



WEEKLY SERMON

Volume No. 2022 Issue No. 17
May 8, 2022

Sunday May 8, 2022

Pastor David Miklas

Message: Mother's Day - 2022

Phone: 717-625-2992

e-mail: pastormiklas@aol.com

Text: Titus 2:1-5

In Hebrews 11:23 we read of the FAITH of Moses' parents, Amram and Jochebed, "**By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.**" Pharaoh had decreed the death of all Israelite baby boys, but these two parents "**were not afraid of the king's commandment,**" and by faith according to Exodus 2:3 hid Moses for three months before laying him in an ark of bulrushes and entrusting him to the Lord.

Now in Hebrews 11:24-28 we read, "**By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; (25) Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; (26) Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. (27) By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. (28) Through faith he kept the Passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.**" Notice these verses 23-24 side by side. The first verse speaks of the faith of a mother, and the next describes the faith of her son. There's no doubt where Moses learned to trust the Lord. Though his time with his mother was limited, her influence on him was immense.

The Apostle Paul writing to Timothy expressed this to him in II Timothy 1:5, "**When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.**" The faith Timothy saw in his mother and grandmother was not inherited from them, but he had seen it exhibited in their lives. What a powerful testimony to great women who by their lives pass on to the next generation a godly example of their **FAITH**. Someone said, "**The best monument a child can raise to a mother's memory is that of her FAITH.**"

How Timothy received this **FAITH** is interesting. In II Timothy 3:14-15 Paul says, "**But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; (15) And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.**" Timothy had the blessed heritage of a believing mother and grandmother, who not only taught him the Word of God, but also lived out the Word of God. They not only talked the talk but also walked the talk. This was the source of his **FAITH**.

Today, may you who are mothers have the testimony Jesus spoke of to a mother in Matthew 15:28, "**Oh woman, great is thy FAITH, be it unto thee even as thou wilt.**"

Today, may we who are sons and daughters honor our godly mothers, not only with gifts and cards and words of praise, but with lives that reflect the impact of their holy influence!

Now may I say to the **MOTHERS, GRANDMOTHERS, MOTHER-IN-LAWS, WIVES** who are reading this Weekly SERMON, God bless you, as I wish you this coming Sunday a Happy Mother's Day!

In His Amazing Grace -
Pastor David Miklas

“Disciplines of a Christian Wife”

INTRODUCTION: Someone said, “Marriage is not so much finding the right person, as it is being the right person.” From a divine standard, there are two things that make a marriage really work.

Number 1: A WIFE characterized by SUBMISSION, where she comes to terms with her role and asks herself, “Do I love my husband enough to LIVE for him?”

Number 2: A HUSBAND characterized by SACRIFICIAL LOVE, where he comes to terms with his role and asks himself, “Do I love my wife enough to DIE for her?”

I realize this is Mother’s Day and we wish to honor all mothers. In so doing, let me turn your attention to our text found in Titus 2:1-5 where we read,

“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: (2) That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. (3) The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; (4) That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”

As we begin, would you notice in verse 3 where it tells us about “The aged women likewise...” and in verse 4, “That they may teach the young women...” A woman, who becomes a wife, is wise to love and constantly pursue the wisdom of marriage.

In Proverbs 19:14 we read, “House and riches are the inheritance of fathers and a prudent wife is from the LORD.”

In Proverbs 14:1 we read, “Every wise woman buildeth her house...”

Let me give you several ideas on how to be a prudent wife while pursuing the wisdom of marriage.

1. Study the Word of God to find what God has to say about your home, your relationship with your husband, and your children.
2. Regularly study the lives and marriages of wise ladies and seek their counsel. Seek out older women and not only your peers as your examples of being a prudent wife.
3. When you have an opportunity to be near them, be ready with a list of questions to ask these wise women who have stood by their men through various trials.

Now from our text, let me share **EIGHT DISCIPLINES** the Bible says women should be learning from these older ladies, and should be seeking to develop in their lives as wives.

FIRST: There is the MENTAL discipline. Notice in verse 4, “That they may teach the younger women to be SOBER...” The word “sober” has nothing to do with drinking alcoholic beverages. The word refers to “mental discipline.” This verse is challenging women to develop self-controlled thinking.

Some think women are notorious for being easily rattled, or easily “all shook up.” For example:

When a problem occurs in marriage, the wife may make more of the problem than necessary. Usually, it just isn’t that big a deal to a man. A woman tends to look with a **MICROSCOPE**, and a man tends to look with a **TELESCOPE**. A man sees a problem in the future, and says we’ll deal with that later. A woman says, we need to deal with it NOW!

Our ultimate authority, God, says the first thing a younger woman ought to do is seek the older, wiser women who have survived all similar issues. Remember, every older lady was a younger woman at one time. That is a profound thought, isn’t it? Most dear,

charming, women of God were at one time possibly unstable, or easily rattled little girls.

Ladies, when something goes wrong or when you hear bad news, as well as countless other situations, keep in mind James 1:19, **“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak...”** In other words, don't panic! Take your time to determine an appropriate response.

SECOND: There is the HEART discipline. Found in Titus 2:4, the next important discipline to be developed by wives is **“to love their husbands.”** Before I define this type of love, let me say that the **love of a husband for his wife** is expressed by an entirely different word for love. In Ephesians 5 verse 25 and 28 we read,

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it... (28) So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.”

The word for love here is the same used in John 3:16. It comes from the **WILL** to love by sacrificially giving.

Men, as long as you are in a marriage looking for what you can get out of it, you will never know what it is to love your wife as Christ loved the church. The whole heart of the matter is **DYING to SELF.** We have been saying to the men in our Men's Marriage Seminar, **if you are going to LOVE your wife like God commands, and you are going to LOVE her like Christ loved the church, YOU NEED TO BE WILLING TO DIE FOR HER.**

Now back to the ladies. The word **“love”** in Titus 2:4 is the Greek word **“philanderer”** which means **“fondness”** or **“affection for your husband.”** The word **“affection”** means **“able to be affected”** or **“able to be moved.”** The lesson to be learned from older, wiser ladies is how to consistently be affected or moved in your heart toward your husband.

Remember that pitter, patter in your heart when you first saw his chiseled features and masculine physique? Consciously and consistently stirring up that same affection is essential, even though he has aged and now has enough "love handles" on which all of your children can hang. **Ninety-five percent of heart affection is the result of mental discipline.** Here are several practical ways to relate to your husband:

One: Accept the fact that your husband's priority is his work, not his wife. Remember in I Corinthians 11:9 we read, **“Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.”**

Two: Realize that the most powerful weapon to destroy your marriage is nagging and complaining.

Three: Be a mother to the little boy within him, but an encourager to the professional man he is supposed to be.

Four: As you thank the Lord for him, remember praise of him and to him will go a long way as you accept his affections.

Your thoughts determine your feelings, and your feelings determine your actions. You do what you feel, and you feel because of what you think. Ladies who cannot get a grip on their thinking struggle to consistently love their husbands.

THIRD: There is the PARENTAL discipline. The last part of Titus 2:4 says, **“to love their children.”** If wives don't channel their affections properly toward loving their husbands, most likely they will improperly channel their affections toward their children, and wind-up putting them before their husbands. Wives won't properly love their children unless they properly love their husband.

Now here is a word to the older ladies. One of the vulnerable areas of older ladies is their desire to mother. One reason an older woman tends to be that way is because she didn't realize early enough that her children were someday going to leave home and belong to somebody else. If you

haven't learned how to love your husband properly, you'll find yourself feeling empty when your children leave the house. If you are not careful, you will cling to the mother role and treat your husband like a little child.

The husband and wife relationship is a permanent and eternal relationship. The average married couple will have approximately 35 years alone together after their children have left the house. The majority of couples' lives will be spent with just the two of them.

God did not put a parent and a child in the Garden of Eden; He put a husband and a wife in the Garden of Eden. That is the primary relationship on earth, and it has to be the focus of wives. Every other relationship should come as an out-growth of the marriage.

The greatest deed a wife will ever perform for her children is to love their father. The greatest deed a husband will ever accomplish for his children is to love their mother.

Children need to see that their parents have something in their relationship that is worth coveting as they grow older. That something should be a happy marriage.

FOURTH: There is the discipline of RESPONSIBILITY. In verse 5 we read, "To be discreet..." The word discreet literally means "the art of staying within your zone."

God has given ladies a zone that is their responsibility, and they are to answer to their husband and to God for that zone. The woman is supposed to stay inside her zone. That zone is whatever she and her husband decide it should be.

Perhaps you are thinking, "Sure I know what you mean. You expect wives to stay at home, in the kitchen, doing the laundry and housework." Well, that may be a good place to start, but only if you and your husband agree. The so-called "liberated" woman doesn't want to accept that. On the other hand, if you, in agreement with your husband, choose to work outside the home, so be it.

If both husband and wife work outside the home for hours at a time, it is obvious that home chores need to be shared to avoid exhaustion.

I firmly recommend that the husband and wife sit down and list zones for which each of them will be responsible. Be specific. For example:

**Who will grocery shop and cook?
Who will do the dishes and take out the trash?
Who will vacuum, clean bathrooms, and do laundry?
Who will care for the yard?**

**Who will drive to doctor's appointments and children's ball games?
Who will keep the family calendar?
Who will manage the family finances?**

These are just a few of the responsibilities that ought to be delegated. It is best that each married couple hammer out who is to be responsible for each duty. Remember, being "discreet" means having the ability to stay inside of your zone. Therefore, match delegated duties to personality and abilities.

Once the items are delegated, no one should look at their partner's zone and say, "You didn't do that right." It takes a strong partner to say, "I don't like the way they are caring for their zone, but that is not my responsibility. Taking care of my zone is my responsibility." Therefore, a discreet wife accepts her responsibilities and avoids interfering in what is essentially none of her business.

To be discreet also means "**to have self-controlled opinions.**" How often do men hear their wives say, "**Let me tell you what I think about that!**" Ultimately, it doesn't matter what you think about it, because if the issue is not within your zone, you probably can't fix it.

Too many wives choose to carry the weight of the world on their shoulders. They are often distracted and bogged down by everyone else's problems, such as troubled marriages and wayward children, causing the husband to comment, "**You seem not to care about me!**" Avoid going outside the boundaries of your zone. It is best to just take care of your own responsibilities.

FIFTH: There is the discipline of PURITY. The word **chaste** means "**purity and modesty.**" This is purity in dress, in what you watch on TV, in the magazines you read, and the people with whom you associate. Women are to be modest. Please allow me to say the next statement very carefully.

Every wife needs to be sympathetic to her husband's wishes for her dress, to please him and not show her body to or try to please the world.

A wise young lady will get advice from a wiser older lady on how to behave so as not to portray impurity before members of the opposite sex.

SIXTH: There is the discipline of HOUSEKEEPING. Titus 2:5 uses the terms, "**keepers at home.**" Notice this doesn't say a "stayer" at home, but a "keeper" at home. The word keeper means "**a protector**" or "**a guardian.**" The question, as to whether or not a wife and mother should work outside the home, is another issue. In this text we read that a wife is the guard of the dwelling.

She is responsible for creating an atmosphere of love, comfort and safety. That responsibility involves being disciplined in the art of keeping the pressures of the outside world...outside! When her husband and children are eager to be at home with her, she has fulfilled her responsibility.

SEVENTH: There is the discipline of PERSONAL WORTH. Many women struggle in the area of proper self-esteem that makes them a valuable person. When man was placed in the Garden of Eden, God put him there to work. A man finds his self-worth in his work. A woman finds her self-worth in different areas. Notice the order in Titus chapter 2. I believe that these disciplines are in this order on purpose. They build upon each other, and lead to self-worth.

Step 1 - Discipline your mind by avoiding messages that corrupt, such as main-stream talk shows and so forth, and fill your mind with the Word of God, from the Bible, books, tapes, and music.

Step 2 - Discipline your mind to consistently give affection to your husband.

Step 3 - Discipline your mind to give proper affection to your husband first, and then your children will be loved by you in God's proposed order.

Step 4 - Discipline your mind to exhibit purity and homemaking skills.

Step 5 - Discipline your mind to seek and accept proper self-worth. A woman's self-worth comes from having learned and followed steps 1-4.

In I Timothy 2:15 we read, "**Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.**" That word "**saved**" means more than salvation; it also means recapturing that which was lost; the salvaging of a life, by transforming it into something that is useful. It can be compared to taking an item and recycling it into something useful.

A woman will find self-worth in bearing and rearing children, if she and her husband continue to be united in faith, charity and holiness. As a woman labors with her husband

to teach her children about God, Christian values, and about the disciplines that she has learned from Proverbs 31:28, her children will **"arise up, and call her blessed."**

You ladies won't find your worth by reading self-help books, because there is one little problem in those books. It is the word "self." As long as you focus on yourself, you will not be valuable to your family. One of the greatest dangers to a marriage occurs when the partners become too introspective on their own selves.

Stop spending so much time analyzing what you're doing. If you do, you might get sidetracked from what life is all about - serving others. Get busy teaching your children values and loving your husband, and stop wondering how you rate as a wife and mother.

The word **"good"** in Titus 2:5 doesn't refer to good things you do; it refers to **"internal goodness."** It means that a wife needs good values inside, and they should be emanating from within her to her loved ones.

When your children are just babies, daily teach them about God as well as about academic skills, and spend many hours with them. Someday you will be proud with the right kind of pride. Lord willing, you'll feel the right kind of self-esteem that will say, **"I am glad that I taught the proper values to my children."**

EIGHTH: There is the discipline of SUBMISSION. The word submission comes from two words – **"sub"** meaning **"below the surface"** and **"mission"** meaning **"purpose."** In other words, submission means **"to organize yourself to function behind the scenes."**

A wife is the choreographer who makes the "family play" successful. The wife pulls the strings, she opens the curtain, and she sets the lights. The wife is the one who sets the props. She's the one to whom others say, **"I couldn't have done it without you."** Submission is simply this: **"You have a mission or a purpose behind the scenes."**

Let me take this all important point a step farther. Love for God is best measured through obedience. The most important obedience we can give is that which we give to our closest authority. For example:

Since a child's most direct authority is his parents, the best way for a child to show his love for God is by obeying his parents. Ephesians 6:1 tells us, **"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right."**

A man's best way to prove his love for God is by obeying his employer. In Colossians 3:22 we read, **"Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God."**

A wife's best way to show her love for God is by obeying her husband. In Ephesians 5:22 we read, **"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord."** Reading that, we can conclude that:

- Submission is not slavery, nor is it suppression.**
- Submission is not being a doormat.**
- Submission avoids conflicts.**
- Submission is necessary for the rearing of obedient children.**
- Submission is a command from God.**

As one woman put it,

"Submission to our husbands is our greatest measuring stick for love, and there is no way we can get around it. We cannot be improperly related to our husbands, yet be kind to our neighbor, pastor, and others and say that we are right with God. Submission is a woman's way of saying to God, "I told You that I loved You, and I just proved it by submitting to my husband."

Again as one woman put it,

“Submission is the oil that keeps the machinery of marriage running smoothly. Submission is not obeying a man’s demands; it is a woman’s gift to her husband. To be sure, this gift has some rewards in it for a wife in that it prepares her husband to be strong and to give her the love that she needs.”

Now in conclusion to our message on this Mother’s Day, please listen to these words written by a woman in her book, **I am a Woman by God’s Design**. This is from her chapter **“Subordinate, but not Inferior.”**

“Submission is God’s design for women. Submission is an attitude of obedience. True submission, motivated by a genuine desire to be obedient to the heavenly Father, makes no consideration of selfish ends. What will I get in return, if I submit? Is he worthy of my submission? Will I lose my self-identity and my individual rights, if I submit to my husband? Before a woman can successfully submit to her husband, she must first submit to Christ. Submitting to the Lord means giving up all selfish desires and personal rights. Then, no longer are we alone in our control of our direction and decisions, but the Holy Spirit is to govern our lives. That will ultimately affect our emotions, attitudes, and responses.”

Ladies, if these eight disciplines are being practiced in your lives, notice again in verse 5, **“the Word of God will not be blasphemed.”**

If God has spoken to your heart, after reading the sermon **“Disciplines of a Christian Wife”** right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, **“...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...”**

Romans 10:13, **“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”**

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: **“I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation.”**

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, please let me know. Please send an e-mail to pastormiklas@aol.com and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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