

PRACTICAL BIBLICAL TIPS ON TEACHING AND ENCOURAGING OTHER WOMEN

I. Introduction

I could not think of a better list to go through for tips for women discipling women than Paul's list in Titus 2:3-5. I don't believe that this ministry is for a select few of the older women, I believe it is for all of us. We all need to know and live these principles not just in theory but in real practical ways.

All women (young and old, married or single) need to know these principles -- some of the principles apply to all women, some to just married; however, if you are single, you may be married someday, certainly you have Christian sisters in the Lord who may need your wise counsel or even, at times, your reproof.

II. Titus 2:3-5

A. Background of the Book of Titus.

The letter to Titus was written by the Apostle Paul. Titus was a Gentile convert to Christianity who had traveled with Paul. Paul had left Titus in Crete (an island off the coast of Greece) for Titus to minister to the churches there. The purpose of this letter was to instruct Titus what to do and teach in the Cretan churches. The special theme of this letter is **the role of God's grace in promoting good works among God's people.** ---

- the older men
- the older women
- the younger men
- the younger women
- slaves

B. Chapter 2, Verse 3 begins with The Characteristics of the Older Women.

1. Reverent in their behavior.
2. Not malicious gossips.
3. Not enslaved to much wine.
4. Teaches what is good.
5. Encourages the younger women.

III. What the older women are to teach and encourage the younger women

A. To love their husbands.

1. *philandros*, fond of one's husband.

2. Wives are told to love their husbands in an indirect manner, but all Christians are to love one another in an *agape* sense and husbands and wives have a one flesh bond.
 3. Help the wife to cultivate a ‘sweetness’ towards their husband thinking of him as a dear friend, a beloved person, thus having a fondness for him.
 4. Encourage her to share her joys and sorrows with him, to put him first, to work as hard at sharing herself with her husband as she does her best friend. Often women complain that their husbands won’t talk to them. Yet they make little or no effort to talk to him and share with him.
 5. Hold her accountable to be tender hearted and compassionate to her husband. Eph. 4:31-32
 6. Examples: He has a rough day at work and comes home and plops down in his chair. Instead of her resenting that and thinking, “He only thinks about himself”, she could think, “I am sorry that he is so tired. I need to take a few minutes and ask him about his day and perhaps give him a backrub to ease the tension in his neck and shoulders.”
- B. To love their children.
1. *philoteknos*, implies a tenderness, the child is thought of as beloved or dear.
 2. Have her memorize 1 Cor. 13:4-7 and be able to say it automatically without hardly thinking about it.
 3. Teach her to think loving thoughts. “This child is irritating me but I *can* respond in love because *love is patient*.” “I really would rather watch television, *but love does not seek its own way*. I can read her a story.”
 4. Hold her accountable to be kind and not mean or hard-hearted. James 3:17. Mothers that are easily frustrated or irritated are angry. Those are the emotions that you feel. Angry people tend to be mean and say cruel things.
 5. Exhort her to be compassionate and tender when her child is hurt. Example, “I am so sorry you hurt your foot, let me see it.”
 6. Encourage her to express affection and delight in the child. Say things like, “God gave you to me and I am so glad!” Psalm 127:3-4. And of course to say, “I love you so much!!!” Take time out for a little hug and a kiss.
 7. Look for ways to show love to the child especially based on 1 Cor. 13:4-7.
 8. Work at renewing her mind to think loving thoughts. Ro. 12:1-2
 9. Teach her how to lovingly administer godly discipline such as a spanking for the younger children because “love rejoices in the truth it does not rejoice in unrighteousness.” Give the mother tips such as “spank the first time the child ignores you or disobeys or has a bad

attitude, then you will be much less likely to react in a sinfully angry manner.”

C. To be sensible

1. *sophron* – a sound mind, prudent, self-controlled
2. Help her set biblical priorities and make wise commitments. Eph. 5:16; Ps. 90:12 For example, her primary ministry should be to her husband, then her children, and then the church.
3. Encourage her to sit down with her husband and talk with him about her commitments and responsibilities. Let him give her guidance.
4. Stay within their budget. Luke 12:42; Proverbs 19:14. She should not only stay within the budget but be grateful and content with what the Lord has given her. 1 Tim. 6:6-8
5. Face reality by thinking rightly, all the while having a hope in God. Phil. 4:8
6. Have a calming effect on her by giving her hope. There is always hope when God is in the picture. 1 Cor. 10:13. For example tell her, “This is very difficult what you are going through, but God will help you and give you grace to bear up under it.”
7. Help her to be discerning about PMS and the ways for her to go through those times graciously. [See the chapter on PMS in *Damsels in Distress* by Martha Peace.]

D. To be pure.

1. She is to be pure in actions and thoughts (her heart).
2. Explain that her thoughts are to be pure. Matt. 15:18-19; Phil. 4:8
3. Exhort her to make no provision for her flesh. Examples are soap operas, romance novels (Christian and non-Christian), pornography, lying in bed and daydreaming, certain music. Ro. 13:12-14
4. Protect them from being defiled. Titus 1:15. She may need to have a definitional understanding of certain things so that she can protect herself and her children, but she does not need to read impure books and look at impure pictures to keep her from being naive.
5. Encourage her to be modest in her speech, actions, and dress. 1 Tim. 2:9-10

E. Worker at home

1. Exhort her to work hard and not be lazy. Pro. 31:27 “Night people” are often staying up all hours of the night reading, watching television, etc. and are too tired to get up in the mornings to take care of her husband and children.
2. Give her tips on how to be organized. This will save her hours of hunting for things if she doesn’t put them down unless she puts them

where they belong. It was also keep her from feeling overwhelmed. Pro. 31:15

3. Anticipate her family's needs such as the laundry and weekly menus and grocery lists.
4. Encourage her to read some books at the library on organizing a home.
5. If she has children at home and is working full time, encourage her to talk with her husband about possibly changing their budget or working towards getting out of debt so that she could be home more with the children and also be more helpful for him.

F. To be kind.

1. Show by your own example and encourage them to do kind deeds. 1 Tim. 2:9-10; Matt. 5:7
2. Help them express kindness by their words. Pro. 31:26. Her words should be sympathetic, compassionate, biblical loving such as "I know this must be hard for you. Is there anything I can do to make it easier for you?" Proverbs 16:23-24

G. Be subject to your own husband.

1. *Hypotasso* – to be ranked under in military order.
2. Teach her the doctrine of biblical submission. The wife is to be submissive to her husband in all things (big and little) unless her husband asks her to sin. Titus 2:5; Col. 3:18; Eph. 5:22; 1 Pet. 3:1-2
3. You may need to explain that some teach a "mutual submission" only view from Eph.5:21. The context is that Paul is introducing the topic of submission in a general sense. Then he goes on and gives several examples: wife to husband, children to parents, slaves to masters.
4. Teach her about God's authority structure in the home. The husband is given authority in the home but not absolute authority. Only God has absolute authority. So, if a husband asks his wife to sin, then she must (as Peter did in the book of Acts) "obey God rather than man." Acts 5:29
5. Encourage her with the Scriptural fact that submission does not mean inferiority. Phil. 2:5-8 It does mean a different role. Ro. 2:11; Galatians 3:28
6. Teach her how to make a respectful appeal such as "Would you consider...but whatever you decide is fine." Then she should do it with the right attitude. Her husband's answer (unless he is asking her to sin) is God's will for her at the moment.
7. Help her to see that she should be more concerned about glorifying God than in having her own way.

8. Be a model to the other women of a biblically submissive wife. Have the attitude that being submissive to your husband is your joy, that you are “serving the Lord with gladness.” Psalm 100:2
9. Give very wise counsel if she tells you that her husband is sinning. Don’t be shocked, but give her hope. Explain that she is to “not return evil for evil, but give a blessing instead.” 1 Peter 3:9
10. Teach her to give a biblical reproof to her husband. Galatians 6:1; Matt. 18:15. She should base her reproof on Scripture if he is a Christian. If he is not a Christian, base it on his conscience to do what is right. For example, it is *not right* to scream and curse at the children.
11. Teach her how not to answer a fool according to his folly if he is acting like a fool. Proverbs 26:4-5 For example, he is threatening to leave her if she does not co-sign for a loan so that he can purchase a new vehicle that clearly they cannot afford. She could respond something like this: “that will be very hard for me and the children, but God will give me grace to bear up under it. Your responsibility is to be gracious when I say that I cannot afford to pay your car note in case you don’t pay it.” [See Chapter 14 in *the Excellent Wife* book on “Resources to Protect a Wife Whose Husband is Sinning.”]

IV. That the Word of God may not be dishonored. Titus 2:5,8,10

1. Dishonored is the Greek word *blasphemetai* – to bring shame on or disgrace.
2. Women should pour their lives into other women for the Lord’s sake, so that they will both bear fruit for the lord and honor His Word. When a woman’s life has been transformed by God, it is like an advertisement for the gospel.
3. She honors God’s Word when:
 - a. She loves her husband, loves her children, etc. Titus 2:3-5
 - b. Obeying god is more important to her than having her own way. In other words, she is sacrificing what she would prefer in order to be in God’s will for her. Ro. 12:1-2
 - c. She has an appropriate reverential fear of the Lord. Ps. 2:11; Pro. 3:7
 - d. She lets the Word of Christ direct her life. This is a heart’s attitude of grateful submission to God as well as gracious submission to her husband. She thinks and reacts in a biblical way that is sensible, kind, and pure. Colossians 3:16
 - e. Her life models the pattern for marriage in Ephesians 5 of the church and its submissive relationship to Christ. Eph. 5:24
 - f. She is submissive, loves her children, is kind, pure, etc. whether she feels like it or not.

V. Conclusion

God's Word is a precious treasure that we are to share and pass on. If you delight yourself in Him and in His Word, He will put new desires in your heart --- desires to be holy, desires to teach and encourage and disciple other women. If you do these things, you will be at the center of God's revealed will for you.