

Sermon to the Saints of God assembled at Topeka, KS: Sunday, January 26, 2025

Sober, Sober, Sober – Titus 2
Part 5

Titus 3:14 *“And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.”*

Today we will resume our examination of Paul’s instruction to “speak thou the things which become sound doctrine”, ministering continual and specific provocation to practical godliness within the church, according to each member’s need and circumstance.

Titus 2: 1-10 *“1 ¶ But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: 2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. 3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; 4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. 6 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. 7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, 8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. 9 Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; 10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.”*

Our goal is to examine and apply the practical instruction that the Holy Spirit provided for each of the demographics in the passage. As a reminder of what we have covered so far:

- Aged men – Sermon 5/12/2024
- Aged women – 12/8/2024
- Young women - Today
- Young men – Sermon 6/30/24 + 10/20/24
- Preachers
- Servants

Today we will consider Paul’s instructions to young women, which is the longest list in the whole passage. It’s length is particularly noteworthy when compared to the single instruction for young men to be sober-minded. I think that this is because the life of a young woman – particularly a young mother – is by necessity consumed with practical

activity for the good of other people (husband, children, parents, etc.). It's not a highfalutin, self-serving life – it's boots on the ground, constant, disciplined activity, with a spirit that is focused on pleasing her husband or father and her God. That same energy is what should drive the lives of all of God's sheep, as we seek to please our Lord.

Young women

- That [the aged women] may teach the younger women to be Sober:
 - I covered this instruction when speaking of the duty of the older women, since the instruction is for them to actively teach sobriety in practical ways to younger women. I am repeating the following excerpt from that sermon, since it focuses on the perspective of the younger women:
 - For this teaching to be possible, young women **must** put down their pride to believe that it is necessary to be taught, so that they can comfortably submit to instruction. This includes a willingness to be open and honest with older people who are trying to watch for your soul and give you good help. That does not mean that you should be vomiting the business of your house and your marriage all over the place (see discreet below). It means that you have to be willing to listen and consider without immediately taking offense, or trying to justify yourself. It means that you should not – ever – turn and assault the faithful soul that is trying to help you; or go about to malign them to others. Hear what they are telling you and take it to heart. Attribute to them the very best motivation, and forbear anything about their presentation that wasn't your favorite.
- Love their husbands:
 - Combined below with "obedient to their husbands".
- Love their children:
 - Surely we should cherish our children, and treat them with much affection and kindness. We should give them all the good that we are able to. Young mothers should be encouraged to this, as they shift their lens from one that is focused on themselves, to one that is focused on their family. That natural affection is good and necessary, but it is not the whole story, and it can be blinding to a parent such that they give the child whatever they want in the name of "love", regardless of how bad it is for their body and soul. Our current generation is proof positive that a child left to themselves (their own desires guiding their upbringing), bringeth their mother to shame. (**Proverbs 29:15**)
 - Beyond a general, natural affection, we owe them the love that the scriptures teach – the love that looks to their soul as well as their body. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (**Proverbs 22:6**) [Sermon 9/13/2020] We have to begin with the sober

understanding that they are sinful sons and daughters of Adam, so that we can shake off the tendency to over indulge and excuse the bad behavior of our children, and instead approach our duty to them from the love that God defines. We owe them an education in the scriptures, and a requirement of obedience. Nurture and admonition. Build them up in the right path, and correct them, so that they stay in it. Correction is hard for parents, and especially mothers, but it is absolutely required. It has to be done according to the scriptural standard: “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.” (Proverbs 13:24) Generally speaking, the earlier that you get serious about this duty, the easier the path will be. It’s not about being overly hard, it’s about actively learning your child’s frame and temperament, and then watching to ensure that you encourage them in good things, and correct them in bad things. Betimes. This is a continual cycle, and it must be done regardless of the potential outcome. Sometimes it can feel discouraging. We often feel like we are failing. Too hard; too soft; not understanding why a child keeps behaving a certain way, etc. These are all places where experienced souls can help a young mother to look to the scriptures and keep good perspective, so that they can love their children in every circumstance.

- Grandparents, and other friends of faith can be amazingly helpful in this process in both practical and spiritual ways. That kind of help is an invaluable gift. One small caution: make sure that you are aligned with the efforts that parents are making to teach and require obedience, so that you don’t inadvertently work against them.
- JC Ryle wrote a short little book: “The Duties of Parents”. This book contains 17 practical topics related to raising children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; it brings the scriptures to bear in very practical ways. Link: [The Duties of Parents](#)
- Discreet:
 - This is the same Greek word translated as “temperate” in verse 2 (Aged men are to be temperate), and same root word translated as “sober-minded” in verse 6 (Young men are to be sober-minded). Rather than repeat words that I’ve already said about “temperate” and “sober”, let’s instead focus on the English word “discreet”, and other ways that it is used in the Bible.
 - Dictionary definitions of discreet:
 - “Having or showing discernment or good judgment in conduct and especially in speech : PRUDENT especially : capable of preserving prudent silence; UNPRETENTIOUS, MODEST”
 - “Careful and circumspect in one's speech or actions, especially in order to avoid causing offense or to gain an advantage”

- This discretion includes being very careful and circumspect in our words. We have to be proactive in measuring our words, to ensure that they are going to honor God, and that they are useful to the hearer. This is especially important when you are upset and struggling with someone in your flesh, or when you are dealing with information that can be injurious to someone. (See “not false accusers” above) That means that you have to create a habit where you force yourself to stop and think before carelessly talking. What is my motivation? What is the potential impact of me saying these words? What is the potential impact of these words being repeated? Would I say this if my husband or father were standing here? Will this glorify God, and edify the person I’m talking to? We would all do well to follow this counsel from James: *“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:” (James 1:19)*
- **Proverbs 2:10,11** *“10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; 11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:”*
- **Proverbs 11:22** *“As a jewel of gold in a swine’s snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.”*
- **Proverbs 19:11** *“The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.”*
- Chaste:
 - Greek word: “hagnos” (53)
 - Strong’s: “Exciting reverence, venerable, sacred, pure, pure from carnality, modest, pure from every fault, immaculate, clean”
 - Wives are to keep their affections only to their own husband, and keep their marriage bed undefiled. Of course the same applies to the husband. It is obvious and absolute that there can be no physical adultery. Beyond that, we have to carefully guard against laying our eyes with lust upon someone that is not our spouse. This concept applies to married and unmarried people. It also means that there has to be a careful avoidance of everything that draws the eye into lust. Sorrowfully, we live in an age where Satan puts a never ending stream of alluring sights before our eyes. It is so prevalent, that every one of us is desensitized to some extent. We have to be aware of this awful fact, and we have to be aware of our own tendencies, and then put up walls to help us stay chaste, and ask the Lord to keep our hearts in the matter.
 - **Job 31:1** *“I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?”*
 - Part of being chaste is avoiding even the appearance of evil. (**1Thessalonians 5:22**) We ought to be very careful not to put ourselves in a position that

would even raise a question about chastity. For instance – don't be alone in a private space (physical or digital) with a non-relative of the opposite gender, if you can possibly avoid it. 1) it can lead you into trouble; 2) it raises a question in the eyes of people that see it happening. Neither is good, and it should be avoided for both reasons.

- *Matthew Henry: "Dinah, when she went to see the daughters of the land, lost her chastity. Not but there are occasions, and will be, of going abroad; but a gadding temper for merriment and company sake, to the neglect of domestic affairs, or from uneasiness at being in her place, is the evil intended, which is commonly accompanied with, or draws after it, other evils. #1Ti 5:13-14, They learn to be idle, wandering from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busy-bodies, speaking things which they ought not. Their business is to guide the house, and they should give no occasion to the enemy to speak reproachfully."*

- Keepers at home:

- Keepers at home does not exclude working outside of the home (see Proverbs 31 woman who is clearly conducting business outside of the home); if this is necessary for the family's subsistence, then it *needs* to be done. Nor does it exclude participating in the body, and the ministry of the Gospel. It is saying that her heart, and her activity are focused first and foremost upon her house; her primary business is ensuring that her house is fully cared for, such that her head can safely trust in her. She knows her work, and she does it joyfully. She is forward looking to ensure that her family is cared for and prepared. She's not focused on everyone else's business. She's not focused on cultivating and protecting her leisure time. She looks to be able to provide for her own family, and for others in need, relative to her situation and ability.

- **Proverbs 31:27** *"She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness."*

- Good:

- Greek: Agathos (18)
 - Of good constitution or nature, pleasant, agreeable, joyful, happy; fulfilling the duty or service demanded; upright, free from guile; denotes the soul considered as the repository of pure thoughts which are brought forth in speech; in a narrow sense, benevolent, kind, generous
- This is a different word than the one used for aged women. It is a more general concept to be always occupying yourself with good things, and keeping a joyful contentment in your heart as you do it. A couple of particular thoughts:

- Do good for others as well as your own family. (**Philippians 2:4**)
- Do good in front of your children (or any children), so that they can learn to imitate the behavior and the joyful disposition. (**Philippians 3:17**)
- Do good despite the isolating and constricting circumstances of a young mother that can cause a person to be chafing in their lot. That lot can also cause a person to be resentful of others in their heart, and in their words. Seek the Lord for help with this and take advantage of your opportunities to commune with and minister to the body. Make a particular point to cultivate relationships with older, experienced women, who can bear you up when you struggle.
- *Matthew Henry: "Good, generally, in opposition to all vice; and specially, in her place, kind, helpful, and charitable; as Dorcas, full of good works and almsdeeds. It may also have, as some think, a more particular sense; one of a meek and yet cheerful spirit and temper, not sullen nor bitter; not taunting nor fretting and galling any; not of a trouble-some or jarring disposition, uneasy in herself and to those about her; but of a good nature and pleasing conversation, and likewise helpful by her advice and pains: thus building her house, and doing her husband good, and not evil, all her days."*
- Obedient to their own husbands:
 - **Ephesians 5:22-33** "22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. 31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. 32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."
 - To be obedient to your husband, first requires that you fundamentally submit your will to his. If a young wife doesn't establish this deeply in her heart, that she will peacefully submit to her husband in all things large and small, then it will be a cause of constant strife and bitterness throughout the

marriage. By the very order that God built into the human creation, the husband is the head of the wife. This is a very straightforward scriptural concept, but the flesh rages against it and makes it complicated, and Satan pushes the flesh to rebel with every device at his disposal. This obedience is driven from reverence for your husband; a reverential fear that arises from love: “I love my husband such that I am afraid to disappoint, distress, or offend him.” This reverence is the exact thing that every one of us owes to Christ. Our Bridegroom – our betrothed – has set His expectation for His Bride. If we love and reverence Him as we should, then we will have a fear to do wrong by him; a fear to offend Him. When we find that we have done wrong by Him, it is a cause for great distress within our hearts, and it is our top priority to make it right.

- This isn’t a one way street. The husband is duty bound to love and honor his wife above every other creature. It will go poorly for any man that decides to use his wife’s duty of obedience as a fleshly cudgel against her. (**1Peter 3:7**)
- Everything that a wife does and says reflects upon her husband. Ensure that what you do, and what you say are things that you would want your husband to see and hear. Don’t hide things from him, even if you think that you made a mistake. Giving him continual honesty enables him to rule his house well, and to give you good help and support – tactically and spiritually. Husbands – you have to want to know, and want to support your wife - make it your business!
- For a wife to be obedient to her husband, she has to know what her husband expects. The husband has to know her frame, and what she needs. This is a joyful, mutual work that both husband and wife should see as a critical and perpetual habit of their lives. Consider each other. Talk to each other – and really listen!
- Where there is proper love between a husband and wife, this business of obedience is altogether comfortable and peaceful. Where there is not love, the whole household will be out of order. Circumstances can get very difficult in a marriage – in those moments, we have to remember who we serve, and be willing to let go of all pride, and every perceived offense, in order to love each other the way that we are commanded. Love your husband in word and deed. Do good to him. Treat him with kindness, even when things are hard. Think well of him. Speak well of him. Don’t put him to shame by the way that you talk generally, or by the way that you talk about him. Etc.
- This is a duty that must survive a husband’s sins, and the offenses that he causes. Loving him includes a determination – unto God – to do him

right, even when he is struggling, or opposing himself. The duty is to obey him, but not with amazement, because you know that he is flesh and blood, and that ultimately what you do must be done unto God. (**1Peter 3:6**) It is a high form of love to humbly help him to see something that he is not seeing right.

- These thoughts only scratch the surface of this incredibly deep topic, that relates directly to Christ and His Bride. Please reference these sermons for more: (3/24/19, 5/19/19, 6/28/20, 7/4/2020, 4/3/21, 11/19/23, 12/17/23, 12/10/23)
- That the word of God be not blasphemed:
 - Everything that we do and say reflects upon Christ, our head, and creates an example for someone else to follow. Within, and without the church. We do not want to offend our head, and we do not want to cause someone else to offend Him, because they imitate our behavior; further, we do not want the enemies of Christ to accuse Him because of our behavior. That is a sobering thought, and one that we should keep in the front of our mind as we go about our business each day. When we fail, we need to not glory in it, but rather get to the Lord to help us to learn the lesson, and do different next time.
 - **1Peter 2:12** *“Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.”*

Lord willing, we will consider Paul’s instructions to preachers and servants the next time that I preach. Until then: *“Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 6:23)*

I love you all. Amen.