

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

OUTLINE

Titus 2 for women, Introduction part 5

THE ROLE OF WOMEN opening DISCUSSION: #1 Why is it so difficult for single Christian women to embrace their unique biblical role as a woman #2 What does it take for a single woman to be excited about the role of Godly woman? #3 What practical steps can both younger and older women take to encourage all women in their role?

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.

Today is part FIVE of what the entire Bible says about the ROLE OF WOMEN, focusing now on the SINGLE WOMAN; part 2

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

What is a single woman to do, wait to be married OR skip waiting to go for it with career or ministry or missions or all the above? If not a celibate then make the most of her singleness [undistracted devotion to Christ], prep for marriage and family and while in this state of tension, do all to the glory of God with education and career, not violating her future as a potential wife and mother.

WHAT IS THE ANSWER FOR SINGLE CHRISTIAN WOMEN? Simply understand YOUR purpose – #1 DO ALL TO GOD'S GLORY The application of this answer may not be easy, the answer itself is simple. The single woman should strive to do all to the glory of God. How does she do this? She evaluates the motives behind her choices. Is her pursuit of higher education to satisfy pride and achieve worldly success? Is she making this choice to satisfy self or to honor Christ? The college campus is a place where the single Christian woman can stand out as a witness for Jesus Christ. College life can provide an opportunity for God to hone her character and make her more like Christ. College can develop skills that will help her to become a godly wife and mother. Are these her motives?

1 Likewise, she should ask herself if pressure from others is motivating her to pursue a career. Is she driven to gain money, accumulate clothes and luxuries or achieve a trendy lifestyle? Is she trying to obtain success in the eyes of the world? She must make up her mind whether she is striving for self-glory or striving for God's glory. The working world is a place where she can reach people without Christ and encourage other Christians. She can do her job as an act of worship to God, consciously striving to learn skills and cultivate character qualities that will help her become a biblical wife and mother.

2 What are her motives for ministry? Does she serve in order to be regarded as godly or talented or popular or does she minister out of self-sacrificing love for Jesus Christ? Does she minister her spiritual gifts as an act of obedience to God in service to the body of Christ, or is it driven by a need for attention or some form of pride?

3 The single Christian woman should be asking the Lord to evaluate her heart, because Jeremiah 17:9-10 tells us *the heart is more deceitful than all else* and only God can test the heart and mind of a woman. It is essential for the single Christian woman to be consistently reading the Word of God and seeking its counsel to allow God's Spirit to work in her heart. God's Word will test her heart motives as she makes choices.

4 During a time when she is not living under the headship of a father or a husband, the single Christian woman should rest in knowing that Jesus Christ is her head. Knowing Him should be the fundamental pursuit during the season of singleness in her life, whether the duration of that season is long or short. Being distracted from the pursuit of God is her greatest peril, for distractions will increase the state of tension and severely hamper her walk with Christ. As with every true Christian, her pursuit of Christ will find her in a vital relationship to a local church and under the authority of Godly leaders.

The single mom faces the same tension of singleness in addition to the strain of parenting alone. Without the habit of consistent feeding upon God's Word, the single mom can easily lose a biblical perspective. Reading the Scriptures will remind her of God's character—His providential sovereignty, His faithfulness and His mercy. God's Word will build her up and assure her that in her singleness, the Lord is her husband—her Shepherd, her Counselor, her Comforter and her life. And His life manifested in the body of Christ, the church, can provide her with invaluable support. Finding a fit in the church can be complicated by the circumstances of single parenting. It can be very humbling to parent alone. There are times when the single parent is very needy. Pride might turn the single mom away from the body of Christ to try to manage alone. But God offers more of Himself to single parents and their children through the church, than He can if they remain independent from His body. He has distributed diverse spiritual gifts to people throughout the body of Christ so they will build up others. The church was designed by Christ to care for broken families. That is part of the reason why Titus 2:3-4 doesn't tell moms to train daughters, but older women to train younger women. God knew families don't always function ideally, so He designed His family to make sure modeling and training occurred.

#2 PURSUE YOUR ROLE PASSIONATELY In order for the single woman to grow in godliness, she must grow to appreciate the role God has mapped out for women. In her attitudes and actions, in her words and in the non-verbal expressions she wears on her face, whether or not she might be a celibate, the single Christian woman should honor the role of wife, mother and homemaker. She can do this with a pure heart and with joy when she trusts in God's sovereignty and the wisdom of His plan for her life.

1 In God's curriculum for training godly women, Titus 2:3-5, we will see that God calls the church to uphold and esteem the role of a wife, mother and homemaker. The gender roles are the Creator's design for humanity. From the very beginning, this was God's blueprint for people.

2 Single Christians need to express their thankfulness for the season of their singleness. Singleness is a time when people can pursue God unhindered by family responsibilities. The fallen world says singleness is a time to have fun, enjoy many dating relationships and pursue personal success unhindered by family responsibilities. The world says it is a time when it's OK for your life to drift without purpose. But the Bible says the one purpose for singleness is to pursue, maintain and enjoy undistracted devotion to the Lord. 1 Corinthians 7:33 *but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, 34 and his interests are divided. And the woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. 35 And this I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is seemly, and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.*

3 Single people who are not celibates may never again have this opportunity to cultivate undistracted devotion to the Lord. If for the time being you are single, then pursue devotion to God with all your heart, studying His Word, communing with Him in prayer, doing His work, **participating in the life of the church, and making an impact for His kingdom.** Everywhere you go and in everything you do, dream big dreams that can accomplish much for our God who is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or think (Ephesians 3:20-21). Be thankful for this time to minister unhindered, but also look forward to marriage as the completion of your ministry. Paul describes the disadvantages of marriage in 1 Corinthians 7, which include the pressure to protect a family; the pressure of the closest of all relationships; the pressure to provide for the needs of a family and other pressures in marriage. Throughout the pages of Scripture we find God says marriage is to be exalted. In 1 Peter 3:7 He calls marriage the grace of life. In Genesis 2:24, before the fall of mankind, we find God designed the man and the woman to leave their parents and cleave to each other and to become one flesh, which is a testimony of the oneness of the Godhead. **Show your thankfulness in unhindered devotion to Christ, with an attitude that looks forward to marriage as the way you can honor God with a partner, and as the completion of your ministry.** Let your life point to His grace and His goodness.

#3 MAKE WISE CHOICES NOW THAT FACILITATE YOUR FUTURE

If you are not a celibate, and you want to uphold your role as a woman, **never replace your role as a woman {a wife, mother and homemaker} with a career, ministry or mission opportunity in a permanent way.** Certain career choices will make the role of wife, mother and homemaker very difficult. Think carefully about the choices you are making in light of your future role as a wife, mother and homemaker. Simply speaking, don't make a career, ministry or missions choice that will permanently remove the opportunity to be a wife, mother and biblical homemaker, unless you recognize you have the role of a true biblical celibate. The single Christian woman should pursue no direction that would stop her from fulfilling her role as a wife, mother and homemaker. Don't lock yourself into anything which makes it impossible to fulfill the biblical role of a woman. If God has designed a specific role for men and women in marriage, then neither sex should make choices that make fulfilling their biblical role impossible. Be thankful for your God-given role.

#4 BE RESPONSIBLE TO PREPARE NOW

1 Another response to the state of tension of singleness is to be responsible. Be a responsible Christian with an aggressive faith. One of the ways single women can do that is to be responsible to prepare for marriage now. Prepare for the role of a wife, mother and homemaker by watching and learning domestic skills. In our day, it may be necessary for the single woman to watch, learn and practice these skills in another home, because the patterning is not available in her own home. It would be responsible for the single woman to work at learning skills relevant to the biblical role of a woman, such as cooking and nutrition, budgeting, managing her emotions in a biblical way, studying the Bible on her own and cultivating the habit of prayer. Doing this will help her to become a godly woman, encouraging wife and model mother when God brings marriage and a family into her life. These skills need to be developed when marriage and mothering begin. Single women also need to learn how to balance their lives, between ministry, school, perhaps short-term work or pursuing missions. Somehow, while pursuing undistracted devotion to the Lord, the single woman needs to find time to prepare for her future ministry in the context of her family. She should invest time preparing for her future ministry while also being faithful in her present ministry.

2 In order to survive during the time of singleness tension, it is absolutely crucial the single woman maintain a proper relationship with **her parents.** The Bible teaches over and over again, from the Ten Commandments through the New Testament epistles, we are to honor our parents [see Ephesians 6:2-3]. When we live in their home we are to obey them and submit to their authority, as long as it is consistent with the Scripture. **No true Christian can be rightly related to God who is not rightly related to his or her parents.** *In as much as it depends upon her,* the single woman should seek to be in a proper relationship with her parents. God has established His leadership, His true authority, through the structures of authority on earth. God uses government, the authority of church leadership and the authority of parents. It is crucial for us to remember God has established these authorities. This is clearly taught in Romans 13. Sometimes when parents can't fulfill the role as Godly authority, then church leaders in a way can function in that manner.

3 Single women also need to be open to develop proper relationships with their brothers in Christ. At the same time develop convictions concerning biblical relationships with those of the opposite sex. The Bible has much to say about maintaining right relationships with those of the opposite sex. Learn how to love sacrificially, speak the truth, don't deceive, don't defraud, don't flirt, discipline your desires, control your thoughts and treat each man as someone else's future husband and as a brother in Christ for life. This is the time for women to put these truths into practice.

4 To survive during this state of tension, with all her might, under the control of the Spirit, she should be striving to develop the qualities mapped out for young women in Titus 2 verses 3-4. If she is to have aggressive faith, then she needs to be pursuing God's curriculum, which is clearly defined by seven qualities outlined in Titus 2:4 and 5.

#5 TRUST THE LORD TO TAKE CARE OF YOU

Psalms 84:11-12 promises this: *No good thing will he withhold from those who walk uprightly.* It is on the path of godliness and on the path of obedience God honors and rewards us. Time and time again, when single women pursue God's path, they find themselves the recipients of great blessing. It is not that God must immediately provide their husband to be, or He must give them the career path of their choice or He must give them the life they define, but that He will bless the woman who follows His Word. God will honor the single woman who honors Him. God will pour out good things on those who walk according to His truth.

QUESTIONS for Discipleship Groups

- #1 How does a biblical discussion on the role of the single Christian woman SHARPEN the married woman?
- #2 What needs to change in the life of the married Christian woman in order to facilitate the young Christian woman in the church [not necessarily your own child] fulfill her role as a Godly young Christian unmarried woman?
- #3 What areas discussed today create the greatest challenge of growth for the single woman and the married woman?
- #4 What specific steps will you take this week in order to apply the truths talked about today?

THIS WEEK

For the single woman – get with an older Godly woman and work out a game plan on how to pursue being the woman God desires of you
For the married woman – talk with a Godly woman and evaluate what changes need to be made in your life so you can live out the truths stated above