

*D GROUP – Life on Life Discipleship for Women of FBC

OUTLINE for Fall 07

Titus 2 for women, Introduction part 1

WHOLE BODY DISCIPLESHIP – all of us and each of us, doing all we can in dependence upon the Spirit to aggressively assist one another to live like Christ for the glory of God.

Not a fellowship meeting or bible study – this is CHANGE OR DIE, DEPEND & OBEY, RUN TO WIN – BE LIKE CHRIST

THE ROLE OF WOMEN OVERALL opening discussion: #1 Culture is confused...list the top 3 ways HOW?

#2 Christian women are confused...list the top 3 reasons WHY? #3 The Bible is clear...list top 3 passages WHERE?

The CONTEXT of Titus 2...The Curriculum for older women to train the younger

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Paul says God's Word is dishonored when women disregard God's design for their role. But when women exhibit these qualities, their lives bear witness to the truth, relevancy and sufficiency of the Scriptures

Paul's instruction to Titus on the woman's role is consistent with the teaching of **Scripture as a whole;**
Today is part one of the overall introduction

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 & women can glorify the Trinity

#1 THE ROLE OF WOMEN FROM THE BEGINNING

1) Genesis 1 shows us the equality between the sexes. Both men and women were created in God's image. Neither the man nor the woman received God's image in greater measure. God's command to multiply and subdue the earth was addressed to both sexes. **Read Genesis 1:27-28** In creation, men and women were equals before God, yet their roles are distinct.

2) Genesis 2 provides us with a more complete picture of the sixth day of creation. Here we see the man was created first, and verse 18 tells us that he was incomplete. So God created the woman to be his helper—a helper who was like him, suited to him, corresponding to him. **Read Genesis 2:18-20** When God paraded the animals before Adam; He exposed Adam's need for a companion. God even gave Adam a job to do—tending the garden and naming the animals—but his job did not make Adam complete. I imagine Adam discovered animals he especially liked and animals that might be useful, but he did not find a suitable life companion (vs. 20).

3) For a short time Adam was the only human being on earth, but God decreed that Adam's aloneness was not good (vs. 14). When God showed Adam a special parade of animal pairs to help him recognize his need for a partner, a suitable helper, one who would be comparable to him. Then God performed surgery to address what was lacking in Adam's life: **Read Genesis 2:21-23** Where does the word "woman" come from? Adam said, "**W** _____" When Adam saw Eve for the first time, his words were, literally, "*This is it!*"

4) So Eve was God's second human creation, and God formed her in a manner distinct from the way He formed the man. God created Adam out of dust, to be a separate, independent being, but He created Eve from Adam's bone, to be a helper for him. The Genesis 2 account demonstrates that the man and woman had a mutual need for each another. God showed Adam that his aloneness was not good, and He demonstrated Eve's dependence on Adam by forming her from Adam's bone. God's plan for this couple was marriage. **Read Genesis 2:24-25** We first discover the submission of woman in Genesis 2, when God created Eve to function as Adam's suitable **H** _____. This tells us Adam, the one created first, would function as her leader. And all of this was God's perfect design before the fall of the human race into sin.

5) Then in Genesis 3, we find a development that upset God's plan for this couple. The serpent tempted Eve, deceiving her and coaxing her to make a terrible decision, to step into the lead without consulting Adam. Eve ate the fruit and then offered it to her husband because Satan deceived her, but Adam was willfully disobedient in his decision to violate God's command. The rebellion of Adam and Eve brought terrible consequences to all of mankind. This event marked the point in history when mankind became sinful to the core, placing us forever in need of salvation. This event also brought about God's curse on Adam, Eve and the serpent. **Read Genesis 3:16**

6) For Eve, there were three consequences to God's curse: her childbirth would be painful, her desire would be for her husband, and her husband would rule over her. What does "your desire will be for your husband" mean? In the next chapter of Genesis, we see the exact same Hebrew word translated "desire" with the obvious implications of desiring control. **Read Genesis 4:7.** Moses, the author of Genesis used this Hebrew word, translated "desire," twice in the span of just 15 verses. The Genesis 4:7 use of this word refers to Cain's sin that desires to control him. Genesis 3:16 must be understood in the same way: "your desire shall be to control your husband." The woman's desire to **C** _____ her husband and her husband's desire to rule over her are consequences of the curse. Is not this one issue the root of all marital conflict? The world calls this tendency in humanity the battle of the sexes. The Bible calls it sin. Throughout the history of mankind, men have dominated women, often in harsh, abusive ways. Some men will corrupt God's Word, using it to justify their sin against women. The Bible does not give men license to treat women harshly, but rather it admonishes husbands to love their wives sacrificially and exhorts all believers to humble themselves before one another, even in marriage.

7) Today, the pendulum is swinging in the opposite direction as people twist Scripture to support feminism. Some churches teach that submission was a consequence of the fall of mankind and the curse of Genesis 3:16. This line of thinking suggests that the cross of Christ erased the curse of the fall, ending the submission of wives to husbands and eradicating the distinction between gender roles. The Bible does not support this reasoning. In the New Testament, when the apostle Paul taught about submission of women (see 1 Corinthians 11:11-12 and 1 Timothy 2:9-15), he used the creation account in Genesis 2 to support his instruction. Remember, in Genesis 2 the woman was created from the rib of the man, to be his helper.

8) The Bible consistently instructs wives to submit to their husband's leadership. This has been God's design for marriage from the beginning – before the fall into sin - and the cross of Christ did nothing to alter God's marital blueprint. Even after Adam and Eve sinned, the cross of Christ did not even erase all the consequences of the fall, such as pain in childbirth.

9) From the beginning, man and woman were created to be equal before God but different in their roles. God purposed for humanity that a man and a woman would at some point leave their birth families and cleave to one another in a unique relationship characterized by its "oneness." God purposed in marriage, that the role of the husband and the wife would **C** each other. The man would be the leader, and the woman would be his helper. Submission of the wife to her husband was God's design from the beginning. [] Examples: pilot & co-pilot; lead & supportive actor; others?

#2 THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN JESUS' MINISTRY

1) Women were very much a part of Jesus' ministry. The consequences of the fall were an integral part of Jesus' ministry as well—He was the Savior who would die to redeem fallen mankind. Christ is the only one who can forgive our sin. The redemption that is in Christ brought the hope of reconciliation between fallen mankind and the Creator. By faith, we can be made right with God through the work of Christ on the cross.

2) The gift of salvation can also restore mankind's hope for **H** in marriage. God's Spirit can transform the human heart, planting in us a desire to live for God instead of self. When given true salvation, God gives us the desire and the power to obey God's Word {see Romans 6:17}. This internal transformation allows us to fulfill God's blueprint for men and women.

3) In ancient history men treated women like cattle, but when Jesus appeared on the pages of history, He demonstrated something very different. His friendships with women were radical. In **John chapter 4** (vs. 9) Jesus spoke publicly with a Samaritan woman, revealing His identity to her so she might worship the Messiah. Jesus offered kindness, truth and the gift of salvation to a Samaritan woman who allowed Him to expose the neediness of her life. His interest in this woman amazed His disciples.

4) There are many examples of Jesus' attitude toward women in the record of His ministry. In **Luke 8:2** we see that a band of women traveled with Jesus, ministering to Him and His disciples. In **Luke 10:38** we find two women among Jesus' closest friends. In **Luke 7:44**, Jesus publicly esteemed a woman for her unusual act of kindness toward Him. In **Luke 8:43**, Jesus violated religious taboos relating to ritual uncleanness in women by touching a woman with a menstrual problem. In **Matthew 27:55**, at the crucifixion, women stayed with Jesus longer than his own disciples. In **Mark 13:46** we see that women were the first to discover the empty tomb. In **John 20:14**, the resurrected Christ appeared first to these same women and commissioned them to be the first witnesses of the Good News.

5) This New Testament attitude toward women is clearly expressed in **Read Galatians 3:28**, Jesus offered freedom to women, slaves and Gentiles, all of whom were viewed with disdain in the Jewish culture. The gospel of Jesus gave women, slaves and Gentiles equal access to God and equal standing before God. Only through Christ can we fulfill our God designed role.

QUESTIONS for Discipleship Groups

#1 What are the top 3 reasons why women resist the role of helper and submission?

#2 What are the top 3 reasons why women should pursue the role of helper and submission?

#3 **KEY** What specific steps will you take NOW to demonstrate the role of helper and submission?

D group projects – one per day; repeat for second week

Wednesday: Dare to be a servant! This week, once per day, ask your husband or room-mate or sister in Christ, how can I HELP you today?

Thursday: In the area you find it most difficult to be a helper, intentionally pursue it without being asked.

Friday: What way do you try to control your husband or your close friends, and then ask the Lord to help you trust Him instead of trying to manipulate your relationships or circumstances?

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NEXT TIME The role of women in Marriage to a Christian AND the role of women in Marriage to a Non Christian

LATER: The role of women in Worship; The role of women in Ministry; The role of women in the Home

MUCH LATER: The best environment for the spiritual growth of a woman; the role of Older women; How to Train Women; Titus 2 'Liking' your spouse etc.

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