

*D GROUP – Discipleship: *relationships for the purpose of becoming like Christ*

OUTLINE

Titus 2 for Women, How to Love Your Children – Part 1

THE ROLE OF WOMEN - OPENING DISCUSSION:

#1 *Do you find it challenging to love your children?*

#2 *What acts of love are the most difficult?*

#3 *How does a mother's love affect the child? The family? The Church?*

The CONTEXT of Titus 2...The Curriculum for older women to train the younger 4 that they may encourage the young women to love their husband, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.

The most crucial TRUTH: *1 Corinthians 11:3 I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ. Functioning in our roles is the only way men and women can glorify the Trinity.*

HOW IS A TITUS 2 WOMAN TO LOVE HER CHILDREN? Being a Titus 2 woman is hard work, particularly in the daily hectic pace of today's culture. It's no wonder in Titus 2:4 that God reminds women they need to learn to **like their husband** and **love their children**. Paul wrote these things to Titus because the Christians on Crete were having difficulty getting their behavior to match their beliefs. To solve this problem, **God outlines seven godly characteristics that can be used as a curriculum for older women to train younger women in godliness** (Titus 2:4-5, above): 1) **Maritally** – she is to love her husband; 2) **Maternally** – she is to love her children; 3) **Mentally** – she should be sensible; 4) **Morally** – she should be pure; 5) **Domestically** – she should be a worker at home; 6) **Socially** – she should be kind; & 7) **Spiritually** – she should be subject to her husband so that the Word of God is not dishonored.

In our last discussion, we learned that **a woman's love for her husband should be a tender affection**. She is to have the love of comradeship and friendship. It's the kind of love that communicates heart to heart. God's goal for the woman is to have a love for her husband that is **more than external obedience** or doing all that is "required". The biblical wife **should like her husband**. She is to be **friends with her mate**. A godly woman **cherishes her husband**.

Next to **maritally** loving her husband, the godly woman must learn to be **maternal**, to love her children. This can be difficult at times – like when the toddler screams in a tizzy, the teenager is defiant, or the kids are simply "kids", and the mother may not **feel like** loving her children. In fact, she may feel some urges that would frighten her children if they knew!

WHY DOES A GODLY WOMAN LOVE HER CHILDREN?

Why is loving children included on Paul's list of godly qualities for women? It comes naturally to most women. However, God wants us to know that the quality of loving children is more than our natural instincts. Loving children is a quality important to God and crucial to the godly woman's character.

LOVING KIDS IS A PRIORITY – as we learned in our last lesson, after first submitting their lives to Christ, then, with that transformation, a godly woman willingly loves her husband. And when a home is under the authority of Christ, with a healthy, solid, loving marriage, then the woman is to love her children. Our poor treatment of senior citizens and children is a symptom of the diseased culture in which we live in - **Loving kids is a priority** even though it is counter culture.

KIDS NEED LOVE FOR EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH – a mother's love is essential to provide basic physical and emotional needs, to overcome harsh conditions outside (and sometimes inside) the home. Children not only need the essentials (food, clothing, shelter), but need protection, encouragement and parental guidance through the physical and emotional stresses of today. They need moms and dads to LIKE them!

LOVING CHILDREN IS A PRIVILEGE – the world tells us that motherhood is less valuable than career or self (40% of children are left in afterschool care while mom's work). According to God's Word, being a full time mother is the highest privilege of a woman and offers her the greatest influence for the kingdom of God.

A GODLY WOMAN CAN RAISE A GENERATION OF GODLY CHILDREN – a godly woman can impact her children to salvation through her godly life. **Here is a Promise from God: women who once raised a "cursed generation" through the sin of one woman (Eve), can now raise a generation of godly children because of one woman's righteousness (the mother)**. I Timothy 2:15 says **"But women shall be preserved through the bearing of children, if they continue in faith, love and self-control"**. A woman is delivered from the stigma of the fall by bearing children if the woman continues in faith, love and self-control. Mothering children to grow up godly is her highest privilege and her purpose.

Mothers are to love their children because kids have a basic problem: they are totally inexperienced at best and desperately sinful at worst. They lack in four areas that the Bible delineates for us in Luke 2:52 – from the time he was 12 years old until His ministry began, Jesus “**increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.**”

- 1) **Children Lack Wisdom** – they lack instruction, knowledge and discretion, and don’t know what’s right and wrong (they need to be taught);
- 2) **Children Lack Stature** – they are weak physically and unable to support or sustain themselves (parents are responsible for feeding them, making sure they get the proper rest, protecting the children and encouraging their physical development...);
- 3) **Children Lack Favor with Men** – they cannot get along socially because they need to be socially acclimated (their dominant trait is selfishness; they lack humility – these social graces need to be taught as well); and
- 4) **Children Lack Favor with God** – spiritually, children do not come with a natural love for God. They may comprehend God, but without proper instruction, children will drift away from their knowledge of the Lord (Proverbs 22:6 – “*train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it*”). **Yes, God is the One who saves our children, but parents are responsible to show and share Christ attractively to their children.**

Our children will encounter problems in these four dimensions of life – mental, physical, social and spiritual. As parents, you are responsible for providing the environment that helps your children mature in these areas of inadequacy. If you fail to provide for their growth, you will raise “**a generation that curses their father, and does not bless their mother... They are pure in their own eyes, and yet are not washed from their filthiness**” (Proverbs 30:11-12). **Why does God tell mothers to love their children? Because loving their children is a parental priority and a God-given mandate.** The world system is aligned against parents who love their children. But God is FOR parents who love their children. Jesus loves children (Mark 10:14). **Although it may sometimes be tough, God exhorts women to love their children, never give up on them, accept them, minister to them, sacrifice for them, and most importantly, learn to really like them, cherish them, and delight in them.** Just as with loving their husbands, the Greek word *philotelenos* used in “love their children” is not the “agape love” (the obedient love that expects nothing in return); it means the love moms have for children is to be a love that emotionally cares, likes, cherishes and just enjoys them.

NEXT TIME

How does a godly woman love her children?

- 1) She must first be transformed by Christ;
- 2) She must fully function in the Church;
- 3) She must depend upon the Holy Spirit; and
- 4) She must follow Christ’s plan.

What does a godly woman do to love her children?

- 1) She models obedience to God’s Word;
- 2) She makes her home a biblical training environment; and
- 3) She develops biblical habits for her home.

QUESTIONS for Discipleship Groups : M= For Married Women S= For Single Women MS= Both

1. **M:** Give examples of how you have affirmed your husband’s headship as an essential element for cultivating the right environment for raising children?
S: Give examples of how you affirm the headship of those who care for your soul, and others in authority over you (parents, employers, teachers) as an essential element in preparing for marriage.
2. **M/S:** As a submissive woman, living under authority, what practical and specific ways can you MODEL Christ-likeness to children in each of the Four Traits Children Lack?
3. **M/S:** Discuss your specific, and creative ideas for loving, nurturing and instructing children toward maturity in the Four Traits Children Lack.

Complete the Homework Exercises and Call ONE Other Woman in Your D Group to Go Over Your Answers, and to Pray with One Another.