

D1, D2, D3: THE HEART, THE HOME, MINISTRY - Women Encouraging Women (Titus 2:3-5)

Review of the Wellspring Purpose and Disciplines

WS Purpose:

- Ro 12:15
- Ep 4:15-16

D1 - the heart:

1 Pe 2:1-3 - Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander, 2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, 3 if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.

D2 - the home:

Hypocrisy - Comes from the idea of a mask worn by an actor, concealing the true identity. It is behavior that contradicts what one claims to believe.

D3 - ministry:

Introduction—Titus

The Word of God is honored through gospel-transformed older women training gospel-transformed young women.

I. What older women transformed by the gospel must be, 2:3.

1. Reverent in behavior - Related to the idea of being suitable for the temple; set apart, sacred behavior, as one who uniquely belongs to God.

2. Not malicious gossips - Not a slanderer or accuser (this Greek word is translated "Satan" 34 times elsewhere in the New Testament).

Ep 4:29 - Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such [a word] as is good for edification according to the need [of the moment,] so that it will give grace to those who hear.

3. Not enslaved to much wine - Not to be mastered by alcohol (NOTE: alcohol was a problem in Cretan culture, but it can be helpful to consider that many times, a person turns to alcohol to escape from something that seems too difficult to bear in life. Unfortunately, those false promises of "escape" offered by alcohol turn out only to enslave. It is prudent to evaluate if one is seeking to "escape" from difficulties in life through alcohol or anything else, rather than to cast themselves and their burdens upon the Lord, trusting Him for comfort and strength in the midst of difficulties.)

Ps 34:8 - O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

4. Teaching what is good - Formal and informal instruction of what is beneficial to others.

II. What transformed older women must train the young women to be, 2:4-5a.

- **Encourage** - To train, to advise, to urge.

1. Husband-lovers - Literally, "husband-lover." Modeling one's love for one's husband after God's love for His people through Jesus Christ. An unmarried woman can still be a "husband-lover" by esteeming and encouraging biblical marriage.

Ep 5:33 - Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must [see to it] that she respects her husband.

2. Children-lovers - Literally, "children-lover." Modeling one's love for children after God's love for His people through Jesus Christ. Any woman can be a "children-lover" by loving the children around her.

3. Sensible - Deals primarily with the mind or thought life; not to run for the edges or extremes in one's thought life, but instead to strive for reserved, balanced thinking that is not easily moved off center.

4. Pure - Chaste; morally pure in all ways; explained in Titus 2:14a; 3:5 - God purifies the sinner inwardly through the cross of Christ so that in becoming pure, they can then pursue clean, pure living.

Titus 1:15 - To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

Defiled - Sullied, spoiled, corrupted

5. Workers at home - Lit., a "home-working woman"; it is describing someone who has a heart for her household, who understands the value and the PRIORITY of the work & the relationships & the opportunities in her home.

Verses

Applications to being home-working women

Mt 5:16 - "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven".



Our work in our homes should display the light of Christ in our lives in such a way that God is glorified. It's not to make US look good.

1 Co 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not [in] vain in the Lord.



We are to always abound in the work in our homes, and to be encouraged that our toil is not in vain in the Lord.

2 Co 9:8 - And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.



God is able to make all grace abound to us for every good deed in our homes. This should make us prayerfully dependent on the Lord.

Ep 2:10 - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.



God prepared the works in our homes for us so that we will walk in them. When we do, our lives will show that He is our Master, and He wisely chooses the work He has for each of us.

Col 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.



Our work in the home is an act of service to the Lord, and so we should do it heartily - from the heart - without complaint. It's an opportunity for worshipful service.

1 Ti 2:9-10 - Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, 10 but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.



Good works - including the good works God has for us in our homes - are the proper adorning for a godly woman. They show something about who we are and about what God has done in us through His gospel.

1 Ti 5:9-10 - A widow is to be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, [having been] the wife of one man, 10 having a reputation for good works; [and] if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has assisted those in distress, [and] if she has devoted herself to every good work.



Being devoted to every good work doesn't keep us from being workers in our home - it makes the work in our homes fruitful for God's kingdom.

Principles from the Proverbs 31 woman which help us understand the work of the home (Pr 31:10-31):

The Proverbs 31 Woman . . .

- is trustworthy in her home, and to the people there.
- does her husband good and not evil all her days.
- works with her hands in delight.
- makes sure those in her household have food and clothing.
- is a wise steward of finances for the benefit of her household.
- prepares for coming needs.
- cares for the poor.
- is productive with both her time and her abilities.
- is diligent.
- has dignity.
- looks well to the ways of her household.
- speaks wisdom.
- teaches kindness.
- is not idle.
- fears the Lord.

Being a worker at home is not merely to be at home, but to be a “worker” there; to be employed with the relationships as well as the tasks of a household. Any work or activities that take a woman outside of her home must be weighed in light of the impact they have on her ability to be a worker at home.

6. Kind - Kindness or goodness that comes from the heart and then overflows into words and actions that benefit others. Since this follows immediately after “workers at home,” this may particularly have in view a need to apply kindness to how a woman serves in her home.

7. Subject to their own husbands - Submissive, obedient; lining herself up under the leadership and authority of her husband. It is not dependent on the kind of husband she has.

Ep 5:22-24 - Wives, [be subject] to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself [being] the Savior of the body. 24 But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives [ought to be] to their husbands in everything.

Pr 19:13b - ...the contentions of a wife are a constant dripping.

1 Pe 3:1-4 - In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any [of them] are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, 2 as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. 3 Your adornment must not be [merely] external--braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; 4 but [let it be] the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

III. What happens when transformed women are all they should be, 2:5b.

For more information about Grace Bible Church's mentoring ministry for women,
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Name: _____

October 25 and 27, 2018

Lesson 4

D1, D2, D3 – THE HEART, THE HOME, MINISTRY: WOMEN ENCOURAGING WOMEN (TITUS 2:3-5)

DUE:

Thursday, November 8, 2018 / Saturday, November 10, 2018

Before starting your Wellspring homework, praise God for who He is based on something you learned about Him from this lesson or something you've seen in your daily Bible reading. Ask Him to help you love and obey Him more through your time of study.

LOOKING BACK...

As we saw throughout the lesson, Discipline 1 - the heart - the shepherding of our own heart with God's Word - is necessary in order to practice all of the qualities in Titus 2:3-5. With that in mind, review Titus 2:3-5 and your lesson notes. Then prayerfully choose at least one quality in which you need to grow. How will you use Discipline 1 to cultivate that quality?

LOOKING DAY BY DAY...

Remember that the aim of your reading plan is to meet worshipfully with God in His word each day. In what ways are you seeking to do this in a worshipful way? What are some truths which have helped you worship?

If you find this challenging, try at least one of the following suggestions each day and describe how it helped you to cultivate a heart of worship towards God.

- Begin with prayerfully reading or singing a song from the Wellspring songbook
- Pray through one of the following verses: Ps 16:11; Ps 19:7-11; Ps 119:2, 18, 38
- As you read, make a list of things about God that are admirable or praiseworthy, then pray through those things when you complete your reading to praise and worship Him.

LOOKING AHEAD...

To prepare for our next lesson on prayer, read Colossians 1:3-12.

Considering Col 1:3-8, for what does Paul give thanks?

Considering Col 1:9-12, for what does Paul request from God for the Colossians?

Evaluate your own prayer life. For what kinds of things do you most thank God? For what kinds of things do you ask God?

Wellspring Kids Memory Verse:

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV) for room 4; John 14:6 for Room 2 and 3
to be memorized by the end of the year.