

DOING GOOD: "Pass It Forward, Part 1"

INTRODUCTION

- Every church needs an army of **spiritual mothers** who will teach the next generation about Jesus.
Psalm 71:9; 17-18, 78:4-8

A. The Importance of Women's Ministry in the Church ("Older women likewise - v.3)

- The church is not a man's only club. Women were a **driving force** for the church's expansion in the early centuries.

"Christianity was not mocked in the early centuries for being anti-women. It was mocked for being so pro-women. Christianity was made fun of by the cultural elites in the Greco-Roman world because so many Christians were women. As a result, the elites said, 'Oh this is a religion for women and children.'" (Michael Kruger)

B. Discipleship can be tailored to **two genders**.

- Men and women are **equal yet different**.
- There can be in the church *designed discipleship*: older women teaching younger women (Titus 2:4).
- **Reminder**: Discipleship takes place within the context of **relationship** ("*life on life*" ministry).

C. Age is not a **chronological issue**.

- **Older women** – perhaps a reference to a woman past 60 years of age.
- We need to embrace this idea of the "older woman" – "You go, girl!"
Proverbs 16:31, 20:29
- There should be a **spiritual maturity** that matches her **biological reality**.

"Older people in the Bible are treasured because they speak to a life with greater experience and greater perspective. And that is a great watering hole for the next generation to go to and draw the wisdom from."
(De Courcy)

D. **Older people** are not to make way for the **younger people**.

- Paul doesn't skip over the older women and go to the younger women.

"Perhaps Ghandi was 72 when he began leading India's independence movement. . . Agatha Christie was still writing mystery novels when she died in her eighties. William Gladstone wrote his finest works in his sixties and seventies. George Mueller, Hudson Taylor, Lloyd George, Winston Churchill and a host of others impacted the world in their latter years."

E. Rethink **Retirement**

- There is nothing in this passage about going on perpetual vacation.
- Those who are age 60 and up ought to be marked by **discipling yourself** and **discipling others**.
- **Retirement**: a new idea started in 1889 in Germany. The Bible doesn't talk about retirement.

"The saints of God fall exhausted across the finish line of life, having served Jesus Christ down to their last breath." (De Courcy)

Sermon Application Questions

June 2, 2019

REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

Pastor Philip made the statement that "Women were a driving force for the church's expansion in the early centuries." What do you think about this statement? What are some of the ways that we can encourage a high view of the ministry of women in the church?

2

Pastor Philip made the observation that the idea retirement was started in 1889 under German Chancellor Otto Bismarck, and then affirmed in the U.S. under President Roosevelt in 1935. How does this perspective help us rethink our American view of retirement?

DIGGING DEEPER

1

Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week's sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

Psalm 71:17-18

O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

Psalm 78:4-7

We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

Proverbs 16:31

Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.

Proverbs 20:29

The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair.

1 Timothy 5:9-10

Let a widow be enrolled if she is not less than sixty years of age, having been the wife of one husband, and having a reputation for good works: if she has brought up children, has shown hospitality, has washed the feet of the saints, has cared for the afflicted, and has devoted herself to every good work.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

2

Read Titus 2:3-5 carefully. Of the list of qualities that older women and younger women are to pursue, which would you most like to grow in over the course of this sermon series? In what way would this character quality serve to “adorn the doctrine of God our Savior”? (**Tip:** Think of how this character quality might be a witness to the unbelieving friends and family you have in your life).

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1

The Apostle Paul sets before us a vision for spiritual maturity in the older men (Titus 2:2) and older women (Titus 2:3) in the church. This maturity is more than Bible knowledge; it is the *application* of God’s truth in such a way that godly character is cultivated. Evaluate your own character in the light of the following qualities. What is one practical way that you can pursue godly character this week?

Character Quality	Definition
1. Reverent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes a believer who has an appropriate fear of the holy things of God and acts respectfully in light of the God’s presence and power.
2. Not a Slanderer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes a believer who is self-controlled in speech and is known for speaking edifying, gracious words in relation to others.
3. Self-Controlled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes a believer who has a disciplined mind and who shows self-restraint in emotions, desires and behavior.
4. Kind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes a sweetness of speech and of conduct that ministers grace and encouragement to others.
5. Teaching what is good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes a believer who has been diligent to study God’s Word and to apply it to life. This believer has seasoned wisdom to impart to others.

- **My Application:** _____

2

In the sermon, Pastor Philip emphasized that **discipleship occurs in the context of relationships in the local church**. In other words, the godly characteristics in Titus 2:3-5 cannot be developed in isolation. Evaluate the ways that you can be more relational in the following settings in church life. Brainstorm some practical ways that you can be more relational in these contexts.

- **Large Group Meetings (e.g. Sunday Morning Worship):**
- **Small Group Meetings:**
- **Individual (“One on One”) Relationships:**