

The Ministry Of Example And Discipleship

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If you have your Bibles, go ahead and please turn with me to the book of Titus, chapter 2. We're going to begin a new chapter in this series in the book of Titus. So, if you will go ahead and turn to chapter 2 of the book of Titus, and we'll look at verses 1-5 this morning.

When the Apostle Paul wrote this letter inspired by the Holy Spirit to Titus, his son in the faith, Titus is standing on the island of Crete looking over the vast island. And you would notice from his perspective this beautiful place. After all, it is in Greece. Crystal clear waters on an island. But spiritually, it was a battleground. It was truly a battleground. The local culture was notoriously corrupt, permissive, and totally self-indulgent. It's all about themselves. Even worse, that corruption was creeping directly into the churches that were established by the Apostle Paul.

It always happens when the truth from God's word is spoken. The devil is right there on the trail. False teachers and deceptive influence were upsetting whole households. We saw that last week causing all sorts of disorder and chaos within each home. And that's by the way the fruit of false teachers. They cause disorder. They cause chaos for their own financial gain. We saw that last week. All of it in the name of dishonesty. Opposite of truth. Just as the poet said, always liars.

You see something or someone rather is going to get upset. What do I mean by that? You're either going to upset the world or upset God. Okay? You're going to either upset the world or you're going to upset God. What is more important? It's a sobering thought, isn't it? This word upset literally means turning things upside down. Turning things upside down. What God has put in order. Just think basically disordering what God has originally designed. That's what the world does. And God is not pleased by that by no means.

You see upsetting the faith on the other hand, God is pleased. God is pleased when one is upsetting the faith which is the gospel primarily. So let me just put it this way. In Acts 17:6, we see the Apostle Paul upsetting in a positive way, again, pleasing God by the gospel. If you see in that passage in Acts 17, you see an angry mob accusing the Apostle

Paul and Silas by upsetting the world. Literally using that word upsetting the world or turning the world upside down by what? What was he doing? He was proclaiming that Jesus is the Lord in the context of opposing Caesar as the Lord. And so following Jesus means confronting and opposing society with the truth of the gospel. The gospel will upset the culture. It will upset the world because it goes to the very heart of the world's system. And what is the world system? It's exploiting you for one's selfish gain. That's what the system of the world ultimately does. It takes things not gives. Takes things rather than giving. Takes life, takes life, takes life, and that causes the Lord God to be angry because that's not the way God designed the world to be.

Before man disrupted with its sin, there was complete harmony with God the Father. And then along came sin, which is literally rebellion against God, saying, "I don't need you, God. I will get my own wisdom. I'll be dependent on myself." And that was the original sin. And we see that over and over again. I'll just do my own thing. I'll go my own way. I don't need you, God. That's the essence of what the world is calling your attention to. Just live your way. Live according to the way you want to live. We see this in the island of Crete. Nothing new. Nothing new. Because what is it doing? What is sin ultimately saying? I am the authority instead of saying the Lord is the ultimate authority.

And then we see the upsetting negatively again distorting the gospel. We saw that last week with the false teachers distorting the gospel. And what do I mean by distorting the gospel? Primarily causing confusion, disunity, division among believers. And by this very thing that you can find salvation by works. And we saw that with the Judaizers how that they were saying, well, the gospel is not full salvation. You need to add works to that. Anytime you add something in the gospel, it's distorting the gospel. Anytime you're taking away from the gospel, you are destroying the gospel. And so Titus was called to bring back order and bringing back the clarity of the gospel on the island of Crete.

You see, in the midst of a culture that told people to live entirely for themselves, as I said, Paul gives Titus a radically different blueprint to life. God's desire has never been for his church to blend in to the background of a broken world. He has saved us, brothers and sisters in Christ. To be an own special people, as Apostle Peter puts it. What does that mean? That we are set apart for God's purposes. Not our purposes. God's purposes. God's purposes. And living in such a way that he can look upon us with joy. Isn't that what we want? That we would want to glorify God by doing the things that he purposes in our lives. And today we face the very same cultural pressures that Titus dealt with on the island of Crete. God's remedy has always been in a decaying culture and the same mandate is to remain exactly the same. Here it is that the beautiful transformative power of everyday Christian living looks like what we see in the local church. There's no greater place to find what it looks like to live as a Christian than in a context of a local church. In the case of Titus, there were house churches. And so you would see family units living

life according to this book, according to God's word. And then today we have church buildings and we have the awesome privilege of gathering people from all areas of the community in a larger setting. I mentioned to you most of the house churches were around roughly 20 people could fit in a house. Praise God we have more than 20 people here. And that's an awesome privilege that we have that we can preach forth the word in this way.

So with that said, go ahead and please stand out of respect for God's word as you follow along as I read from Titus chapter 2 beginning in verse one through verse 5. Paul writes, "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine, that the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience, the aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things." That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. This is God's word. You may be seated.

We're going to see here is the command for the men, starting with the men, this mandate. But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine. It's a sharp contrast of what we went over last week, which is those things that are not sound doctrine. It says you're to speak a different way, entirely different. In a world filled with empty talk, talk about cultural trends and flattering deception. Titus was commanded to anchor his speech to one thing. Look at it. Sound doctrine. Sound doctrine. When you look at the original word in Greek, it literally means healthy, firm, and reliable. Paul uses this word repeatedly because biblical truth is at its source lifegiving. Lifegiving. Remember how I said the world wants to take? What we get from God's word is lifegiving. You see, God's word produces your soul to be spiritually well and that out of that healthy way of life spiritually, you don't get consumed by the world. Remember I mentioned about if you're not filling yourself with the spirit of God and his word, something will fill that gap and that will be the world. And so I pray that God would use the messages I preach from that you feel God's presence. You feel spiritually healthy when hearing his word and that you don't need the things of this world. The taste of the world becomes corrupt. You now sense that as it were like taste buds. You don't crave those things anymore. That's one of the detections that you are tasting the goodness of God. Amen.

And so notice that Titus isn't just told to teach just theological theories mind you. He says to speak the things which become. Which become that literally means to stand out. Like the Lord Jesus said you must not be hiding under a bushel but be as light so that people can see you in the world. Literally means to stand out and not to just stand out but that people would see a process of change in your life as a brother or sister in Christ that there is a process of growth spiritually and people can see it visibly in your life that's what it

means to become you're becoming more like Christ another way of putting it and it becomes real it becomes practical where people can actually visibly see the change in you and then you see it in your daily actions towards those things that flow naturally from a heart that has been transformed and changed by the spirit of God because you begin to understand God's word in a new and fresh way and this is it in an obedient way. Amen. You now are not rebellious against his word. You want to obey his word because God has changed your heart to have a heart of obedience. This is the root in the believer's relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. By the way, you're no longer being molded into the world. Praise God for that. Amen. But you're like Romans 8:29 puts that. You're being conformed to the image of the son. You are becoming more Christlike.

Let me just share with you what it looks like to receive sound doctrine. And I said the heart of it is health or healthy. Think of if you were to eat an uncorrupted fruit. So take for example an apple and you eat that. It's ripe before you. It's clean. There's no dark spots on it. It's just ripe, ready to be eaten. And when you eat it, it nourishes your body and improves your health. That is the purpose of an apple. But on the flip side, let's look at false teaching. It's like consuming unhealthy food. It may taste good for a moment, but it can't make you healthy at the end, right? It can't do what the apple does. Sound doctrine is that spiritual nutrition for our souls, namely God's word and sitting under his word and reading his word and being transformed by his word that it allows our hearts and our minds and our life to naturally spiritually grow into the Lord. And what also happens at the same time that is happening as you're growing in the Lord, you are able to resist the diseases of the world. The things that you once craved again, it doesn't become a craving to you. And notice that in your life more and more and more you are going in that direction of what Romans 8:29, you are becoming more like the Lord Jesus. God is doing that conformity to his son more and more in your life. And as a pastor, that's why when I'm here preaching or if I'm going to be teaching, I say, "Lord, I don't want to give any of my secondary opinions. I don't want to give my personal politic and my opinions on that or anything that's happening culturally that you should be aware that you should follow." No, that is not meant for here. That absolutely none of that means nothing compared to me preaching this book. This book. And so my sacred charge before God, not before men, but before God, is this to give you the pure unadulterated word of God because it is the only message of grace that will keep this church healthy and for the Holy Spirit to move in our lives.

But this is also an individual application to you. I have my responsibility, but your responsibility is to apply what I preach and teach to you. So when you have private conversations in your home or at your workplace or before and after worship service, are your words healthy? Are they healthy? Given from the word of God. Can people see that you are prioritizing his word above everyone else's word? Again, in those different settings, do you have everyday conversations that build people up in biblical truth or do

they spread the decay of the culture? Meaning, are you speaking more about the culture? I know there's things going on right now, world things are happening, but is that the main thing that you're speaking about? Is that what you're prioritizing? Or you're prioritizing the importance of God's word and sharing his word. That's what it comes down to.

And so, Titus 2 verse two, if you will look down with me, is the very thing, the very design by God for the aged men. He says that the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. Paul turns his attention first to the aged men, those of advanced years, typically over 60. That's what an aged man will be in this context. Why does he start with the aged men? It's a good question to ask. Here it is. Because the younger generation naturally looks to the older men naturally for what is acceptable. What are you permitted to do and not do? What is a godly characteristic look like? What does Christlikeness look like? They're looking to you, aged man. They are looking to you. Not just me, but to you. But to you. And Paul mentions this many times over in scripture.

And let me just give a little bit of a shout out. In my group on Wednesday evening in our discipleship group, one older man was a testimony to younger man. And that younger man shared encouraging things that he saw in an older man in our church. See, and that changed him. And that's the process that God has designed in the church that the older men are to be examples to the younger. Paul lays down it beautifully with a five-fold standard. This is God's standard for the aged brother in Christ. And I want you to pay particular attention to what I'm about to say right now. It's not about perfection, but about consistency, but about consistency. Is your overall trajectory falling in line with God's standard laid out here? Are you growing in these five areas, brothers in Christ?

First, sober. In the original meaning, it literally means self-controlled or in moderation particularly avoiding the traps of drunkenness which was rampant in the culture of Crete that was widespread all over and the place in the believer's heart was never to be under the control of any substance in today's age will be any types of forms of drugs or narcotics because we are to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. Primarily men, we are to be controlled by the Holy Spirit. And out of the fruit of the spirit in one area you'll see is self-control. Self-control. He's the one that gives us that ability. It starts there. That's where it is. And that's why he says at the very beginning men you have to be sober because after that everything flows from the work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

So the next part of the area that God's standard lays before you man is to be grave to be dignified honorable and worthy of serious respect. This is opposite of a foolish old man who is laughed at. Laughed at. I'm sorry to say, but there's a lot of people that just joke around and we shouldn't be always joking, but we should have a sense of seriousness, especially when we're constantly meditating in God's word. It's going to make you a serious man of God. It will sober you up. It will make you filled with the Holy Spirit

because that's how God has designed things to work out in our lives. He is a God of order. And he wants us to be receiving respect from the younger man. You see, because the foolish man at the end of the day lacks dignity. He has no respect for himself or for those he is to model after. And this is a very serious and very important point here of his of God's standard. You see, Titus sought to interrupt the cycle of generational shortcomings. You see, in the island of Crete, there were a lot of these men rampant, widespread in Crete. And when God works, God works. Amen. And a lot of the shortcomings that these older men had when one is transformed by God's spirit and now conformed in the image of his son. You have this characteristic of being dignified, honorable, grave.

You see what happens when people get drunk? They make fools of themselves or any controlled substance. You make a fool of yourself. And we don't want to be attached to that, don't we right, man? We don't want to be given that kind of an image. And so we as the older men are transmitted to not follow the society that impacts so many generations and impacts both groups. One follows the other. I remember when I was in Alaska, I saw this right before my eyes. These young boys coming to the camp that I was involved in. And within a couple days, two of the young people in my party of 12 boys started to convulse. Their eyes were rolling, meaning it was just going up and down. They were foaming at the mouth. What was it going through? They were going through withdrawals. They're going through withdrawals. And we had to literally fly them out because we're on this part of Alaska where there's no roads. You got to literally fly them out. And our brother Chris Hearn was the one that had to make the call. I saw that that was my group and was the saddest thing I've ever seen. These kids were 13 14 years old. By the way, Alaska is one of the highest people that are controlled by substance abuse amongst the young. It's really sad. But they were following basically their own fathers. They were following their own fathers. We found out that it's because in the home the fathers are drinking. They're abusing their own wives and they're abusing the children. No self-control whatsoever, making a fool of themselves. And it was I thank God that at least one of the members in my group said, "I want to be a disciple of Christ." God transformed me at this camp. And what they did was they separated him from the household and a family in the church adopted this young boy. I saw that it was beautiful. I reached out back a year after and I saw that there's been a change. Praise God. This is the kind of things that one gets to experience when you are truly transformed by Christ. You want to see life. Amen. You want to see life.

And so this is what we want to spend our time on. And you know what area? The area that older men spend more time in prayer. Be filled with more of his spirit. Take your eyes when you pray. What does it do? It takes your eyes off of this world and being influenced by the world and being more influenced by God and his spirit and being filled with his spirit. And when you come out of the prayer time, don't come out saying, "I've

done my prayer list." No. Come out with, "I am filled with the Holy Spirit. I am filled with his word." And now you're able to be a good witness to a younger man. I had many seasons of those days. And I praise God he's given me that burden to pray and to pray more of wanting a specific purpose and outcome that God would use me. That God would use you, aged men, in a way that would change someone's life. Not you primarily but God uses you as an instrument of his grace to be a light and salt to a young man here. Prayer has a way of changing one's way of life. And we live in a time in history where over consumption of the world is at an all-time high. Right? There's so many ways to consume this world. You don't even have to exit your house. You get it all on your device. It's the amount of time you spend in the world and how much time you spend in God's word and in prayer. That's what it means to be good stewards of our time and our energy and our resources to be more consumed with this book than anything that this world has to offer. That is what makes change happen. More opportunities to be empowered by his Holy Spirit. More opportunities to be gathered in a place to pray.

And I'm currently going through a series. We've been going through a series on prayer. God, allow me to pause and break up one lesson into three. And now I'm in another series of praying and fasting, which I believe God is going to allow me to extend that. And out of that, I'm praying. This is my desire man that we gather for prayer voluntarily. You feel called to go and be a watchman. You know what a watchman would do? They will pray three hour slots for 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. around the clock. Men will pray for three hours because that's what a watchman would do. A watchman in the physical analogy is they would stand on the wall for three hours so that no enemy can come in. Are you doing that in your prayer life that you're changing guard as it were. So let's pray that the enemy won't come in starting with our own hearts and that will not pass through us and go to the younger man. Do you have that call? Do you feel that desire? I do. Burns within me. But I can't force that to anyone. You must feel that call. That's the greatest thing you can do, man. Allow the Holy Spirit to take over you and cause you to pray and fast. We need more prayer and fasting. Amen. I'm done with strategies. I'm done with pragmatism. I don't want any of that in our church. I want people to say it was from God. I want people to say and acknowledge his name, not anyone else's name. I want people to acknowledge his word. God transform me with his word. Not some strategy that some man came up with. No, but the word of God and the Holy Spirit. That's all we need. I need more of it.

Next. Temperate. Temperate literally means sensible, of a sound mind, exercising restraint using wisdom. Restraint using wisdom. Not masculine, not overpowering, lording over, as the Bible puts it. No, restrained by the Holy Spirit with wisdom. Particularly when you actually see sinful desires and you know men, you've experienced this. Sin leads to death. We saw that in our own lives. But do you see that in other people's lives? Can you spot a sinful desire happening in a younger person's life and you go, "That's deadly. I need to go and speak with that person. To do it with wisdom, to be

filled with the Holy Spirit, not by your emotions, not by overpowering somebody, but an actual change that happens in your own heart where God uses you to be again an instrument of his grace that you don't do it foolishly thinking you can play around with the person, but that the Holy Spirit will influence that person. But you must be influenced first. You see that? Because if that person that is in a sinful desire, they will foolishly think they can play around with the sin. And if you don't stop them and say, "You're on the road of destruction. This little thing will add to another thing and another thing and another thing and it'll just continue to build momentum until now you are just consumed with that desire. Of course, it can be an act of God, a miracle, but you are on your road to destruction." Can you go and boldly tell someone that because that person will never win over the devil. You will never outsmart him, not outstrengthen him. He will win all the time. The only reason you are still alive if you are in some kind of sin right now because of God's mercy and grace purely his mercy and his grace. The ultimate act of being sensible is to recognize what actions provide true benefit to you and others and what actions lead to harm and destructions to you and others. Life, death, life, death. There is no in between. Do we do that aged men in our church? Do we look beyond the short term and look in the long term and then ask for God's help that he would intervene in our young people's lives because God's ways leads to connection with his design and his design is these five standards which is all life all lifegiving.

So we go from temperate now we go into sound in faith. You'll see a three in remarks here. Starting with sound in faith. Firmly grounded in the truth. That's what it means from God's word. Not easily. Here it is. Not easily changed by false theological teachings. You're not moved. You're not changed by these theological teachings. What do I mean by that? Many of us, including myself, we've gone through periods of seeing what the prosperity gospel has done. I saw this very keenly during COVID suddenly these prosperity preachers, they're not on television. They're not on the computer. They're not live streaming. Why? Their message was false. People were getting sick. People were dying. People are losing jobs. See, that was God's timing. You saw that because you see the prosperity gospel, they primarily desire health and wealth over spiritual growth. Just care about the temporal instead of the eternal. That's what it boils down to. And so when people are suffering when brothers and sisters in Christ are truly suffering in the Lord prosperity gospel cannot help only the true gospel can help only what is in God's word can help that was one form second is legalism this is replacing grace with man-made rules and judgment at the heart of it grace versus works and we saw a picture of that with the Judaizers But we have many of these isms today, don't we? I can go a slew of self-help books all over Amazon. Are those Do you see them as lying minds? Do you see them as destructive? Or do you actually want to read those books? Because only help you can get from God. Amen. And his word when it comes to life. When it comes to life. The third one is this, a pick and choose approach to God's word. A pick and choose approach

to God's word to fit your own personal preferences rather than submitting to the whole counsel of God. Meaning pulling things out of context, but rather reading the whole context and then using that passage from the context. Totally different. Totally different ways of thinking, totally different ways of living and your ultimate end.

Next, we're going to combine in charity, which is agape love, and in patience or in perseverance. There are actions that must be rooted as a believer in Christ, which is the word agape. Agape love, which is equivalent to committing to something. So I want you to see that this is what the word agape means. Agape love is to commit to something. So the apostle John exhorts believers in this way in 1 John 2:15-16. This is the context of agape love. Okay? Commitment to something. Here's what it says. Verse 15. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the father, but is of the world. That's it. That's what you're supposed to see when it comes to agape love. You're either committing yourself to the world or you're committed to the things of Christ. There's only two paths. One is fleeting and one is everlasting. As believers, you are filled with Christ's love. Amen. You have the ability to receive Christ love. You are able to confront what is untrue, above your own welfare, above fear, above feeling rejected. That's what it means to be filled with Christ's love. That you will tell the truth if there's a situation that is untrue. And you will not fear rejection. You will not care about your own welfare. You'll rather care about that person instead more than yourself. Are you able to not only do that in Christlike love, but he uses the word in patience? It has to be both because why? You got to keep going. You got to keep going. You got to keep going. It's not a one and done thing, is it? Christ loves us unconditionally, everlasting. Now we might not have that perfect love but is God working in your heart where okay you somebody refused you once are you going to keep going twice three four five a dozen are going to keep going after that person if God is using you he will use you as a means of grace you'll be able to persevere because it's his love in you not your love this is the essential to growing in your spiritual life is going and being an example and discipling a younger man. This is your call. This is what we see in these standards. They're not for yourself is to be an example to others and disciple younger men.

You see, an older man's physical strength fades. This is God's design. The physical strength fades, but what happens is your spiritual vision becomes sharper. It becomes sharper. Do you see that? Do you see that in your life? You're able to detect false from truth. Or the way the Bible puts it, you're able to discern good and evil better, good and evil better, foolishness and wisdom better. Is that the ability that you have now? The ones that are aged? Because this applies to us here at Calvary Road. That getting older carries unique temptations. Yes, you have unique temptations. I am aware of them. It is easy to slide into a feeling of uselessness, doesn't it? Especially as your physical health fades. Or

you may feel a void with substance abuse, which I don't think anyone here is to my understanding. Or you can become cynical and despondent, meaning you're just always someone that is down and about and always calling out people and judging people, condemning people or whatever that is causing harm rather than good. But God says he has a purpose for you even in your aged life. When the world tells, "Oh, they're getting old. Let's just move them into a senior center. Let's just get them out of the way." No. In the church, we welcome you. I welcome you. You are still useful for God's kingdom. Know that. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise. The local church is different from the world. You have a purpose here. The very last second of your life. Last second in your life. You need more wisdom. You need more dignity. You need more steady perseverance. Not to give up in the fight of the spiritual battle. Do not retire from your spiritual calling. Men, this is my call to you. Do not stop the spiritual call in your life. You may have ceased from work in this physical world, but your spiritual call continues until your last breath in this earth. Until God says, "You are finished. Your work is complete." That's what we should call here. That's what a call is, by the way. Career says, "I can stop and go and stop and go whenever I please." A vocation, on the other hand, it's a calling from God. He calls you to do something and you finish it until he tells you to. Is that how you look at your life? Show our young men how to walk with God through the storms of life that you have gone through. You've already gone through many of them. Encourage them in their storms of life. You are to be the stability in their life. Men, think of an oak tree. It is stable, rock solid. The roots are grounded primarily in Christian context in his love, in Christ's love. Amen. And you're to share abundance out of what God has done in your life through the trials of your life. And you would share it to others that are coming behind you. Don't just look forward, but look behind and see who is following you. May they imitate more of Christlikeness than what this world offers. Amen.

All right. Well, then we're going to transition now. We're going to go now into the aged woman. Verse three. Look down with me in verse three. The aged woman likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things. Paul now addresses the aged women in the church using the word likewise to show that they are held in the exact same standard of reverence and godly dignity as the men. Their entire visible performance, their words, gestures, the way dressed and lifestyle must be as a word says as becometh holiness. As becometh holiness. Words, dress, actions, all of it. You are more and more consecrated to God and his purposes. Do you see that? As you're here to please God, Paul lists two critical warnings at the very beginning. He didn't do this with the men, but he does it with the women. Two critical warnings and one great command for them. Look down with me. Not false accusers. This literally means Satan. It literally means Satan in the original context who is by the way the arch slanderer, the great enemy of the faith, the great accuser. And when an older woman engages in gossip or false accusations, that rumor is literally meaning

you're imitating the devil's behavior. You are literally imitating the devil's behavior and acting as his instrument, not God's instrument. The exact contrast. You see that there is no in between. There is a contrast here. We see this in the text. And you are called instead of allowing the things of Satan to spread, you are to silence him. You are to silence what he is doing in the church and not imitate him. That's your call aged woman. To silence Satan and not imitate him.

Next out of that he says not given too much wine. You see, they live in a very prosperous place. As I mentioned, they got rich from false gain, financial gain. And what will they fill their homes with? Alcohol. They will fill their homes with alcohol. And then, women have nothing to do except drink. That's what was going on here. They were in an environment where there was alcohol, a lot of time of idleness. And so Satan of course is going to work there, isn't he? Boredom, a desire to escape reality is your enemy, aged woman. Boredom and desire to escape reality. You see, we do live after all in a first world country, which is we are wealthy compared to all other areas of this world. And you know what the area people get enslaved with is alcohol. It's not just the men, it's the women. And the homes are filled with it. Instead of a home where it's filled with the Holy Spirit and God being able to use the very means of grace that he's given to us which is prayer and reading of his word and then so if you are able to get past and you see that pass by God's grace those two very serious commands you are then able to be teachers of good. Not before. Before you're going to be a hypocrite, but you are able to be teachers of good things. If you don't be a false accuser and give too much wine, this is the outcome. You are able to be teachers of good things. So instead of wasting your time on gossip and hearing the latest rumors of what's happening and spreading things that should not have been spread from the very beginning, you're commanded to step into a sacred teaching role. While you're not called to preach in the authority of a preacher or a pastor, you are called to be a teacher, a teacher of good things that is absolutely commanded to teach and disciple primarily the younger woman. That is your call and to show it in a practical way.

And we're going to go into those practical things, but let me just draw an illustration. There's a woman named Anna in Luke chapter 2. Here are the things that she did. She spent a lot of time in the word of God. She never left the temple, meaning that she was constantly in the service of God. And next, she was fasting and praying night and day. This is Anna. She didn't spend her twilight years cuz she was an aged woman at this stage gossiping about the neighbors next door or drowning her sorrows in alcohol. No, she was so full of God that the moment she saw the infant Christ, she immediately spoke of him to everyone looking for redemption. You see the beautiful thing that happens when you do things God's way. He opens your eyes to amazing things. That is the life that Paul writes here as becometh holiness. It's a wonderful thing. It's a picture that we see throughout the scriptures.

So to our grandmothers and aged women, your family may be grown by now. You might be an empty nester at this stage and your domestic duties may be fewer. But your spiritual influence is still priceless. People are still watching you, seeing your example. And he has given you a mission field. Mission field is young women in our church. That's your mission field. Who are drowning. Remember, recall the times when you were drowning in pressures of career, of vocation, as I like to put it, and marriage and motherhood. Do not allow your tongue to be used for gossip which tears down households. It does. Instead, use your voice, the mouthpiece that God has given to you to build up the next generation by teaching what is good. What an awesome privilege you have.

Now, let's look at verses four and five. And this is where we will wrap up. Verse four. That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Notice how beautifully organized God's churches. Titus, as a young minister, wasn't supposed to spend time intimately counseling younger women. Do you see that? That wouldn't be appropriate or safe. Instead, the older women were to train and encourage the younger women in seven non-negotiable virtues, not values, virtues. Let's look at them carefully. First, to love their husbands and children. The word here love is different from agape love. It is stemmed from an affection. An affection towards someone, in this case husbands and their children. It means choosing to deliberately orient your heart and attention toward your family rather than worldly distractions. Family over worldly distractions. Home is important. Home is very important. And you are to talk about these things. The good things of cultivating a home that is godly, that has an environment where love can be shared, affections can be shared, where time is spent with the husband and the children if there are children.

Next, we see the words to be discreet and chaste. Another way of saying again a similar word that we saw with the older man is sensible. Sensible, pure, self-controlled, and faithful. Protecting marriages from sexual sin or inappropriate emotional attachments was, by the way, not only in the island of Crete, but just everywhere. This is an issue of culture, isn't it? And that we're to protect the marriages from sexual sin and inappropriate emotional attachments and rather to love their own husbands and their children. And then we go to the next part of this verse where it says keepers at home or literally means workers at home. This does not mean a woman can never engage in a vocation but rather it means that her home is primary before vocation your first calling is your home second can be if it needs to be work this is non-negotiable by the way I shared this is a non-negotiable virtue of God's standard It is stewardship. It is your stewardship in the home to be the primary task that God has given to you. And you are to ensure that your household is a place of spiritual nourishment. Is the word of God being shared in your home with your children. Is there peace in the home? Or are you the one causing frustrations? Are you modeling after things that are excellent? Things that are excellent, things that are

worthy of God's respect. Another way of putting it. Next, we see the word good means to be generous, to elevate others. Primarily respecting that's another way of respecting your husband, respecting your children by discipline, seeking their best interest. Seeking their best interest. Next, obedient. Obedient means subject to their own husbands. This must be the Christian wife to honor God's order of leadership in creation primarily the husband as a leader of the home. That is God's order of leadership. It is not about a lack of equality by no means. Nor does it give a husband the right to be a tyrant in his home. It is a voluntary gift of respect that fosters harmony. Harmony. Is there harmony in the home? It drives away the chaos that is happening in the world. When someone enters your home, does it feel like they've escaped the world? Meaning are the things in your home that just speaks loudly of things of God more than the world. That is what you are to create an environment of.

And to our young women and young mothers, the culture we live right now tells you again, and you might have heard this, but it's worth repeating, that being a keeper at one's home, loving your husband, and raising children is a waste of your intellect and potential. That's deadly. That is worldly. It's not biblical. You see, to be radical nowadays is the exact opposite. Is to be keeper of your home. Is to love your own husband. Is to raise children in godliness and is not a waste of your life. Amen. That is the place where you are to be. And leading in this way would lead families in the way God designed it to be an environment where God can dwell in your homes and that you will be entirely living separate lives from the world connected not by social media and its all of its things but you're connected to God's word and it's flowing in your home. This is the way God wants it. God says your home is a primary assignment. Yes, it is an assignment. God is calling you to this assignment. When you love your husband and fiercely train your children in the ways of the Lord, you are doing a work of eternal value. There is no greater treasure than doing these things. Nothing equates to this kind of treasure that you will receive from the Lord. You are doing eternal work. Don't let the world and its temporal things squeeze out the eternal values of God and his design.

So let me end here with all of this. What is the ultimate purpose of all that is said here in verses one through five. Why does all this matter so much in our context? Look at the word at the end of verse 5. That the word of God be not blasphemed. That's the conclusion. That's the conclusion of verses 1-5. Another way of saying it, that the word of God be not dishonored. Let us not dishonor God's word. Not by the words that we say or by the actions. That the ultimate goal of our personal holiness is not just so we can have happy lives. That is not the conclusion. It is to protect the reputation of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is to protect his word in the homes to an unbelieving world. When Christians claim to believe the Bible on Sunday, often this is the case of professing Christians, is that they would look the part on Sunday, but the rest of the days you're living a chaotic, self-indulgent, drunken, gossiping, and fractured lives throughout the

week. This must not be so with God's people. The world mocks God because of this. They call professing Christians hypocrites and the gospel is ultimately discredited because of the inconsistencies. When an unbeliever looks at a church family and sees aged men and women living quietly with dignity, aged women living holy and reverential lives, and young families tightly bonded together in pure sacrificial love. They see then a living testimony that God truly does change lives that God truly transforms us by the work of the gospel. This this is vital. Amen. It is vital.

You have an opportunity to come on June 27th for our luncheon where I am going to emphasize having healthy marriages and family discipleship all in the umbrella of kingdom stewardship by the way and my next assignment next quarter is to focus on our marriages and our families and invite you to come to that special time that we're going to have on the 27th and may this be the thing that changes the direction for the better, even more growth, even more joy in the Lord, and that people would see that truly living the way God has called us to in our marriages, in our families, that it would be a picture of Christ in his church. Amen. That Christ would be more and more exalted and more glorified in our church. And we pray that this would happen for the time being. Let's pray. Father, we thank you for all that you have given to us in Christ. We thank you for the Holy Spirit that lives within us all the way from the aged men down to the younger woman. And next week, we're going to Lord, you going to go into the younger men. I pray father that you would bless father the words that was preached this morning that you would graft in your word into our hearts and that we would find lord the very heartbeat of your design of your standard and that we would go and follow after your words and go by the drum beat of your examples and your standard instead of the examples and standard of this world. Father, bless our church in this way. May you be more glorified. May Christ be more exalted that more people will come to know and have a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. That they will see a difference that Christ does not only in our singleness but also in our marriages and our families. Father, I pray that you would bless to this end, Father. And we know we have no control over the results. So we will thank you for any blessing that you give to us at Calvary Road.