

TITUS 2:3-5

LESSON 3 – YOUNGER WOMEN, PART 1

GOD'S WORD FOR WOMEN TODAY

Vicki Lewis

TITUS 2:3-5 (NASB95)

“Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.”

- **In Lessons 3 and 4 we will study what God’s Word said to Titus about the younger women in the church.**
- **There are seven areas that younger women need training for and examples of as they mature in their roles as wives and mothers.**

YOUNGER WOMEN

- “Younger” is a positive adjective literally meaning “new” or “fresh” and probably suggests a reference to the newly married.
- “It is clear from the context that [Paul] is here speaking only to wives, to young women who are married ... first to all young women who are married (v. 4b), then to those who have children (v. 4c), and then again to all young wives (v. 4d).” ~John MacArthur
- This text implies nothing negative or amiss about single women or married women without children; it simply states the focus or emphasis of a particular church ministry.

VERSES 4-5: WHAT SHOULD BE TAUGHT?

Seven responsibilities of younger women, or areas of curriculum, that are to be taught:

- 1. To love their husbands (v. 4) (Christian marriage)**
- 2. To love their children (v. 4) (Christian parenting)**
- 3. To be sensible (v. 5) (Christian character)**
- 4. [To be] Pure (v. 5) (Christian character)**
- 5. [To be] Workers at home (v. 5) (Christian Homemaking)**
- 6. [To be] Kind (v. 5) (Christian character)**
- 7. Being subject to their own husbands (v. 5) (Christian marriage)**

WHAT IS TO BE TAUGHT?

- **The list of topics begins and ends with references about how to behave with their husbands: love them and be subject to them.**
- **Realize that it is married women who are addressed here; these are the women who will most likely be having children and managing family households.**
- **Single women are not specifically addressed here.**
- **Other portions of Scripture address women more generally: for example, 1 Timothy 2:9-10.**

#1 TO LOVE YOUR HUSBAND

- *Phílandros*, (FIL-an-dros) (#5362) = “fond of man, i.e. affectionate as a wife” (Strong’s); from “to love a man”
- From *philos* (FEE-los) (#5384) = properly, dear, i.e. a friend; actively, fond, i.e. friendly (still as a noun, an associate, neighbor, etc.) + *aner* (an-AIR) (#435) = a man; husband
- “Loving one’s husband” (Zodhiates); a compound word Paul used only here in the New Testament
- This is one area that new wives most need to learn about from older women: how to be a friendly, affectionate companion to their husbands; not innate or automatic, but learned deliberately

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO LOVE YOUR HUSBAND?

- **Understand what God's design for a Christ-centered marriage is: e.g., a covenant, not a contract; "leave, cleave, and become one;" marriage is an illustration of Christ's relationship with His church; marriage is to be held in honor by all [that is, regarded as something of great value]; the marriage bed is to be undefiled [by immorality or by any sexual sin] (Hebrews 13:4)**
- **"...the wife [must see to it] that she respects and delights in her husband [that she notices him and prefers him and treats him with loving concern, treasuring him, honoring him, and holding him dear]." (Ephesians 5:33) (AMP)**

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO LOVE YOUR HUSBAND?

“A man’s headship over his wife is characterized not by tyranny, cruelty, or bossism, but by sacrificial – that is, self-denying, self-abandoning – love, Calvary love, the love that took Jesus to the Cross.” ~Elisabeth Elliot



#2 TO LOVE YOUR CHILDREN

- *Philóteknos*, (fil-0AT-ek-nos) (#5388) = fond of one's children, i.e. maternal (Strong's); from "to love a child, offspring"; only used here
- From *philos* (FEE-los)(#5384) = properly, dear, i.e. a friend; actively, fond, i.e. friendly (still as a noun, an associate, neighbor, etc.) + *teknon* (TEK-non)(#5043) child, son, daughter; "giving prominence to the fact of birth" (Vine's)
- Children are a gift, an heirloom, from God and a reward, a benefit, from His hand (Psalm 127:3). Parents are therefore accountable to Him for raising, shaping and preparing these precious ones for a life of service to His Kingdom and to humanity (Ephesians 6:4).

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO LOVE ONE'S CHILDREN?

- **Understand God's design for children: e.g., they are a blessing; they are to be trained up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.**
- **Christian parenting does not come built in but it is a learned, practiced attitude and behavior acquired over time.**
- **Taking care of your children's needs; diligently teaching the scriptures to them; modeling how to live according to a biblical worldview; pointing them to Christ**



#3 TO BE SENSIBLE

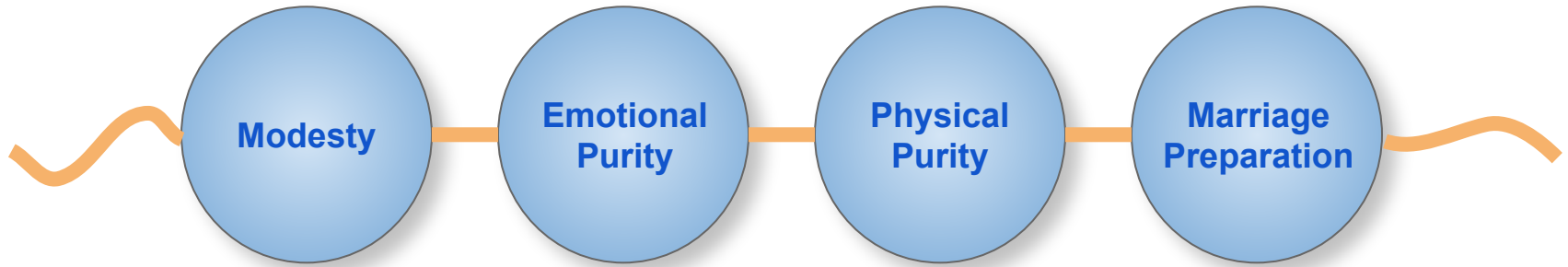
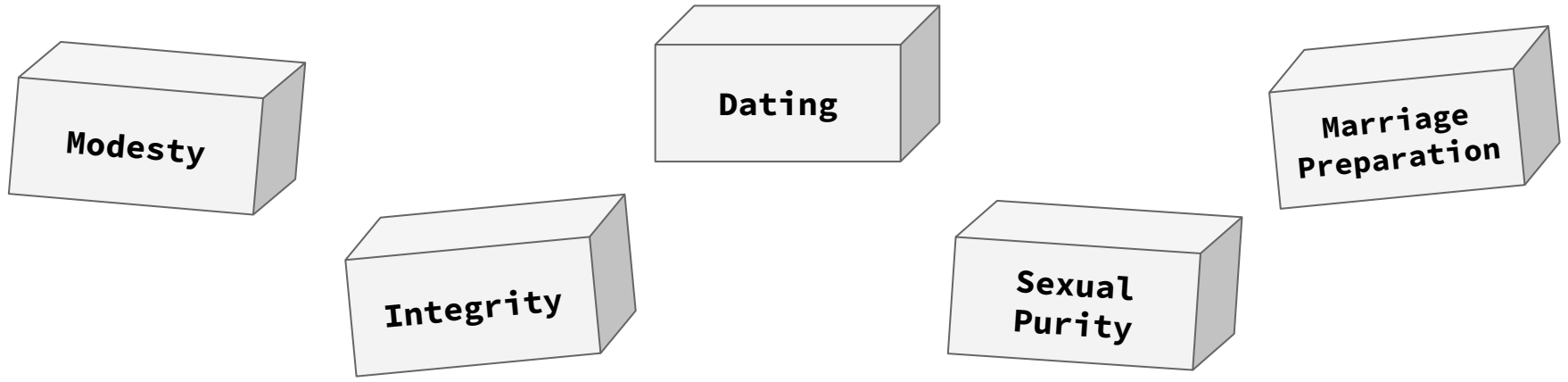
- *Sophron* (SOH-frone) (#4998); safe (sound) in mind, i.e. self-controlled (moderate as to opinion or passion)
- “Self-disciplined in one’s freedom, self-restrained in all passions and desires” (Vine’s)
- “If a person is not thinking rightly, he will not act properly. A woman needs a correct and disciplined outlook on her ministry in the home.” (Wiersbe)
- Synonyms: Prudent, wise, circumspect, sober
- Opposite: foolish, rash, unthinking

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO BE SENSIBLE?

- **To be in rational control of one's impulses and passions; sober-minded; "calm, unhurried, marked by temperance, moderation, or seriousness"; a person who is able to think clearly and with clarity**
- **In direct opposition to the command to be sober-minded are silliness, irresponsible choices, foolish experimentation with harmful substances or behaviors, and crude joking.**
- **"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place." Ephesians 5:3-4 (NIV)**

#4 TO BE PURE

- **Hagnos (hag-NOHS) (#53) = properly, clean, i.e. (figuratively) innocent, modest, perfect (Strong's)**
- **Chaste, pure of heart and mind.**
- **“A Christian wife is true to her husband in mind and heart as well as action.” (Wiersbe)**
- **The concept of purity is one character quality that has gone out of style in today's world.**
- **“People used to blush when they were ashamed. Now they are ashamed if they blush. Modesty has disappeared and a brazen generation with no fear of God before its eyes mocks at sin. We are so fond of being called tolerant and broadminded that we wink at sin when we ought to weep.”**



WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO BE PURE?

- **God's Word is the absolute truth for all people, for all time, and for all places. That is because its foundation is the unchangeable character of God Himself.**
- **Two categories of modesty: the internal modesty of the heart and the external modesty of appearance and behavior**
 - **Heart: Built on a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, this kind of modesty springs from a desire to live a life that is pleasing to the Lord.**
 - **Appearance and behavior: Outward dress and behavior which reveal an inner reverence for Christ**
- **The issues of emotional and physical purity apply to people of all ages throughout life.**

SUMMARY

We have discussed four of the seven topics that Paul told older women to instruct young wives about:

- 1. Being an affectionate and loving companion to their husbands**
- 2. Loving their children and pointing them to Christ**
- 3. Being a sensible, reasonable young woman with good sense**
- 4. Being pure in both attitudes and behaviors**

NEXT LESSON

We will cover the remaining three areas that older women need to teach younger women in Lesson 4:

- Be workers at home
- Be kind
- Be subject to their own husbands

