

(D1, D2, D3: THE HEART, THE HOME, MINISTRY)

Women Encouraging Women (Titus 2:3-5)

The Wellspring Purpose and Disciplines:

Introduction—Titus

Sin in the book of Titus	Qualities of a Titus 2 Woman
Ungodliness (2:12)	Reverent in their behavior
Malice (3:3)	Not malicious gossips
Enslaved to various lusts and pleasures (3:3)	Not enslaved to much wine
Teaching what shouldn't be taught (1:11)	Teaching what is good
Upsetting whole families (1:11)	Encourage the young women
Hateful, hating one another (3:3)	Love their husbands, love their children
Foolish, deceived (3:3), liars (1:12), foolish controversies (3:9)	Sensible
Defiled, unbelieving, nothing is pure, mind and conscience defiled (1:15)	Pure
Lazy (1:12), worthless for any good deed, by their deeds they deny Him (1:16)	Workers at home
Spending our life in malice and envy (3:3), evil beasts (1:12)	Kind
Disobedient (3:3)	Being subject to their own husbands

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

* *How can I grow in being reverent in my behavior?*

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

- Ephesians 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.

* *In what ways can I show God's work in my life by putting off sinful speech and putting on wholesome speech and prayer?*

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, these 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 cast themselves and their burdens upon the Lord, trusting Him for comfort and strength in the midst of difficulties.)

- Psalm 34:8 - O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!
- * *What would those closest to you say is your source of comfort, joy, and satisfaction, especially when you are tired, when you are sinned against, or when you are in some other difficulty? Pray about what repentance looks like in turning away from enslavements to find your all in Jesus. How could a sister in Christ help you in this battle?*

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

- * *In what ways are you growing in your understanding of God’s Word, and how is it impacting your life? How might you encourage another woman with this?*

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

- Encourage - To train, advise, urge.

- * *Prayerfully consider how you can cultivate these kinds of relationships with women you already know. Do you need to seek out an older woman and ask her to come alongside you and help you grow? Do you need to seek out a younger woman and offer to come alongside her, understanding that we do that in humility — not because we have this down, but because God has been kind in teaching us and continuing to grow us?*

1. To love their husbands - Literally, "husband-lovers." 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.

- Ephesians 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.

- * *Being a husband lover means to model our love for our husband after God's love for us through Jesus Christ. We used a variety of words to describe this love. We talked about:*

- *Devotion*
- *Cherishing*
- *Self-giving*
- *Friendship*
- *Affection*
- *Being lavish with God's grace*
- *Prioritizing*
- *Giving our best*
- *Thoughtfulness*
- *Respect*
- *Putting his needs and preferences above our own*
- *Treasuring*
- *Not comparing*
- *ALL as a fruit of our love for God*

- * *Which of these words reveals a way in which you need to grow in your love for your husband? Pray about what God has provided to help you cultivate that kind of love. How will you cultivate that toward your husband?*

- * *If you are not married, in which of these ways do you need to grow in your love for those in your household and/or family? How will you pray and use God's Word to cultivate that?*

- * *How can you encourage others to have a high view of marriage as a way to protect God's Word from dishonor?*

2. To love their children - Literally, "children-lovers." 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.
 - Hebrews 12:6 - For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives.

(The following is used with permission from BCEV)

A parent's resolve to glorify God through faithfulness in parental duties will result in a God-centered home rather than a child-centered or parent-centered home. The chart below compares the difference between a home that is child-centered and one that is God-centered.

Child-Centered Home	God-Centered Home
Where children learn that... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their parents desire their happiness above all else • Interrupting adult conversations is okay • Using manipulation and rebellion are valid means of getting their way • Children dictate the family schedule • Children take precedence over spouse's needs • Children have an equal or overriding vote • Demanding excessive time or attention is okay • Escaping the consequences of sinful and irresponsible behavior is right • Parents are more like peers than authorities • They can be entertained or coddled out of a bad mood • The entire family exists to please the children and make them happy 	Where children learn that... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their parents prize pleasing God • Serving others is a joy • Cheerful, immediate obedience is right • Interrupting adults is improper • Manipulation is sinful • They will not always get their way • Parents determine the family schedule • Their opinions are valued but the home is not a democracy • Parents have other God-given responsibilities • Sin has consequences • Honor towards authority is appropriate • Others' interests are placed above their own • They must contribute to household duties • Dad and Mom function in unity in everything • Marriage is superior to relationships between parents and children • Dad and Mom have distinct, God-given roles

- * *Are you ever mindful that God has given YOU the responsibility as a parent to lovingly train your children? OR that they have been entrusted to YOU? You have been given the privilege and weighty responsibility to train them. How does knowing that God is the One who has entrusted them to your care strengthen your commitment to loving discipline and instruction? Take some time to pray about this responsibility the Lord has entrusted to you — thanking Him and expressing your need for His enabling wisdom and grace.*
- * *What is one way you need to grow in loving children? How can you encourage others to love children, both their own as well as the children around them?*
- * *Prayerfully evaluate your home (with your husband, if you're married) in light of the "Child-Centered Home/God-Centered Home" chart. What steps will you take to become a more God-Centered Home?*

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.

- * *What principles from the last lesson on "How to Shepherd Your Heart" can you use to cultivate sound, sensible thinking, rather than running to the edges and extremes? How will you put that into practice on a daily basis?*

- * *How can you encourage others to be sensible, especially by using God's Word?*

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.

- * *Pray about purity as FREEDOM from corruption. Thank the Lord that He has purified you for Himself and now enables you to pursue pure, clean living by His grace. These questions are designed to help us look at both what we are letting IN to our hearts and minds, as well as what's going on inside and how it's coming OUT in our words and actions.*

- * *Are there any impure INPUTS in your life which are influencing you away from loving what God loves and hating what God hates? What will it look like to pursue purity with regard to those?*

- * *Are there any impure habits of thought, attitudes, words, or action from which to repent? Confess your sin to God, and begin renewing your mind with truth from God's Word to flee from from impurity.*

5. Workers at Home - Literally, 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 and the relationships and the opportunities in her home.

- * *How are you investing in the work of relationships in your home? How can you prayerfully apply Ro 12:10 (ESV), “Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor”?*
- * *How can remembering the value God places on your work and service in your home help you shepherd your heart attitude about that work?*
- * *How can you encourage others with the value of the work God has given them in their home?*
- * *Are there practical ways in which you need to grow in the service in your home? How would this bless others? If you are married, ask your husband for input so that he can help you see what are the most helpful ways for you to spend your time 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.

- * *How can you use the gospel or God’s character to cultivate kindness in your own life, especially in your own 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.
- Ephesians 5:22-24 - Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 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. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

 - 1 Peter 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, as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding of the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; 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.

 - * *Which principles about submission from the lesson could help you grow in trusting God and cultivating a submissive heart towards your husband or other authority?*

 - * *Are there any ways in which your understanding of submission does not align with God's Word? What from today's lesson can help you embrace a more biblical understanding?*

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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