

Mother's Day Message
"Wives and Mothers of Sound Doctrine"
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church
May 14, 2017
Pastor S.C. Brown

PRAY

Happy Mother's Day 2017!

Does the Bible have anything to say to Mothers?
Does the Bible have anything to say to wives?

Well, the Bible has a lot to say about a lot of things. The real question is whether **WHAT** the Bible says is true and applicable for today!

One of my friends here in town asked me one day,
"Don't you think the Bible needs updating? Like a 10.0 version?"

Turn in your Bibles to the book of Titus.

Paul is writing to a man named Titus, who is a church planter along with Paul.

They had gone to the island of Crete 克里特 (Ke4 Li3 Te4) off the coast of Greece..at some point that isn't entirely clear.

People came out of pagan backgrounds and believed in Jesus. Now there are churches across the towns of Crete and Titus is there without Paul.

Paul is writing a letter to encourage him for 2 reasons:

1. There are false teachings that need to be corrected by Titus. They need SOUND DOCTRINE. He will give us some teachings in that regard.
2. To encourage Titus to “put things in order” in these churches **by** establishing Elders in all of these churches who can carry on the work so that Titus can leave. (1:5-9)

I’d like to begin by working backwards.

Open your Bible to chapter 2 and let’s read **2:11-14**.

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

This is a basic statement of what it means to be a Christian.

- Our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, gave himself to redeem people from lawlessness and to purify them.
- Those who believe are God's people. Bought with the blood of Christ.
- Christians are (by the grace of God) to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age and be zealous for good works.
- While... waiting for their blessed hope, the return of Jesus.

Christians are to not be like the world.

We are to be different.

We are his people.

We are people of the Book.

We are to live according to the Book!

To live according to SOUND DOCTRINE.

But these people in these churches on the island of Crete, not only need instructions on how to live as new Christians, but there are people teaching false things.

So, Paul is telling Titus what to teach them.

Look at chapter 2 verse 1.

2:1 But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. 2 Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. 3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much

wine. They are to teach what is good, 4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

In these practical instructions for the church, he gives some lists of different groups of people to instruct....or put some things in order. They are:

1. Older men
2. Older women
3. Young women
4. Younger men
5. Instructions for Titus himself
6. Employees (slaves)

It is the group of Older women and Young women that we will focus on today- in order to build up and encourage our sisters.

Who is best equipped to train young women to be wives and mothers of sound doctrine? The Older Women.

The Older Women likewise (in a similar way to the Older Men) are to be....holy, not gossips, and not drinking too much wine. Now that doesn't mean that's ALL they are to be....because they must BE what they are going to TEACH the younger women to BE. They need to model it and not just teach it.

The pattern for training and teaching the younger women is:

1. *Love* your husband (Home relationships)
2. Love your children

3. Be self-controlled (Holiness)
4. Be pure.

5. Busy at home (Home attitude)
6. Kind
7. *Submissive* to husband

Why? That the word of God may not be dishonored. (Holistic witness)

1. Notice that the list begins and ends with the relationship to the husband. This is significant. The list doesn't begin and end with the children. The list doesn't begin and end with mothering but with being a wife.

Ironically, the way to be a godly mother begins and ends with loving your husband and submitting to your husband.

Why is this? Because God gave marriage before he gave childrearing. Marriage is in Genesis 2, the Fall of man is Genesis 3 and children came in Genesis 4.

Sisters, the best thing you can do to be a good mother is to love your husband and submit to him. It's God's design. Your kids will feel safe and loved in that kind of environment. They'll thrive in that love and safety. In this 'present age' it seems we do everything for the kids. The world's ways are wrong! We must not conform to the ways of the world but the ways of the Bible.

For the last 50 years we have twisted and turned the roles of men and women and marriage upside down to try to make things better. What has happened? The world is a mess!

Sisters. Love your husbands. Submit to your husbands.

2. Sisters, love your children.

That sounds way too simple doesn't it. But loving kids is hard. It's hard work always being needed. To always be "ON".

But there's only one person in the whole world who can be your kid's mother, who can give them the love they need. **You**. Not anyone else. Not the helper. Not the school. Not the daycare. You.

All is not right in our world. All around the world Fathers and Mothers are more and more absent.

As Dorothy Patterson said in her great article on Motherhood,

“Mom and hot apple pie have been replaced by institutional day care centers and cold apple turnovers at McDonald’s!..... In our quest to be all we are meant to be, let us not forget what we are meant to be! The question has never been whether a woman wants the best for her husband and children and even for herself. Rather the real question is this: Is being someone’s wife and another’s mother really worth the investment of a life?”

We should think hard and long about this as Christians. Who should change society? Who should live counter-cultural? We are kingdom people with a different king and a different set of values.

You women who have grown kids, how would you counsel the younger women?

Teach them to Love their husbands. Love their children.

3. Be holy and pure.

Paul tells Titus that the Older men, the older women and younger women and the younger men....should all be sober-minded or holy or self controlled.

Same thing. Be pure. Be set apart. Different. Right. Good. Holy. In a ‘present age’ that says, “Do whatever you want!”

Sisters, live holy and pure.

4. **Busy at home and kind.**

It means that the older women should train the younger women to be busy at home or working at home, diligent homemakers.

It doesn't mean that a woman can *never* work, but it does mean that the home should be her **priority**.

- Who is best qualified to teach the younger women to care for their home? Their mothers and older women.
- Who is best qualified to teach the younger women to to cook or be hospitable? Their mothers and older women.

And they are to be **KIND**. This is opposite to 'not slanderers' or 'not gossiping', which is taught in the New Testament.

Sisters, love your husbands and submit to them.

Sisters, love your children.

Sisters, be holy and pure.

Sisters, be busy at home.

Sisters, be kind.

Why?

That the word of God may not be 'reviled' or given a 'bad name.'

All of the things listed above this phrase, "that the word of God may not be reviled", belong to that phrase.

All of these things are their Christian witness in Crete. They are our Christian witness in Hong Kong.

The way Older men and Older women and Younger women and Young men and Employees live—speak about our God. We have a corporate witness and not just an individual witness.

Questions:

Are Christians seen as really any different in society in Hong Kong than others? What are we known for? What do people say about us?

Would they say our families are different?

Would they say our Older Women train our Younger Women to love their husbands and submit to them?

Would they say Christians love their children differently than everyone else does?

Would they say, “Christians don’t love money?”

Well, let’s end where we started...in Chapter **2:11-14**.

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a

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