

Women's Thursday Bible Class

God's Distinctive Calling for Women 2022

Lesson Three: the Command in Titus 2:3-5,11

Review last week's high points - definition of spiritual mothering

*helper design

*nurturing characteristics

*life-giver

Basis of Command is sound doctrine.

Goal or purpose is ultimately the glory of God, honor for God's truth (" giving the enemy no occasion for reproach" I Tim. 5:14

Meaning of "sound" - *hugiano* - healthy

Benefits of system of sound doctrine : 1. Gives stability and protects from false teaching and 2. Gives balance from extremes

Context of Command is a similar environment in Crete as we find in American culture! Read John Adams (2nd President) quote about the behavior of women as it relates to culture

Characteristics of Command i.e. , a set of directives to mature women:

1. Reverent in behavior - In Greek, word associated with temple, priest;connection here with being careless in lifestyle (tongue and appetites) is God's presence the imposing reality of your life?

2. Not gossips - I Tim. 3:11 malicious gossips - *diabolos* - slanderer Satan

3. Not addicted to much wine - not enslaved to appetites

4. Teaching what is good Or teachers of good - So they may train them to be - *sophronizo* - Greek, sometimes translated sensible, discreet, sober, self controlled . Basic meaning is to be " gripped by right reason, placing restrictions on one's own freedom.." or from Vine's dic. (SM - p. 71)

Also used in various places for other groups 2:1,5,6,12

Again who is the older woman? Regards spiritual maturity?Benefits of hindsight of living through several seasons (life experiences). Not theological experts or super saints, just growing toward maturity and available

Celebrating the Command!

Our femaleness gives us a God- designed capacity to help, to nurture and to be nurtured,to bond more easily because of God given relational strengths. Obedience requires a laying aside of self and a dependence upon God. Our church community can grow healthy and God's Name is honored. This is a powerful way to combat the decadence of our Titus 1:12 Crete -like culture. (Investing in the next generation)

Next week: we will go into more depth Titus 2:4-5, the Curriculum - what the older, mature woman is to train the younger in. Read Chapter 4 in Spiritual Mothering if have it.

Lesson three discussion questions

- In our Crete-like (Cretian)culture in the U.S., what are some expectations that women commonly have?
- The characteristics of a mature woman that are given in Titus are not exhaustive but are clearly representative of Biblical godliness. I think we can agree that they are challenging- behavior that is before the face of God , control of tongue and appetites, and able to teach what is good. Discuss this amongst yourselves.
- Discuss how in some degree we can all be both an older and a younger woman at the same time. Discuss how a combination of maturity and life experiences (disappointments failures accidents surprises sickness etc.) can fit you to be a nurturer and encourager to those coming after you.
- Are you comfortable in your female skin , joyful to be there? Have you struggled with this ? How do you think our younger generation (daughters, granddaughters, friends who are having challenges with their daughters or granddaughters) struggles with this? How can we come alongside?
- There can be both challenges and struggles but also blessings in the changing seasons of our life. Can you share some of yours with those in your group?