

A FASHION SHOW FOR GODLY WOMEN

Titus 2:3-5

Women most effectively attract people to Christ by a *godly lifestyle*.

That's why Peter *and* Paul *both* call women to “dress up” in a godly lifestyle; NOT fancy clothes!

Titus 2 describes what that lifestyle looks like.

Paul urges Titus **to teach ALL God's people to live in a way that agrees with our sound doctrine—that adorns the truth!**

2:1 *“But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.”*

General principle: **Everyone should live in a way that's consistent with what we believe.**

Application to mature men 2:2

Application to women (mature and young) 2:3-5

Not just men adorn sound doctrine with appropriate conduct.

Women, too, affirm the good news by their transformed lifestyle.

If the life of older women doesn't support their doctrine, the Word of God could be blasphemed on account of them.

Mature, godly women model godly living to mentor godly younger women.

What do godly, mature, woman mentors look like?

2:3 *“Older women are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good”*

Contrasts with what older women often looked like in his day:

“Cranky old women:” irreverent, gossiping, drunks
—only concerned about themselves!

Godly women should look different! 4 ways they're different:

1. Reverent in conduct

Like men, godly older women should be *appropriately reverent... so as to merit the respect of others*"

Instead of living like pagans—as if there were no God

We should live as Christ lived, *conscious we're in the presence of a holy God.*

2. **Not gossips**—speaking negatively about others.

Too many women have a reputation for talking about other people. Women *aren't* the *only* ones guilty of such talk!

It *isn't* appropriate for God's people; it *doesn't* adorn our message.

James warns: tongue is *small* instrument with *huge* consequences.

Gossip is destructive.

It does opposite of what God's people ought to do.

We should be known for love, for building each other up, NOT for critical comments that tear others down.

Before "*sharing*" information about *anyone*, we should ask ourselves, *will this build someone up, or tear them down?*

3. **Not addicted** --application fitting for all substance abuse!

Drinking continues to be problem, even among Christians
Alcoholism & addiction have *increased* more in women than men.

Results are even more tragic, in the home, and in society.

Among God's people, this shouldn't happen. But it does!

4. **Teachers for younger women**—By word and example

Hendricks asked boy in barber shop: “Hey, son, whom do you want to be like when you grow up?” The boy responded, **“Mister, I ain’t found *nobody* I want to be like!”**

Mature women ought to *live* a godly life; then *teach* it.

Teach others what God has taught you, by years walking with Him.
Teaching young women how to live godly life isn’t pastor’s job!!
Paul didn’t tell *Titus* to do this. He’s to urge *mature WOMEN* to do it!

With age and experience come wisdom that godly women can share with younger women [age is relative; older men with young men!]

Who better to turn to than someone who’s been there!

What do godly mentors teach? --7 issues to deal with 2:4-5

“Train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.”

1. Commitment to husband–“love their husband”=>committed to

What they live for!–not money, pleasure, or self, but their husband!

They can make that commitment even when husbands don’t deserve it (few do) and when they don’t *feel* like it

2. Commitment to children –Same expression re. children

Every young woman has times when she feels resentment about constant demands placed on her by children.

Older women know the feeling. They’ve been there.
You can come alongside a struggling young mom;

share how *YOU* survived and learned to cling to God's love!

3. **To be discerning =<self-controlled.** See from God's perspective.

It's back! Central to whole passage—play on words, hard to translate

Train them wisely, so they will become wise

Impart discernment, so they will BE discerning!

Related to **understanding God's perspective** on our role in life!

Young women struggle with significance;

they don't see their role as *GOD* sees it!

4. **To be pure**—true to husband in mind and heart, as well as action.

Our culture isn't just appealing to *men* with sexual temptation, women are being drawn in by the bait also

Women need help to face appeal; to use God's escape routes.

5. **To invest her life in her home** (busy at home)

—in contrast to "busy-bodies".

Passage doesn't address issue of whether women should work.

It's dealing with women who have nothing better to do than sit around talking about others.

They're to keep busy, doing what God calls them to do.

Dedicate energy to creating home environment pleasing to God.

Doesn't excuse men of responsibility to lead in godly living:

it recognizes role God gives women of making *house* into *home*.

6. To show kindness to others—good deeds to help other people.

1 Tim. 5 describes appropriate conduct of widows: known for *good deeds*, such as, raising children, showing hospitality, serving others, helping people in trouble.

7. To submit to her husband

Mature women teach young women what submission looks like.

Doesn't make women *inferior*:

nor are men authorized to be dictators, or abusive.

Christ, in no way inferior to Father; He submitted to do His will.

So God has established leadership in the home.

Authority is used in love and concern for the other person.

Mature godly women teach younger women importance of a godly, submissive spirit toward their husband—**showing *them*** what it looks like and **telling *them*** how *they*'ve done it

When older women function as God intends for *them* to, both older *and* younger women attract others to truth.

**Godly women serve to
affirm the truth of God's Word!**

If *older* women fail, God's Word is discredited by *BOTH*.

5: "...so that no one will malign the word of God."

Mature godly women model what godliness looks like through their lifestyle. Then they invest their life in young women, who pass it on to next generation.

As people watch women—as they examine **healthy lifestyle—in agreement with healthy doctrine**—through behavior of godly women, God’s Word gains credibility!

Counseling young women how to live isn’t MY job!

God assigned that job to mature Christian women.

One reason women live confused, messed-up lives: mature godly women have abandoned God-assigned responsibility.

Women come to their pastor because godly older women, haven’t gone to teach them how a godly woman can live for God.

Our young women need MENTORS!

WHERE HAVE ALL THE MENTORS GONE?

We could blame it on our culture.

Women no longer hold sewing gatherings, which provided opportunity

to pass on what our mothers taught us.

Women have no mentors, just when they’re needed most.

Problem captured in anonymous poem called *The Grandmother’s Poem*:

“In the dim and distant past, When life’s tempo wasn’t fast,

 Gramma used to rock and knit, Crochet and tat, and babysit.

Gramma now is at the gym, exercising to keep slim.

 Now she’s golfing with the bunch, Taking clients out to lunch,

 Going north to ski and curl, And all her days are in a whirl.

Nothing seems to stop or block her, now that *Gramma’s off her rocker!*”

We need to get Grandma back *into* her rocker.

We need grandmothers who have time to give younger women who want to know how to live for God in a pagan society!

[We need grandfathers in rockers too! Not to loaf meaninglessly!]

We need people who will give time to young men and women to show them how to live for God!

Young adults *WANT* someone who loves them, who accepts them as they are, who give themselves unconditionally to them.

HELP WANTED! Godly mature women to help younger women learn how to...

* **Live a godly life.**

* **Care for their husband and children.**

* **Care for their home in a godly way.**

Paul urges older, mature women to invest their lives teaching younger women how to apply God's Word and live for God—someone who's "*been there and done that*" to show *them* how!

To teach them what their personal life ought to look like.

To teach them how to give themselves to husband and kids.

To teach them how to take care of their homes in a godly way.

Aubrey Malphurs: "**Most churches... desperately need women... to shepherd other women.**"

Howard **Hendricks**: every Christian needs **3 kinds of people**:

Barnabas, mature person to guide us along path they've walked

Paul, a peer, to go with us, hold us accountable for walk with God,

Timothy, to come behind us that we can teach to follow right path.

So do you!

We need a **mature person** to look up to when we need encouragement by one who's "*been there and done that.*"

We need a **peer**, with whom we maintain intimate relationships, to hold us accountable for taking next steps God is showing us

We need "**son or daughter** in the faith"

that we can teach what God has taught us

God is raising up **women** with vision for mentoring others

Tapestry—great example of women helping others discover how to live

If you're a mature godly woman, you should be showing at least one young woman, how she can follow God. Share your life with her.

Young women, find an older woman you respect, corner her, ask her to share her life with you—teach *you* what *she* knows about walking with God.

Men, we need same kind of relationships.

Man or woman, instead of thinking of later years as time to retire, to withdraw and take it easy—I can't find that concept in Scripture! —How about making one of your goals to invest your life sharing what God has taught you with a younger person.

Our staff is trying to provide mentors for people of all ages.

Men OR women, with or without a program, we need to make a commitment to mentoring—we don't have to wait for *a program* to find someone younger we can spend time with, and invest our life in!

HELP WANTED! What is God asking YOU to do?