

Salvation And The Christian's Conduct

Sound Doctrine Involves Proper Conduct. (Titus 2:1-6 ASV) "But speak thou the things which befit the sound doctrine: that aged men be temperate, grave, sober-minded, sound in faith, in love, in patience: that aged women likewise be reverent in demeanor, not slanderers nor enslaved to much wine, teachers of that which is good; that they may train the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, {to be} sober-minded, chaste, workers at home, kind, being in subjection to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed: the younger men likewise exhort to be sober-minded:". Last week we studied the responsibilities of men, today we will look at the responsibilities of "aged women".

In Titus 2:3 they were taught of God to: "the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things."(NKJ) They are not to be slanders, an action designed to defame or injure the reputation of another, nor to be "enslaved to much wine," showing a lack of ability to overcome fleshly desires.

Older women should be apt and anxious to teach good things. This is a positive duty of elderly Christian women, though often ignored or neglected. The experience of age should ever be used to instruct and guide for it is, indeed, a tragedy for the younger to be deprived of this. There is a great need in the church for grandmothers of faith, like Timothy had(2Tim.1:5),for they are natural instructors of the young of both sexes.

Some of the things the older women are to teach the younger are listed in Vs.4-5. To be sober-minded is to have a well-balanced mind, or be able to think straight. Loving one's husband and children is something that can be taught and learned. Of course, this should come naturally, but such is not always the case, especially when feelings and emotions are relied upon instead of divine teaching and training. "discreet" is the same " as sober-minded"(KJV/ASV). "Chaste" refers to purity in the heart and life. "Keepers at home"(KJV)-"workers at home"(ASV),or "homemakers"(NKJ) refers to being workers at home or guardians of the house, active in household duties. Younger women should be taught that in thinking of a career, there is none greater than that of

homemaking. There is no task, responsibility, privilege or reward greater than this. To be "good"(KJV) or "kind"(ASV) is to demonstrate a gracious, benign disposition toward servants, husband, children and all. Teaching the younger women to "be obedient to their own husbands"(KJV) or "in subjection to"(ASV) is something God has always required(Gen.3:16; 1Cor.11:3). This does not mean women are men's slaves, but that God has assigned unto man the responsibility of leadership(headship),providing, and protecting, requiring that they continually sacrifice love of self and personal desires for their wife and family, being gentle, kind, and patient in dealing with them. If the conduct of Christians does not harmonize with sound doctrine, this word of truth will be blasphemed(spoken against).

Women, read Proverbs 31:10-31. God knows the worth of a good woman"(10) Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth {is} far above rubies.

My beloved, there is no other physical union on this side of eternity that can surpass an active Christian family.

NOTE: That it is the "aged women" that are to teach the younger. This passage not only puts a responsibility on the "aged women" to teach, but on the younger to listen and make the application.