

DOING GOOD: "Pass It Forward, Part 2"

CHARACTERISTICS OF OLDER WOMEN (TITUS 2:3)

- Older women are to be **life-enhancers** to other people, especially to younger women. (Titus 2:3-5).

A. Testimony – "reverent" (v.3)

- The word has the root idea of "holiness" and speaks of a life that is separated unto God.
- The literal idea is to "act like a priestess" and has the idea of being "fit for temple service."
Luke 2:36-38

"Divine service will be conducted there three times daily" (Ruth Bell Graham)

→ **Application:** A woman should be reverent in dress, i.e. dress in modesty and moderation (1 Timothy 2:9-10).

- Modesty is an attitude of the heart, not the legalistic measurement of hem lines.
- **Questions to Ask:** Who am I trying to please? Does this focus on me? Does this distract from Christ?

B. Talk – "not slanderers" (v.3)

- An older woman is not to be a "she-devil" (*diabolos* – "slanderer").

Satan slanders God before humans, slanders believers to God, and gets believers to slander each other.

- Rather, her speech is to be a model of **wisdom and kindness** (Proverbs 31:26).

"Think before you speak": (T.R.U.T.H.)

- ✓ Is it **Truthful**?
- ✓ Is it **Helpful**?
- ✓ Is it **Inspiring**?
- ✓ Is it **Necessary**?
- ✓ Is it **Kind**?

C. Temperance – "not given to much wine" (v.3)

Points to Consider Regarding Alcohol:

1. The Bible speaks of alcohol's **delight**: the prohibition is against drunkenness, not drink.
Psalm 104:15; Proverbs 16:31, 20:29
2. The Bible speaks of alcohol's **danger**: alcohol can be a merciless cruel master.
Proverbs 20:1, 23:20-35
3. The Bible speaks of alcohol's **deferment**: "You are at liberty not to exercise your liberty."
Romans 14:20

"I carry the lantern that people may not stumble over me." (A blind man in a story told by D.L. Moody)

D. Training – "They are to teach what is good," (v.3)

- Older women are to be teachers of good things to younger women, esp. in relation to domestic life (Titus 2:3-5).

Sermon Application Questions

June 9, 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

Susan Hunt has written, "Spiritual mothering [is when] a woman possessing faith and spiritual maturity enters into a relationship with a younger woman in order to encourage and equip her to live for God's glory." What do think about this idea of relational ministry? What are some of the blessings that can come from this type of relationship?

2

In her work entitled "Modeling Modesty", Mary Mohler writes: "If you arrive at church and your perfume arrived five minutes before you, there is a problem. If you arrive at church dressed in such a way that you have spent more time and effort preparing your clothing, hair and make-up than you have preparing your heart for corporate worship of the one true and living God, there is a problem. But, if you arrive at church dressed like you are ready to slop the pigs on a farm, there is a problem."

What is your response to this statement? How can older women encourage younger women to honor the Lord in this area of life?

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 141:3

Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!

Proverbs 23:20-21

Be not among drunkards or among gluttonous eaters of meat, for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and slumber will clothe them with rags.

Proverbs 31:26

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

Romans 14:20

Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble.

1 Timothy 2:9-10

likewise also that women should adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly attire, but with what is proper for women who profess godliness – with good works.

1 Peter 3:3-4

Do not let your adorning be external – the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear – but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.

2 Read Proverbs 23:29-35 carefully. Pastor Philip observed that anything in the Christian life can be enslaving (e.g. alcohol, food, entertainment, work, sex.) What are some of the specific consequences listed in this text when temperance is not a virtue in a person's life?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

1 Meditate on the concept of a life of "reverence". As Pastor Philip explained, this word has the literal idea of "acting like a priestess" and describes a person who gives herself to sacred duty. Ruth Bell Graham summarized this idea well with a sign over her kitchen that said: "Divine service will be conducted here three times daily."

List three of your practical responsibilities that you engage in on a daily or weekly basis. How would your attitude towards these responsibilities change if you viewed them as "sacred service"?

My Responsibility	Application
1.	
2.	
3.	

2 In Psalm 141:3 the Psalmist prayed, "Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!" Pastor Philip suggested that that the (T.H.I.N.K.) acronym is a useful tool to evaluate the quality of our speech. Circle one of the five qualities listed below that you find the most challenging to apply in your speech. How would this quality change the way that you talk to others?

- Is it **Truthful**?
- Is it **Helpful**?
- Is it **Inspiring**?
- Is it **Necessary**?
- Is it **Kind**?

How this quality would change my speech: