

**\*\*READ THE TEXT\*\***

**INTRO-**

*Introductory Illustration*

- Amy Carmichael was Born in 1867 in Northern Ireland. She was born in a Christian home, from the Covenanter legacy and took Christianity very seriously. When at school at 16 years old, she trusted in Christ.
  - She was burdened for the lost. So, She was a missionary to Japan, then to China and then to Sri Lanka. Finally, she went on to India till her death in 1951.
  - She found a Temple Prostitute girl in India and her heart broke with compassion and ministry began to focus on ministering Christ to these helpless girls.
- She would go down to her knees and wrestle with God in prayer for these helpless girls. She would often risk her life to rescue young people from the jaws of defilement and destruction. SHE would often say: “Beware of the barrenness of a busy life. Leave a margin >>> not to be too busy (leave room for the Savior & the suffering).”
- In her final 20 years, as an older woman, after a serious fall, she was home-bound & she would write 13 books and many letters.
  - When she was with a group of young Indian girls, this older woman wrote what she called “**THE CONFESSION OF LOVE**” who all banded together to serve Christ. Here is their commitment to the LORD >>>
    - ❖ My **Vow**: Whatever you say to me, by Your grace I will do it.
    - ❖ My **constraint**: Your love, O Christ, my Lord.
    - ❖ My **Confidence**: You are able to keep that which I have committed unto you.
    - ❖ My **Joy**: To do your will, O GOD.
    - ❖ My **Discipline**: That which I would NOT choose, but which your love appoints me to do.
    - ❖ My **prayer**: Conform MY will to YOURS.
    - ❖ My **motto**: Love to LIVE – LIVE to love.
    - ❖ My **Portion**: The LORD is the portion of my inheritance.

➡ THIS was the devotion and dedication that Amy Carmichael had with the younger, Indian woman whom she encouraged and discipled.

➡ She knew it, she lived it, she believed it, she modeled it >> she loved the LORD.

➡ Far from rejecting or isolating or shoving aside older women, ***we need you!***  
***Earnestly!***

*Background to Titus 2*

- 2.1 - importance of preaching this. 2.2 - older men; now 2.3-5 - older and younger women!

## OLDER WOMEN

### I. THE CONDUCT OF OLDER WOMEN -- *be holy!* (3a)

- ➡ Paul begins with the women's life & example & actions!
- A. Reverent in behavior (ἱεροπρεπεῖς)
  - 1. The word speaks of: something that is befitting the sacred worship to God>> it's a worship term in context of Temple/service/worship.
- B. HOW? (1) prioritize your heart (2) pursue your God (3) practice your position
- C. This woman is FULLY GIVEN TO GOD FOR HIS SERVICE. THESE OLDER WOMEN are to be HOLY/SACRED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LIVING GOD. Be reverent in behavior!

### II. THE CONVERSATION OF OLDER WOMEN -- *speak truth!* (3b)

- A. Not malicious gossips - διαβόλους [a feminine form of Devil: "a She-Devil!"]
  - 1. NOT malicious gossip; not slanderers; not accusers; not false accusation starters. Satan has a primary verbal role of accusing the saints (Rev 12:10)
- B. NOTHING is more destructive to harmony in a local church than Gossip. What a Satanic like tragedy to have a Church of Slanderers. Assuming the worst, speaking evil of one another, accusing one another, unforgiving, unloving. Prov 20.19 - do not even associate with a gossip!
- ➡ this woman refuses to put someone down; instead, she builds people up.
- ➡ She is NOT one to hear a juicy story and then pass on that story to other people.
- C. Helpful reminders on *how we as Christians must speak*:
  - Speak what is TRUTH.
  - Speak what is TIMELY.
  - Speak what is EDIFYING.
  - Speak what is NECESSARY.

### III. THE CONTROL OF OLDER WOMEN -- *live controlled!* (3c)

- A. Not enslaved to much wine [μὴ οἴνω πολλῷ δεδουλωμένας]
  - a) Interestingly, women were known at Roman Dinners and banquets to have lost self control. Drunkenness would often lead at dinners and banquets to sexual immorality, to unholy speech & lewd conduct.
  - 1. But this IS a call to **not** fit into the cultural stereotype. Paul says: Don't let the godly women be LIKE the pagans in the culture!!! Be separate! Be set apart! Be different! You belong to Christ; be controlled by Him, by the Spirit, by the Word -- *not wine!*
- B. *God saved you, changed you, So be different!* (Tit 2.11-14!)

### IV. THE COUNSEL OF OLDER WOMEN -- *disciple others!* (3d)

- A. Teaching what is good [καλοδιδασκάλους]...
  - 1. teaching what is good. >> not a public teaching position in the church (1 Tim 2.11ff); *rather*: discipling others & younger women one on one, small group, on practical duties about biblical womanhood.
  - 1. **So** -- A woman doesn't need to feel USELESS; God says she is EMINENTLY USEFUL. A wise, older woman shouldn't feel *needless*; she's *needed!*

2. *She's not up front preaching to crowds; but she's investing in other women impacting households, children, generations & cultivating godly legacies!*

**B. Why all this?** The older women have a **vital ministry**: discipleship!

1. **so that** they may “TRAIN”/teach/equip/encourage the **younger women**  
— σωφρονίζωσιν - the word means: “To train”; to control; to restore to one’s senses; right thinking; to discipline; to hold one to her duty. >> even to admonish; to exhort earnestly.

• σωφρονίζωσιν- to train; to urge; to teach. NASB: encourage; ESV: “train”; NIV: “urge”; another “admonish”; still another; “to school the younger women” It’s more than just *sharing a passing thought*; it’s *causing one to think the right way through intentional urging & deliberate training*. **Think this way. Get this mindset! Embrace it!**

- Paul teaches us that the younger woman’s first and foremost priority is in the HOME (to the husband, kids, home & Godly conduct).
  - Young Women: technically an age group, it’s still a bit fluid; those who are married, they have kids. but this could have been teenagers then. So young women, teens, perhaps in 20s, maybe 30s. ***Our section today is for \*all Women\* -- young & older.***

**What is the older woman to teach the younger woman? \*Biblical Womanhood.\* These verses address *Biblical Womanhood*. What is God’s call for all young women? It’s listed in 7 virtues here. (v.4-5)**

### **I. PURSUE THE DELIGHT OF LOVING YOUR HUSBAND (4)**

1. one who loves her man.
2. Interestingly: ... *a tender, affectionate, passionate kind of love. It emphasizes enjoyment and respect in a relationship. Like a very close brotherly-love.*

### **II. ENJOY THE BLESSING OF LOVING YOUR CHILDREN (4b)**

- A. Children are a blessing; a gift; a heritage. For a mother, no higher calling exists than to raise children for the glory of God! *But young women must be \*taught\* how to do it!* The incredibly pervasive promotion of abortion (=baby-killing) shows how children & life are *de-valued* in our day. O young women must be taught! ***Help us, Older Women!***

### **III. PRIORITIZE THE SAFETY OF SELF-CONTROL (5a)**

- A. σὺφρων- to be **sensible**; self controlled; NLT: “to live wisely”; another; ‘to be sober minded.’ This is the young woman who is **thoughtful**, prudent, self controlled.

### **IV. CHERISH THE PLEASURE OF SEXUAL PURITY (5b)**

- A. to be holy, pure, chaste, reverent. She reflects this in her commitment to modesty — to NOT purposefully attract attention to her body (by her pants, by her clothing, by her top, by her name-brands, her form, etc. )

- B. Be sexually pure, chaste & *uncontaminated*. GOD intends for women to experience tremendous joy and satisfaction & pleasure when you express sexuality within the confines of marriage. *Older women of God: speak truth, speak intentionally, speak practically. Offer counsel, advice and feedback to our women!*

V. **PURSUE THE HONOR OF WORKING AT HOME (5c)**

- A. working at home; KJV: Keepers at home; CEV: a good homemaker; NET: “fulfilling the duties at home”
1. This woman finds her primary work in the domain/context of her home. Her home is her primary castle & realm of ministry which she embraces. She’s caring for the house, domestic duties as her *primary* sphere of honorable work.
  2. The story is that of Sarah Edwards who embraced the honor of a *home-worker*. Sarah created a world where her husband could fulfill his God-given duties without being concerned for the domestic tasks of the home. GODLY wives should do the same.
  3. Wives: You are your husband’s helper. THE MAN needs *THE help*. *The woman needs TO help*.
  4. The man is oriented to *the task* to work; the woman is oriented to *HIM* to help. (DOUG WILSON)

VI. **ANTICIPATE THE REWARDS OF KINDNESS (5d)**

- A. admirable; one who is thought highly of; a distinguished one; respected; distinguished; even “Useful”; speaking of a good fruit - James 3.17 or of something useful — like useful words (Eph 4.29). Young women are to ***go to school*** to learn this kind of usefulness, kindness.

VII. **PRIZE THE BEAUTY OF BIBLICAL SUBMISSION (5e)**

- not merely a concept for women only; doesn’t mean a woman is a slave; doesn’t mean she never opens her mouth; doesn’t mean she is a wallflower who folds up and is a doormat; never means she is inferior
- Biblical submission is beautiful, orderly, beneficial & a blessing!
  1. Submission means that she is **WILLING** subjection under a God-directed authority.
  2. **So this is important!** she is to be submitting herself (middle voice) >> husband cannot make a woman submit. It’s her duty to submit herself under his authority.
- A. WE Submit to government & authorities // WE submit to GOD & HIS WORD // WE submit to our elders/overseers // CHRIST submits to the FATHER >>> SO wives submit to their HUSBANDS (1 Pet 3.1; Col 3.18; Eph 5.22-24).

***What’s the purpose/reason for all this?*** (v.5b)

- So that the word of God will not be **dishonored** (NASB); not bring “shame” (NLT); not be reviled (ESV); so that no one will say insulting things (CEV); NET: so that the message of God’s Word will not be *discredited*. And to **ADORN** the gospel (v.10b!)

***ELIZE fitzpatrick writes: “TITUS 2 is not a suggestion; it’s a mandate. --> It’s part of the strategy and Divine game plan for the Christian education and building up of the CHURCH.”***

**Elizabeth Elliot speaks truth:**

Titus 2 calls women to a deep and profound understanding of the gospel that issues forth in a genuine and sacrificial love of family and home, a counter-cultural purity and self-control that is only possible through the power of the Holy Spirit.

One blog was particularly helpful:

Beware of some TITUS 2 ditches -- (some pitfalls)

1. **#1 - *self righteousness***: I'm doing this. I've got it. Look at me. I'm awesome.

2. **Ditch #2 - *Giving Up!***: I can't do it; I can't measure up! It's unattainable; look at how short I fall: I can't do it; My season of life, my place in life, my location, my family situation, my kids >> It's impossible.

- Carolyn Mahaney summarizes this all so well:
  - Can you conceive of anything that sets forth the beauty of the gospel jewel more brilliantly than the gospel behavior of those who have received it? Consider the loveliness of a woman who passionately adores her husband, who tenderly cherishes her children, who creates a warm and peaceful home, who exemplifies purity, self control, and kindness in her character and who gladly submits to her husband's leadership >> for all the days God grants her life. I dare say there are FEW things that display the gospel jewel with greater elegance. and THIS IS TRUE FEMININE APPEAL AND BIBLICAL FEMININITY!