world. The world's advice from psychologists and counselors will lead them **away** from God's view. Worldly advice is based upon pleasing **self**, not Christ. They need to be taught by the older women who have **experienced** how God's **word** has been effectual in their lives.

Paul doesn't give us instructions on how this is done. That is left up to those aged and younger women. The aged women must be **willing**, and the younger women must **desire** their godly counsel.

Two ways this can be done are informally one-on-one, and in group Bible studies. As women, let's think about ways we can **obey** God in both sharing godly counsel and in seeking that counsel.