

MODELING AND MENTORING IS NOT MEDDLING

SERMON INTRO: Preaching on certain Holiday's—especially Mother's Day and Father's Day—has some unique challenges.

First, there is no "Mother's Day" (or Father's Day) "event" *in the Bible* like there is Christmas or Easter.

The second challenge is that the *men* (on Mother's Day)—and the *women* (on Father's Day)—can kind of mentally "check-out" & think within themselves, "Good, *my spouse* is getting preached to today—not me!"

Yet a third possible challenge—especially with a congregation like ours—is the "swish/swish" syndrome. What is the "swish/swish" syndrome? It is swishing our hands together, along with the thought: "My children are already raised—I'm *just* Grandma now!"

So now you have an idea of what goes through your Pastor's head the week before Mother's Day and Father's Day! With that as a rather "odd" introduction, take your Bibles and turn to Titus chapter 1. In v 1, we see that **Paul is writing** this letter; in v 4 we see the letter is **to Titus**—thus the name of the book. Titus was his "own son after the common faith" meaning Paul led him to the saving knowledge of Christ...or was his mentor in the faith...or both.

We also see in v 5 that Titus was a **Pastor**. Paul had left him in Crete to "straighten out" some things—and to "ordain elders in every city," elder being a position of leadership within the church. Beginning in v 10, Paul then warns Titus about "vain talkers and deceivers"—in other words, **false teachers**.

And then we come to our main text, beginning with chapter 2:1. 'You Titus—in contrast to the false teachers—you teach the things that are becoming—that which is appropriate/consistent/fitting—of sound doctrine.' Paul then goes on to address what the older men should be like...then the older women...then the younger women...then the younger men. Please follow along as I read through verse 5.

This morning—not surprisingly—we're going to be focusing our attention on God's instruction to the "aged women" and the "young women."

Before we get into the specifics of the roles of the older and younger women, I want to remind you that this **God's Word**. These are instructions *from God* through Paul. These are not *my ideas*—and they are not ideas of the **Baptist Church**. They are the **declarations of God**—they are the things that we should **do** because **God says** we should do them!

Let's consider first... **1. God's Instruction to the Aged Women** (v 3)

We'll notice as we go through this verse that the aged women are **to be** something...and **not to be** something... and to **do** something. That is the order in the verse and that is the order we will look at them in.

We won't spend much time here, because I want to hurry up and get to the middle of v 5 "obedient to their own husbands" 😊. And all the men said, "Amen!" Please know **I'm totally kidding!** We won't even get to v 5!

A. What the aged women are to **be**—holy

Notice v 3 "that they be in behavior as become holiness." The Greek word it comes from is used only once in the Bible—here—and carries the idea of "priest-like." It is an expression, then, how someone would be that **served in the presence of God**—holy and reverent. Anna in Luke 2 modeled this kind of behavior.

Who was Anna? Anna was an 84-year-old widow that we learn about in Luke 2 when Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the temple. We are told that she "departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day."

Does that mean all the aged women—say, 60 and above—need to quit their jobs and come here and hang out at the church and pray all the time? No, because they couldn't do the things that God wanted them to do—teach the younger women—if they never left church!

One more thing before we move on. How does an “aged woman” become holy? Piece of cake, right? As soon as they hit “senior citizen” status, they **automatically become holy**, right? I'm obviously being facetious! An **older** woman becomes a **holy** woman by **loving God** and **living for God** as a **younger** woman!

It is a process of **ongoing growth**—but there has to be a **starting** point. Holiness is produced by the **Holy Spirit** taking the Word of God and **changing you** from the inside out. But you have to be **born again** to have the Spirit of God—and you have to be spending time in the Word of God for God to use it to grow you.

B. What the aged women are **not to be**—slanderers or drunks

i. Not a slanderer

Notice again verse 3 “not false accusers.” It is interesting that “false accuser” comes from the Greek word “*diabolos*” which is used 37 times in the NT—34 of those referring to Satan himself! In other words, God says to the elderly women not to be **Satan-like—not to be destructive**—in what they **say** about other people.

Aged women are not to be this way, but just like holiness, this does not happen **overnight**—or **automatically**. It begins when they are young—and develops throughout their lives.

ii. Not a drunk

Verse 3 “not given to much wine.” I'm not a mind reader, but my guess is that there are some who **will hear or see** these words and think, “See, **I can drink wine**—or other alcohol—as long as I don't drink **too much!**”

Time doesn't allow me to delve into this topic right now, but I will say this—it is **impossible to get drunk** if you don't drink a drop! Drinking in “moderation” **can lead to being drunk**, however, because sometimes the “**moderation meter**” is ignored. The elderly in Crete must have had a problem with drunkenness.

God through Paul tells the older women not to be like the unsaved elderly women of Crete in that regard.

C. What the aged women were to do—teach the younger women!

We know from the end of v 3 that they were to be “teachers of good things.”

Who decides what is good? God, of course!

What is the good they are to teach? The list of things that follow in vs 4-5.

Who are they to teach? We have the answer to that in v 4, too: “the young women.”

It should be noted that the teaching here is not referring to a formal kind of teaching like “in-class” instruction. Instead, it is teaching by modeling and mentoring, by getting involved in the lives of the younger women and being there for them. It is being a **sounding board**...and a **shoulder** to cry on...and **helping hand**, if needed.

I appreciate how my wife has grown in this role since she retired from WalMart a couple of years ago.

--She chats often with our daughters and knows what is going on in their lives and in our grandchildren.

--She encourages them spiritually and keeps me informed of particular prayer requests

--She is available to physically go help them if needed to watch grandchildren

What are God's instructions to the aged women? They are to be holy...to not be a gossip or a drunkard...and be a **model** and **mentor** and **teacher** of good things to the younger women.

Let's now look at **2. God's Instruction to the younger women (vs 4-5)**

Before we look at the good things that are to be taught, here are a couple of reminders:

--This is **God's list**; He came up with it!

--If the older women are to **teach** these things, then the younger women are to **learn** them!

--Even if the older women **fail** to teach these things, the younger women are still responsible to **learn** them because God recorded them in His Word!

--These things **don't come naturally**... or they wouldn't need to be taught!

Now to verse 4 “That they may teach the young women to be sober...” is a difficult phrase to understand because it comes from a Greek word that is used only once in the NT.

--First, we know it doesn't mean in-class instruction as mentioned before

--Second, "sober" has nothing to do with alcohol! The verse does not mean that the older women are to teach the younger women how to quit drinking!

--Sometimes "sober" means *serious* and that gets us a little closer to the meaning.

Literally it means "to bring someone to his or her senses." Quite a thought, huh—the older women are to be teachers of good things in order that the younger women may be "brought to their senses" about loving their husbands and loving their children!

--The word can also mean advise, encourage, or urge

So, what is it that the younger women needed to be "brought to their senses" about? What is it that they needed to be encouraged to do? First, A. Love their husbands

Hate to break it to you men, but you are not *naturally* lovable! *If you were*, your wife wouldn't have to be advised and encouraged and urged to love you!

i. What does it mean to love your husband?

It means whenever he *isn't home*, all you do is *think* about him!

It means every time you *think* of him, you have heart-warming thoughts and can't wait to *see him*!

And when you do *see him*, your heart *skips a beat*—then beats *faster*—and you can't help but smile!

And about now all of you—especially the married women—are thinking "What *planet* are you from!"

Love isn't about feelings, is it—it is about a **commitment**! We need to *choose* to love. It is a **decision**; an act **of the will**—and often times isn't accompanied by a "lovey-dovey; gushy wushy" kind of feeling. **Dr. Ed Wheat** writes: "Love is always doing the very best for the object of one's love."

Not only is it a commitment—it is also a **command**. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church (Eph 5:25)—and wives are to love their husbands as seen right here! And if the *older* women are to **encourage** the younger women to love their husbands, the older women better be *loving theirs*, right?!

'But Pastor, you don't *know* my husband like I *know* him!' I have two responses to that:

1) True—but I don't know *you* the way *your* husband—and God—knows *you*, either!

2) God's command doesn't have any **exclusion clauses** in it! If you have **decided not to love him**, you are disobeying what God says!

ii. What does loving your husband look like?

J.H. Hitchens writes: "When he speaks, listen. When he is depressed try to cheer him. When he is exultant share in his rejoicing. When he is overwhelmed with work see if you can assist him; and certainly never, at such troubled and anxious times, increase his burden by any domestic disorder."

Obviously much more could be said, but lastly, I want to consider that younger women need to be advised, encouraged, and urged by the older women to ... B. Love their children

Some might be thinking, "Wait a minute, Pastor. Although I don't naturally love my *husband*—I *do* naturally love my *children*!" To which I reply, "You may *think* you do, but if you naturally did—you wouldn't need to be urged to do it!"

Truth be told, just like women can have the wrong understanding of what it means to *love their husbands*, they can have the wrong understanding of what it means to *love their children*. I want to remind you again of the quote I gave you from Dr. Ed Wheat: "Love is always doing the **very best** for the object of one's love."

Five questions for Mom's—and Dad's—to consider as you evaluate your love for your children:

1. Are you doing the very best for your child if you let them *have their way* all the time?

According to God's Word, **you are not!** **Proverbs 29:15** "...but a child **left to himself** bringeth his mother to shame." "Left to himself" does not mean "left alone in his or her room"—it means getting their **own way!**

2. Are you doing the very best for your child if you **are not** trying **to be an example** of what you want them to be? According to God's Word, you are not!

Deuteronomy 6:5-7 "And thou shalt **love the Lord thy God** with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. ⁶ And these words, which I **command thee this day**, shall be **in thine heart**: ⁷ And **thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children**, and shalt **talk of them** when thou **sittest** in thine house, and when thou **walkest** by the way, and when thou **liest** down, and when thou **risest** up."

--You are to love God with all your heart—then teach your children how to do the same! You are to **know** God's Word...and **have it in your heart**...so that you can **talk about** it when you are **sitting** in your house...or out on a **walk**...and when you are **putting them** in bed...and when you are **waking them** up!

3. Are you doing the very best for your child if you are not careful **about the friends they have**?

According to God's Word, you are not!

Proverbs 13:20 "He that **walketh with wise men** shall be wise: but a **companion of fools** shall be destroyed."

Proverbs 22:24-25 "**Make no friendship with an angry man**; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: ²⁵ **Lest thou learn his ways**, and get a snare to thy soul."

4. Are you doing the very best for your child if you **never discipline him or her**?

According to God's Word, you are not!

Proverbs 13:24 "He that spareth his rod **hateth** his son: but he that **loveth him** chasteneth him betimes."

Proverbs 23:13-14 "**Withhold not correction** from the child: for if thou beatest **him with the rod**, he shall not die. ¹⁴ Thou shalt beat him **with the rod**, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."

My comments on these verses will simply be in the form of two questions.

a) Can you discipline your child with a paddle of some sort, and it not be abuse? The answer is yes! How do I know? Because God is **against** abuse—but **for** spankings!

b) Which generations fear God more: The ones who had the "board of education" applied to "the seat of learning"—or the ones that didn't?

5. Are you doing the very best for your child if you don't teach them **they are a sinner** that needs to be **forgiven by God**? Consider this very sobering thought, Mom's and Dad's—the **only thing** you can bring to heaven with you are **your children**! But you can't bring them **with you** if you're not going there!

Please take your Bibles and turn to John 3. Many of us can quote **John 3:16**. If you know it, say it with me as we are turning to John 3. John 3:16 is not the only verse in this chapter that **talks about eternal life**, though. **Look at v 3** "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born again**, he **cannot see** the kingdom of God."

Pretty straightforward, right! If you are **not** born again, **you will not** get into heaven. If your children **are not** born again, **they will not** get into heaven. Remember, these are **Jesus' words**—not mine!

Look at verse 17 "For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." "**Saved**" means to be forgiven of your sins—and Jesus is the One who saves. That is why God sent Him to earth.

Now **Verse 18** "He that believeth on Him"—Jesus—"is not condemned." Those that trust Jesus are **forgiven**, they will not be **condemned** for their sins. Their sins will **not be counted against them**—they will be **declared forgiven** instead of guilty—and they can enter heaven.

"...but he that believeth not is **condemned already**, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." If we **don't believe on Jesus**—if we don't put our trust in Him to save us from the penalty we deserve—we are **condemned already**. Why? Because we sin every day and sin keeps us out of heaven!

So I ask again, do you **really** love your children? If you do, you will want to prepare them for the next life—not just this one! But can you **really** prepare them if you aren't prepared **yourself**?

So what would God have us do in light of His Word this morning? Lots to think about, right? Here are some things we should consider:

1. First and foremost, be honest—and serious—about whether you are prepared for the **next life**. No one gets into heaven unless they are **born again**. Remember, these are Jesus' words—not mine! Are **you** born again? Is Jesus **your** Savior? Are you prepared for the next life?
2. Married ladies, do you love your husbands? It is a commitment, a choice. Are you obeying God in this area—or making excuses for why you don't?
3. Mom's—do you love your children? Are you preparing them for eternity by teaching them they are sinners that need to be forgiven?
4. Grandma's, are you cultivating holiness in your life? Are you asking God to help you be involved in the lives of the younger mom's you know?
5. Married men, do you make it hard for your wife to be involved in the lives of other women—or do you encourage her to do so?