



2026 Weekly Devotions

Week of: September 7th - 13th

Sermon: September 6th



September 7

Proverbs 31:30

In Titus 2:3, older women are admonished to be “reverent in behavior.” This is a good place to start our journey through this week of “Points to Ponder.” I want you to recognize that Paul is encouraging the older women to conduct themselves in this manner because he is assuming and even expecting that younger women will be observing the older women. He wants the older women to be that living example of godliness in the eyes of the younger crowd. Ladies, my hope and prayer for each of you is that you will embrace the fact that your behavior matters. Join the apostle Paul in imploring other women to “look at you and imitate you as you imitate Christ (1 Cor. 11:1). This is a vitally important part of making disciples in the church. Set the example dear ones.

The point I want to make today, is that you should conduct yourself in a way that fits a holy person or a genuine follower of Christ. Your conduct should fit the moment which means you should laugh when it is appropriate, mourn when you should, and be respectful in all circumstances as this would be reverent and honoring to our Creator who said there is a time to mourn and a time to dance; there is a time to keep silent and a time to speak (Eccl. 3:4,7). Your behavior should be appropriate to the reality of the moments of life.

The opposite of reverent of course is to be irreverent. When I think of this word I think of the person who resists authority and who is determined to do her own thing, to be self-ruled, and autonomous. A genuine work of redemption precedes true reverence in a person’s life. It is in our nature to rebel against our Creator and His design for humanity. God has given wonderful roles to both sexes and when carried out in accordance with His beautiful plan, humanity flourishes, families are strengthened, and individuals find purpose, fulfillment, and contentment with their God-given duties in this life.

Reverence will flow from sound doctrine, which is again why it is imperative that we teach and preach God’s Word authoritatively and faithfully. A result of the grace applied by the Spirit through the teaching of His Word will be our ability to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions (Titus 2:11). The reverent woman is the one who has found her God-given and God-honoring place and purpose in life and is satisfied and joyful in it. Reverence fits redemption and should reflect the reality of our salvation. It is so precious when you see a woman whose life corresponds to the reality that Jesus is Lord and that He is reigning in her life. She is this way because her life has become oriented to Jesus in all things.

One writer said, “Reverent behavior is the overflow of a heart that lives in the presence of God.” Everything that follows in the verses of Titus 2 pertaining to women, is an outflow of her relationship with her Lord. Keep in mind as you read the following descriptors of a godly, older woman, that these traits will not be strange or burdensome to the one who has found her value and calling in the Lord Jesus Himself. She will truly be more precious than rubies. Solomon wrote, “Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised” (Prov. 31:30).

September 8

2 Corinthians 5:20

Yesterday I wrote about the phrase Paul used in Titus 2:3, “Reverent in behavior.” It is actually a Greek word that is only used in this one place in the New Testament. The word is made up of two words that literally mean – “befitting a priest.” Another way to think of it is that which is becoming of holiness. As I realized and learned this in my own study for this week, I was thrilled at the thought of getting to tell all of our precious women in the church of the importance and necessity of their exemplary behavior in the overall life of the church. Sunday could not get here fast enough.

The implication here is that older women are to live out these attributes in the presence of God. By that I simply mean that it will be helpful for you dear ladies to think of your lifestyle choices or behavior as being lived out in the presence of God much like a priest would be serving his duty in the presence of God in the temple. Your lifestyle and behavior become a means by which others, in this case the younger women, are to connect with God. So, in other words, you are to live your life with a godward orientation.

A Godward orientation means that you live with God in focus and on your mind. You live considering how your decisions and actions impact and promote His glory. Live asking yourself in every situation if what you are about to do will honor God and advance His good name or grieve Him. Ask yourself if your lifestyle is painting a proper picture of who God is and will it cause others to want to pursue and follow Him in trust and obedience. Paul told the Corinthians, and all of us, that we are called to be ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor. 5:20).

I have always loved that passage because it continues with these incredible and humbling words, “God making His appeal through us.” Do you understand friend? God is making an appeal through you, through your behavior for others to believe and follow Him. This is why Paul is admonishing the older women to live in a reverent, holy manner in the eyes of the younger women. It is through their actions that others behind them will either be drawn to faith in God or repelled from Him.

Notice that in Titus 2:4 Paul uses the phrase, “...and so train the young women to...”. You do this by your behavior lived out in front of them. You teach them by your demeanor, your attitude, your reverent behavior. This is how you “teach what is good” in real space and time. Dear lady, take hold of the calling of your life to live as a priest in the eyes of the younger women. Help them see Jesus; stand in the gap for them; help them to come into the very presence of our Savior as you live your life in a way that is befitting a priest of God – an ambassador of Christ.

September 9

Proverbs 4:23; Ephesians 4:29

Today, we will begin to “put a little meat on the bone” as it relates to ways to maintain reverent behavior. Paul provides a couple of negatives that are to be avoided in the life of an older godly woman in the church. He begins by saying that she is not to be a slanderer. He follows that up with another habit or vice to avoid and that is being addicted (a slave) to much wine. I think we would all agree that alcohol is notorious for loosening lips, so it is likely that these two warnings go hand in hand.

When I consider these two warnings, I am reminded of the need to watch what comes out of the mouth as well as what goes in. Paul says let no slander proceed from your mouth and let little to no alcohol enter there. On the one hand a godly, older woman is to fight against letting careless and unwholesome words proceed from her mouth. Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus these familiar words, “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion...” (Eph. 4:29). A godly woman is to live in such a way that her reverent behavior fits the occasion for which she is in. This is a wonderful lesson for all of us and in particular younger women in the church. When it is time to play – play. When it is time to be serious – be serious. I think you get the picture.

At the same time, we are told that older women should not be given to much wine. This is a nice way of saying do not partake of much alcohol as it has the power to influence and take control of a person’s life. Solomon wrote in the Proverbs this wonderful verse, “Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life” (Prov. 4:23). I recently read a book by Matthew Bingham entitled [A Heart Aflame for God](#). In it the author writes, ***“To keep the heart is carefully to preserve it from sin, which disorders it; and maintain that spiritual and gracious frame, which fits it for a life of communion with God.”*** That is a wonderful summary of what “keeping the heart with all vigilance means.

Dear reader, I want to stress that only the person who has been born again and powerfully changed by the Holy Spirit can accomplish keeping her/his heart in this sense. Paul told the Ephesians to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called” (Eph. 4:1). Keeping your heart can be done as we lean into the Lord, allow the Holy Spirit to rule in our hearts, and submit ourselves to His Lordship. We keep the heart by not simply battling sin, but also by cultivating and maintaining an active and intimate walk with the Lord. When we love Him more, by walking with Him, we love our sins less.

Dear woman, do not let slander come from your mouth indicating that it is in your heart, and don’t lose control of your good senses and self-control because you allow a worldly vice or addiction to control your heart and mind. Be prudent dear one and exercise self-control over what you let come into your mouth and out of it.

September 10

Psalm 71:17-18; Luke 6:40

I think we would all agree that intergenerational teaching is the way of God for the local church. In our passage from Titus 2, we see clearly the principle of generations teaching younger generations. We have often quoted and utilized Deuteronomy 6:7 which says, "You shall teach them diligently to your children...". The truth is that if more godly intergenerational teaching was happening in the church, a great deal of other teaching would likely be unnecessary because so much wisdom would be imparted and passed on from one generation to the next.

One of my favorite psalms is Psalm 71. I think I appreciate that one so much more as I have grown older over the years. The entire psalm is wonderful, but we will drill down on verses 17-18. David is the likely author of this one and has probably grown old himself as he writes. My chosen verses for today say, "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim Your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, **until I proclaim Your might to another generation, Your power to all to come.**" David has walked with the Lord throughout his life and now as he is an older man, his heart's desire is still to tell others about God and His wondrous works.

This is undoubtedly to bring glory and honor to our great God, but it is also to inspire and promote faithfulness in those who follow after him. His hope is that by telling the wonderful works of the Lord, others will make the proper and wise decision to submit to His Lordship and authority in their lives. The question that this reality creates in me is why. Why would a person spend their time, especially their latter years worrying about inspiring others to follow Jesus? There is so much for all of us to do and yet here we are encouraged to be faithful in bearing witness to others and to teach them the wise and good ways of God.

First of all, as I mentioned yesterday, a person who grasps and embraces this calling is one who has been redeemed and changed by the Godhead. When the Holy Spirit indwells us (John 14:17) and gives us the very mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16), then we begin to think like He does and care about the things that matter to Him. So, the first answer as to why someone would care about teaching the younger generations is because the Lord will create that desire in us. Even for the one who may not have the "gift" of teaching, he/she will still have a desire and ability to communicate simple truths of God's goodness and work in their personal lives. You don't have to be a scholar to be able to tell another person about what the Lord has done in your life.

This reminds me of another helpful truth. When I am busy pouring into others, in my case the younger and older, I find myself in further need of learning and studying and being poured into myself. I find that I stand in need of more growth and understanding which causes me to lean in and work harder at being prepared to teach those behind me. To be a teacher, you must never stop being a learner. Luke wrote that when a student is fully trained, he will be like his teacher. That makes me want to be a really good and Christlike teacher.

September 11

Proverbs 15:16; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Solomon wrote, “Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble with it” (Prov. 15:16). Jesus said, “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love...These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full” (John 15:10-11). He later said in John 16:24, “Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” I begin here today church family because I want you to think about the reality that there is a way to live that leads to joy and satisfaction without constant turmoil and trouble.

All of us know people who are “well-off” and miserable or at least not as joyful as one who seems to have it all should be, as well as those whose lives are consistently wrecked. My point is that a way to live exists that may lead to worldly prosperity and apparent success that does not lead to deep and abiding joy. Solomon said that for the lost person, the eye is never satisfied (Eccl. 1:8). This simply means that the human appetite for worldly experience is never fully content. Temporary and earthly things will not completely and eternally satisfy.

I posed the question yesterday asking why would a person care about teaching young generations and others in general. The answer revolves around what you believe in. If you believe that pursuing financial security, possessions, worldly pleasures and the like, *apart from a genuine, saving relationship with Jesus*, you will be motivated by means and measures foreign to a biblical worldview. Let me give an easy example. If you believe that real success in raising your children means that you provided everything they needed from a financial position, gave them every opportunity a child could want growing up, made them the center of attention and the life of every party, saw to it that they got into a prestigious college, and got a high paying job, BUT failed to teach them about the Lord and model for them what following Jesus and surrendering to Him as Lord looks like, in my opinion you have missed the most important part of parenting.

What this indicates is that you believe the “good life” and how to get there has nothing to do with godliness and living in accordance with biblical teaching. Ask yourself today dear ones, what makes for success in this life? How you define this will indicate what will ultimately inform and motivate your decisions day by day. I could ask this another way – Do you have a kingdom and God-centered focus or a worldly one? Are you making decisions with nothing but this life in mind and the temporal or the eternal? I am reminded of what Paul said to the Corinthians as they were struggling with faith in the face of hardships. He said, “For we do not lose heart...for this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal glory...as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen...for the things that are unseen are eternal” (2 Cor. 4:16-18).

Friend, do you have your eyes on a kingdom not made with hands or solely on the things of this world? These things are temporary and passing. If you put all your efforts into that which is fading away, I would have to say that is foolish. We choose to teach because even though it is slow and painstaking work, knowing Jesus is wonderful and worth it.

September 12

1 Timothy 2:10

The older women are encouraged to “teach what is good” to the younger women in Titus 2:3. What follows is a list of 7 areas or character traits that a young woman should develop in her own life as a child of God. The list includes loving your husband, loving your children, being self-controlled, pure, “workers of the house”, kind, and submissive to their own husbands. Before we get to the last attribute, it will help us to understand that it all begins with a genuine and heartfelt love for her husband. I will explain more as we go.

The young women are to be taught to have an internal affection for their husbands. This simply means that a wife should love her husband from the heart. I would like to emphasize the simple need to truly love him. This goes far beyond being loving out of duty. Duty without affection and a deep abiding love will only take you so far in sacrificing for and submitting to one for whom you don’t already care deeply. The same can be said for loving your children.

The motive behind living a life of self-control flows from the need not to be driven by worldly impulses or emotions. All that we said last week regarding young men can be applied in this area for young women too. All people need to grow to the point where they are not controlled by their own fleshly desires or passions. Passion is good but must be brought under control. As I mentioned in a point to ponder last week, self-control is a product of the Holy Spirit at work in a person’s life. The young woman must be able to make clear headed decisions that are God-honoring and best for the whole family not just for her. With that, she is to be pure which likely alludes to sexual purity before marriage (2 Cor. 11:2).

Paul describes the godly young woman as one who learns to be a worker at home. Before some of you go off the deep end, this does not mean “STAY AT HOME.” Her efforts can be part of the business of the family as she takes her “wares” to market to help provide for the home. Keep the Proverbs 31 woman in mind when considering my thoughts here. The point of this statement is that she is to be certain she does not neglect the household. Her efforts and work should be for the good of the household. God would want her to understand that the home matters as does orderliness, cleanliness, peace and joy in the home, kids and discipline, as well as her husband. She must never make light of this glorious calling and responsibility.

The young woman must not become enamored or preoccupied with other things and begin to think that housework is a small or unimportant matter. When her care for the home falls apart in society, everything falls apart in society eventually. All we have to do is look around us to see this truth. She is to be kind or to do good as some translations say. In other words, as opportunities arise, make good decisions and “do good.” In 1 Timothy 2:10 Paul describes a godly woman as one who adorns herself with good works. Tomorrow we will discuss submission.

September 13

Ephesians 5:22

Today we are going to talk about a dirty word in our society – submission. In our post modern and feminist culture, the idea of a wife submitting to her husband is seen as degrading, patriarchal, evil, and oppressive. Unfortunately, there are cases in which men have abused and taken advantage of women in the name of submission. Trust me when I tell you that if a man is not loving his wife like Jesus loves the church, he is most likely not leading her well and taking advantage of his position of headship in an unbiblical and dictatorial manner. This is not right and it is not pleasing to God.

Remember that I wrote yesterday that submission was the last of the 7 characteristics mentioned that an older woman should try to teach the younger women. Submission makes much more sense and will not be strange at all when it is done within the confines of a God-honoring, sweet marriage between two people who love the Lord and love each other as God intended; she submits to her own husband, not all men. I think it is safe to say here that a wife's submission should come from within her and not from a place of coercion.

I have always appreciated John Piper's thoughts on this subject. He said, "Submission should be from a Godward disposition to honor a husband's leadership. It is the disposition that is decisive, not the behavior." What he means is that it should be her heart's desire to honor her husband's call to lead the family and to support him in that. She should remain humble and ready to follow his leadership; even to want him to lead her and the family. The problem is the husband is a sinner too and if he misuses his leadership to draw her into sinful behavior, she may have a sweet disposition to honor him, but she may not be able to do so as a child of God.

When a husband tries to lead his wife into sin, she must remember that her first "head" is Christ. She must obey the Lord before she obeys her husband. Hopefully, the husband's leadership decisions will align with Christ's the majority of the time, but when they do not, she must obey Christ first. When Piper writes about a disposition, he means that she *wants* to submit even if she can't because she wants him to lead well. She may have to say however, "I cannot follow you into that because I serve Christ first." She will take this stand though with a gentle spirit not a boisterous, feminist, prideful one.

I will close out this week of "Points to Ponder" with a quick reference to the last part of Titus 2:5 which says, "...that the Word of God may not be reviled." Everything that the young woman is called and expected to do should be motivated by a love for God. You see dear ones, when we reject what God defines as godly behavior, we make God and our faith look foolish, unwise, and needless. We give the world ammunition to throw at Christianity and Christ because our lives indicate that His Word is untrue and useless. People say, if being a Christian is defined by what I see in your life, then they don't need it or want it. The wonderful truth is that for all of us who choose to follow the ways and Word of God in our day-to-day choices, we prove the wisdom of God and the "better way" to live life.