

HOW BY GOD'S GRACE TO DEVELOP THE GODLY CHARACTER NEEDED TO DISCIPLE OTHER WOMEN

I. Introduction

A. When I think about discipling other women, the first thing that comes to my mind is the Titus 2 passage that says for the older women to teach and encourage the younger women and it gives seven mandates. The second thing that comes to my mind is that "all Christians are to help each other become as much like Jesus Christ as possible." And the third thing that comes to my mind is that God gives spiritual gifts for the building up of the saints. So, some women are teachers, exhorters, etc. but all women regardless of age or spiritual gifts are to help each other grow in the Lord.

B. Martha's Brief Testimony

C. For today, I want to show you some brief examples of "bad news" of women discipling other women, some examples of "good news" of women discipling other women, and how by God's grace to become that kind of godly woman. I also want to leave you with a list of resources to study and to help other women.

II. Examples of Bad News

A. Most examples of bad news are because the woman trying to help is not herself doctrinally sound. Eph. 4:12-16

B. Lead her into mysticism. God leading her through intuition and feelings instead of through His Word. 2 Pet. 1:2-4

C. Lead her into heresy, a wrong concept of God [perhaps a harsh, legalistic view or a "genie in the bottle" view or being out of balance on certain attributes of God.] 2 Samuel 7:22

D. Influence her in worldly philosophies such as the feminist philosophy. The modern feminist movement began in the 1960's through Betty Friedan's leadership. Her philosophy was that women were not fully

developed as humans and in order to be fully developed they must go back to school or work as being as home rendered you a “non-person”. Other philosophies are “eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow you may die” or “I need to have my underlying needs met.” Colossians 2:8

- E. A wrong view of sanctification. Sanctification is how we become more like Christ. Some believe it is an instantaneous experience such as rebuke the demons or a crisis point of total surrender or a passive “let go and let God” time in your life. Sanctification actually is a three-part process – positional, progressive, and perfection. The positional and perfection is a 100% work of God. The progressive is from the time God saves you until you go to be with Him – it is a time of growing in Christlikeness. It is a work of God and a responsibility of man to “discipline himself for the purpose of godliness.” 1 Tim.4:7-8

- F. The other women takes up an offense against the younger women’s husband and influences her to leave him. Instead of influencing the younger woman to “overcome evil with good”, she influences her to be increasingly bitter. Romans 12:21; Ephesians 4:31-32

III. Examples of “good news.”

- A. She is doctrinally sound. 2 Tim. 2:15. It is not just the men who are to know the Bible and rightly interpret it, the women are, too.
- B. She herself is under the authority of the elders of her church and her husband if she is married. Heb. 13:17; Ephesians 5:22
- C. She is mature or maturing in her character. 2 Pet. 1:3-11

IV. Characteristics of the Godly Woman.

- A. Titus 2:3-5
- B. Reverent in their behavior.
1. Application:

- a. Dress – not sensual, provocative, not look like a man, not immodest. Her adornment is to be her good works. 1 Tim. 2:9-10
 - b. Behavior – is gracious and has good manners. Is not rude. 1 Cor. 13:5
 - c. Her attitude – a gentle and quiet spirit. Pro. 31:21,25-26; 1 Pet. 3:4-5. When you think of having a gentle and quiet spirit, think of two things: (1) Accepts God’s dealing with her as good and (2) she is not given to anger or fear.
- C. Not a malicious gossip.
1. Gossip comes from the word *diabolos*. We get our English word devil or Satan, “to accuse, to repudiate, to give false information, talebearer.”
 2. Guard your words carefully. 1 Tim.3:11
 - a. Edifying words. Eph. 4:29-30
 - b. Truthful words. Eph. 4:25
 - c. Good report words. Phil. 4:8
 3. Give godly advice but do not let yourself be pulled into gossip.
- D. Not enslaved to much wine
- a. Alcohol is not to be a problem in your life. Ro.6:16
 - b. Secondary applications: TV, food, romance novels, prescription drugs, illegal drugs. 1 Cor.6:12
 - c. Drunkenness is a very serious sin, but by God’s grace, you can repent. 1 Cor. 6:9-11.
 - d. Instead of pursuing alcohol or food, use that energy to think about God. Matthew 6:33; Col. 3:2; 1 Cor.10:31; Romans 12:1-2; Eph. 4:22-24
- E. Teaching what is good.

1. Really study sound doctrine [what the Bible teaches about a particular subject]. Don't just know the passages on women, wives, and mothers but know the character of God, the doctrine of salvation, the doctrine of sin, know how a Christian is to "put off anger... and instead be kind, tender-hearted, and forgiving." Eph. 4:31-32. Know how to "put-off fear and put-on love. 1 John 4:18. Know in detail how to pursue love. 1 Cor. 13:4-7
 2. Read and study the Bible so you can know how to use the Scriptures in context. Read good, doctrinally sound books. 2 Peter 3:17-18
 3. Live out that doctrine in your life – respect for the governing authorities (1 Pet. 2:17), respect for the pastors of your church (1 Thes. 5:12-13), respect for your husband if you are married (Eph.5:33). Pro. 31:23.
 4. Have a love for God and His Word and His people. 1 John 4:11
 5. Be humble. Admit when you are wrong. Ask forgiveness. Don't overreact if others think you are less than perfect. Matt. 5:23-24; James 4:6
 6. Use your spiritual gifts. They are for the building up of the body. Eph. 4:12 [Note: you do not have to have the gift of teaching to teach and disciple other women.]
 7. Do more than live a godly life, talk about the Lord. Let others see your joy and gratitude to the Lord. 1 Thes. 5:18
- F. Encouraging the younger women
1. The word *encouraging* comes from the Greek word *sophron* which means to be of sound mind, self-controlled, and sensible.
 - a. Learn how to give loving biblical reproofs. Gal. 6:1
 - b. Give her hope and tell her how to biblically correct it.
 - c. Be wise when you are working with a new Christian.
 - d. Make sure you have all the facts. Pro. 18:13
 - e. Follow the biblical pattern in 2 Timothy 3:16-17: Teach (clearly what the Scriptures say about the issue), reprove (be clear and give examples of what she has done wrong), correct (explain how to do it right), and train in

righteousness (encourage her to do it over and over until she gets it right).

2. Don't get your feelings hurt if she becomes angry or withdraws. Be kind in your tone of voice, pray for her, be patient with her, and remember that you are obeying God whether she does or not.
 3. Give appropriate praise and encouragement
- V. Conclusion
1. We are to help each other become as much like the Lord Jesus Christ as possible.
 2. God has told us what to do and how to do it from the Scriptures. He will enable you by giving you His grace.
 3. Many women are afraid or too selfish to reach out to another. Galatians 6:1-2
 4. Won't you pray and ask God to make you a godly woman who loves others enough to study and learn the things you need to learn in order to be a godly woman and friend who is "ready always to give an account of the hope that is in you." 1 Peter 3:15

Recommended Resources:

Becoming a Titus 2 Woman by Martha Peace (Focus Publishing: Bemidji, MN)

Damsels in Distress by Martha Peace (P&R Publishing: Phillipsburg, N.J.)

Bitterness by Lou Priolo (P&R Publishing: Phillipsburg, N.J.)

The Attributes of God by A.W. Pink (Baker Books)

Attitudes of a Transformed Heart by Martha Peace (Focus Publishing: Bemidji, MN)

The Faithful Parent by Stuart Scott and Martha Peace (P&R Publishing: Phillipsburg, N.J.)

Modesty: More Than a Change of Clothes by Kent Keller and Martha Peace (P&R Publishing: Phillipsburg, N.J.)

The Excellent Wife by Martha Peace (Focus Publishing: Bemidji, MN)

Free download Bible studies on Martha Peace's web site:
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