

Titus 2:3-5 | “The Impact of a Godly Mother”
Preached on May 14, 2023 by Pastor Matt Brown

You can turn in your Bibles to Titus 2, verses 3-5.

It is Mother’s Day today, so I wanted to do a motherhood-related sermon, but really, this passage goes well with what we have been studying in Matthew.

In this passage, it speaks on discipleship, and that’s what we have been looking at.

It also touches on how we are to live and how our lives can impact others, which is what we will find next week in the book of Matthew. *[pauseeee]*

In our day, traditional motherhood is often looked down upon.

To focus most of your attention on raising your kids, being a good wife, and taking care of your home is viewed as oppressive. *[pause]*

To many, motherhood is restrictive and hindering - this is why abortion is so valued by feminists across the country.

Because to them, becoming a mother means the dashing of your dreams and therefore the end of your life, so to say. *[pause]*

That’s why the voices from our culture loudly proclaim, “Motherhood is holding you back, and restricting who you want to be!”

“What about your independence, and doing what you want?” They say. *[pause]*

In essence, being a good wife and mother is seen by many as insufficient to obtaining a fulfilled life.

Inherently they are saying, “All you’re good for is doing that?” *[pause]*

So what they do is portray motherhood as misery and drudgery, trapping you in a patriarchal system bent on keeping you down.

Even one radical feminist made the argument that “women would never truly be free of patriarchy until they were freed from the yoke of reproduction.”¹ *[pauseeee]*

Sadly, this low view of motherhood isn’t just a sliver of radical feminists, but it has infiltrated much of our culture.

¹ Westervelt, Amy. “Is Motherhood the Unfinished Work of Feminism?” *The Guardian*, 26 May 2018, www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/may/26/is-motherhood-the-unfinished-work-of-feminism.

In fact, one woman journalist shared that for years working for a woman's magazine, her editors would say, "We don't cover motherhood."² [pause]

But is that how we as Christians are supposed to view motherhood: as something low, restrictive, and oppressive?

Of course not, for we hold up Biblical motherhood as it's talked about in the Bible, and we see its utmost importance and impact. [pause]

One such passage that highlights a mother's importance and impact is the one in front of us today, so let's READ IT.

According to this passage, we see the impact that a godly mother can have, and the first one is...

I. Mothers can greatly impact other mothers.

In the context, Paul has been instructing Titus in how he can put things in order in the church at Crete.

And after telling Titus to "teach what accords with sound doctrine," he goes on to talk about how each category of people in the church ought to live. [pause]

He talked of what older men should do, and now he moves on to talk about older women.

And older women here would be women who most likely have children who are adults and starting to be on their own.

So think of a woman typically around 50 or 60 and older. [pauseeee]

He shares some characteristics that they should display...

They are to be "reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine." [pause]

If you could put those three qualities together, you see that these older women are to be self-controlled and respectable.

They are to exemplify holiness as a mature Christian, who brings benefit to others, not harm like slandering others. [pause]

In fact, look at how older women are not to use their tongues in slanderous ways, but in teaching what is good.

And the goal of this teaching is so that they can train the younger women how to live. [pauseeee]

Older women, do you realize that this is what you are called to do?

² Ibid.

This is a command, not an option.

You are supposed to be discipling younger women in your life, helping them to be godly wives and mothers.

And if you are not stepping up and doing this, then the younger women aren't getting what they need from you. *[pauseeee]*

So many times people view church as a come, hear a sermon, and go home thing.

But it's so much more than that, for you are to have an active part in serving others. *[pause]*

The teaching time doesn't stop when I'm done with my sermon every Sunday, but there should be teaching throughout the week as older women are teaching younger women. *[pauseeeee]*

So that means that older women: there is no retirement from ministry, but you are needed to minister to others!

Yes, this will most likely mean changing your weekly routine, and being pushed out of your comfort zone, but it's so needed. *[pauseeee]*

Maybe you need to reach out to a younger woman and start building a relationship.

Invite them over and teach them how to manage a household.

Spend time with them and instruct them on how to be a loving and kind wife and mother.

Show them by example how to be self-controlled and godly. *[pauseeeee]*

When my wife, Kate, was in college, her pastor's wife would invite her over to her house regularly and just talk about life.

Kate got to see first-hand how she was a wife and mother, and it greatly impacted her.

So don't neglect the impact that you can have on another woman! *[pause]*

This is not just a small little task, but women, this is truly a high calling!

Look at what older women can train younger women to do: "to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled." *[pauseeeee]*

Older mothers can help younger mothers be godly women.

They can help train them to be loving wives and mothers, with well-managed homes.

And the result is the Word of God not being reviled. *[pause]*

Talk about impact!

You are shaping that woman's life, and you are affecting the lives of those who will now interact with her, for they meet someone kind and caring.

Now her husband and children are blessed because they have a loving wife and mother, who takes care of her home.

And the Word of God isn't reviled because she is demonstrating a Christ-like life. *[pause]*

What an impact that you can have by sacrificing some time and effort in order to train up younger women in the church. *[pauseeee]*

If you are an older woman, do you realize the impact that you can have on younger women?

Why not determine to seek out some younger women to mentor and help? *[pause]*

This is what it looks like to disciple someone, and this is what we are working towards as we have been looking at discipleship in the book of Matthew.

It's investing in someone's life, teaching them to follow Christ. *[pause]*

We need others in our lives to help us, teach us, and train us to live how Christ has commanded. *[pauseeee]*

So older women, your task is in front of you, but will you step up and do it?

Younger women need you - they need to be taught and they need your godly example.

They need someone who has gone before them, who can come alongside them and share some things that God has taught them when *they* went through those younger years. *[pauseeee]*

Too many times we have a "serve me" mentality instead of a "I will serve others" mentality when it comes to church.

But you should have the mindset of Christ, who "came not to be served but to serve".³ *[pauseeee]*

Now it's easy to hear this, and say, "Yes, that's important," but then to go and not actually do it.

So women, no matter what age you are, I want you to take out the little sermon outline paper that came with the bulletin.

And write down the name of 1 other woman who is younger than you that you could reach out to and help. *[pause]*

Even if you are younger, you have other people who are younger than you, who you could do this with.

³ Matthew 20:28.

Men, you could also do this, for we each are to be encouraging others and investing in their lives.
[pauseeee]

Now write down 1 or 2 ways that you could encourage them or train them to follow Christ better.

Maybe it's as simple as taking 1 step and writing down, "I'm going to invite this person over and teach her how to make a meal, while we talk about life."

Or maybe it's as simple as, "I'm going to ask this person to go out to breakfast and we will talk about how things are going in our lives."

Or be creative with it!

It could be many different things, as long as there is time to invest in their lives and talk and encourage them in truth. [pauseeee]

Imagine the difference it would make if every older woman in this congregation took 1 other woman younger than her and did this!

Imagine the impact, as we have women trained to be more loving, to be more kind, and basically to be a biblical woman. [pause]

What a difference that would make in our church, and what a difference that would make in our community over time as those women impact those they meet. [pauseeee]

So not only can moms greatly impact other moms, but there's more...

II. Mothers can greatly impact their home.

So we just read that older women are to teach the younger women, but *what* are they to teach them?...

"To love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands." [pause]

Modern day feminists and progressive Christians don't like these verses, but here they are, right in the Bible.

And you can't just say, "That was for their day, but not for ours."

Isn't the Bible relevant for all time? Of course it is. [pause]

So what they are taught is a general godliness of being self-controlled, pure, and kind. [pause]

She is someone who is able to control her passions and desires.

She is self-controlled with her tongue, her anger also is under control, she isn't filled with envy and jealousy of others, and the list could go on.

In every area, she is to be self-controlled. *[pause]*

These women are to be pure too, which would mean she has purity in her mind, heart, and in her faithfulness to her husband. *[pause]*

And she is kind with everyone that she meets.

Essentially, she is someone who is a mature and godly woman.

She's not that mean and nasty person, who can't control herself and her tongue, and is addicted to different things.

Rather, she's self-controlled and kind. *[pauseeee]*

Looking at what else she is taught, a big part of it is in relation to her home, as she is taught to be a godly wife and mother. *[pause]*

She is trained to love her husband and children. *[pause]*

At first, this may seem like it's not even needed: like don't women inherently love their husband and children?

To some degree, certainly, but here's the thing, do you *show* love to them? *[pause]*

How do you treat your kids if they fail?

Are you kind with your children when they keep getting on your nerves? *[pause]*

Loving your children may be the easier one, but what about your husband, do you love him?

Once again, you can say it, but do you show it in everyday life?

Do you often resent him and become bitter, or do you show him love regularly?

How do you talk to him when you differ in your opinion over something? *[pause]*

In fact, women are to be taught to be submissive to their husbands.

It's the idea that God has ordered the marriage relationship in such a way as the husband is the leader, and so wives are to submit to their own husband in obedience to the Lord. *[pause]*

The final thing that I didn't touch on is that they are to be taught to be busy at home. *[pause]*

The idea is that she is to be diligently focused on and caring for her home.

She is to manage her household and make sure that enough time and attention is given to it. *[pause]*

This doesn't mean that you are restricted to the home and that's it, but really, it means that you do not neglect your home.

You do not put your home on the backburner, but remember that the home is an important part of being a wife and mother. *[pauseeee]*

This is all what younger women are to be taught, summarized very quickly, of course.

But I want you to imagine that a young woman is taught and trained to do these things, and now is starting to do them in her life.

Think of the impact she will have on her home! *[pause]*

She is self-controlled, pure, and kind to those in the home.

Mom isn't yelling at everyone in anger, losing her temper and saying mean things, but is self-controlled and kind. *[pause]*

Her husband and children are now thankful whenever they come into the home, for it's a more peaceful place to be.

They know that their wife and mother will be kind to them, and won't be out of control. *[pause]*

In fact, they know and feel that they are loved by her.

She loves her husband and children, and she displays it.

She sacrifices for them, but she also is forgiving, gentle, and treats them in loving ways. *[pause]*

They also know that mom is diligent and gives attention to the home.

She doesn't just leave it in shambles and neglect it, but she focuses on making it beautiful and orderly.

She manages it well. *[pause]*

Just think of the impact that that can make on her family!

It is helping to establish a stable, healthy, God-honoring home.

It is creating a place of joy, belonging, and peace.

Her family now *loves* to be at home, for it's orderly and peaceful.

Even in a chaotic world, her family knows that home is a place of safety, order, and godliness. *[pauseeee]*

Her children are greatly impacted by her example, as now when they grow up, they imitate her, and show the same godliness with their families.

Even her husband is impacted, as he feels loved by his wife.

His heart melts, as it convicts him of how he treats her, and how he hasn't been stepping up and doing his duties. *[pauseeee]*

Everyone is impacted spiritually, as they are encouraged by her example to follow Christ better.

And now they go out and live differently because of her godly influence. *[pauseeee]*

What a beautiful thing; what an amazing impact!

Moms, do not think so lowly of your role!

You have a BIG role in the lives of those in your family.

I constantly hear of people who were greatly impacted for Christ through the godliness of their wife or mother. *[pauseeee]*

Certainly you won't be perfect at this, for we still sin, yet this is the goal.

This is what moms can strive for.

So if needed, confess your sins to the Lord, and ask Him to help you to live this way.

God is ready with open arms to forgive, restore, and help you! *[pauseeee]*

And for those who have been impacted by your mother, why not thank them today for their godly impact in the home?

Tell them how much of an impact they have made on your life, as she lived out these characteristics described here in Titus 2. *[pause]*

Even if they aren't around, you can be thankful in your heart, and praise God for them.

Even if you didn't have a Christian mother or a godly mother, you can still be thankful.

You could even thank the mothers that you know who have made an impact on your life, or on the lives of others. *[pauseeee]*

Mothers can greatly impact their home.

While the world thinks that we as Christians restrict women and see them as inferior, it's the opposite.

They are the ones who are lowering motherhood down, and seeing them as inferior, for we recognize and cherish the great and godly impact that wives and mothers can make on their homes for eternity. *[pauseeee]*

So mothers can impact other mothers and their homes, but there's one more thing I see in this passage about the impact that a mother can have...

III. Mothers can greatly impact how others view the Word of God.

I want you to look at our passage and notice something.

We saw that older women are to teach younger women to live a certain way, but consider the end of verse 5.

This discipleship of older women training younger women, and then younger women living out biblical womanhood has an amazing purpose...

The purpose is, "that the word of God may not be reviled." *[pauseeee]*

Why do we neglect to talk about this part when we talk about women and mothers?

This shows us that their role has an important, eternal impact.

It's not something small or lowly, but it affects the world. *[pauseeee]*

Think about what this verse is saying...

The way that women live, treat their spouses, treat their children, and manage their homes impacts how people view the Word of God!

If they live in godly ways, then it prevents others from reviling the Word of God, but if they don't live that way, then the Word of God is more open to being reviled. *[pauseeee]*

To 'revile' here means to speak disparagingly, slander, malign, or defame.

So it means that people could degrade, belittle, and speak badly about the Word of God. *[pause]*

But how?

Think of it this way...

If Christian women say that they follow Christ and follow the Word of God, but live ungodly lives, then it weakens the credibility of the Word of God.

That gives unbelievers a basis to malign the Word of God, for they say, "Look at how the Bible leads people to live!"

Or people may wonder, "What good is following the Bible, just look at her life." *[pause]*

But let's say a woman lives her life in the ways that we learned this morning, then it makes it a lot harder for people to genuinely disparage the Word of God.

Because they will try to revile the Word of God, but be put to shame, for others will say...

“What are you talking about? She is so kind and loves her family, and her home runs smoothly. How could you say that the Word of God doesn’t make a difference?” *[pauseeee]*

As Christians, we shouldn’t give anyone reasons to criticize God’s Word, but we should show others how powerful and beautiful it is, for they see how much of a difference it makes in our lives! *[pauseeee]*

The truth is that unbelievers often judge the Bible by our lives.

If we are unloving people, hypocrites, and our relationships are a wreck it makes them even more skeptical about the Gospel.

But when we live godly lives, it proves the Gospel’s power, and what they say about us can’t hold its weight. *[pauseeee]*

You see, instead of showing the world that we are threats to society, by being godly wives and mothers, you show the world that living the way the Bible says creates beautiful, healthy relationships and functioning homes.⁴

Women living the way that God has said shows off the truth and power of God’s Word!⁵
[pauseeee]

Did you know that your day-to-day living can adorn the Word of God?

The Word of God is attractive and beautiful in itself, but our lives can either obstruct or show off that beauty. *[pause]*

Women, you can influence how people view the Word of God, which can impact people’s eternities, for they are either turned away from the Bible or turned towards it.

What a motivation! *[pause]*

Ladies, how you live as a wife and mother is a powerful witness in the world.

You play an integral part in the mission of God.

That should motivate you even more to follow God’s way of how He has called you to live.
[pause]

Don’t you want God to be glorified?

May your heart resound with the desire for His Word to be honored, lifted up, and magnified!

⁴ Douglas J. W. Milne, *1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Focus on the Bible Commentary* (Scotland; Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, 1996), 214–215.

⁵ Philip Towner, *1–2 Timothy & Titus*, vol. 14, *The IVP New Testament Commentary Series* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994), Tt 2:4–5.

May you live in such a way that all may see the greatness of God, and the power and truth of His Word!

May your life be a testimony of how He could take a sinner like you and change your life because of Christ's work on the Cross, which provides forgiveness and new life.

That He could take people who before Christ are selfish, mean, and following after their passions, and cause you to be kind and loving to your husband and children.

That amidst a culture that bombards you with the message that you are to put yourself first and not submit to a man, that you are willing to love your husband and follow Him in the way that God has ordered your marriage.

That in a culture that hates children so much that they abort them, yet you love your children by first not aborting them, but also by showing practical love to them, even when it's hard.

That in a time when it's hard to be pure, you are seeking to be pure.

That in a dog-eat-dog world that says, "Be the girl boss," you are kind and gentle.

That in a day and age that pushes women to pursue life outside of the home, you care about and are diligent about caring *for* your home, helping your family members to flourish in their own responsibilities.

This is the beauty and impact of Biblical womanhood!

This is the beauty and impact that a godly mother can have! *[pauseeee]*

The world can make fun of us all they want, and try to portray our beliefs as oppressive, but we will lift it up.

Why?

Because it's what God has said, and living how He has said wonderfully adorns the Word of God, showing its power, truth, and beauty.

And through this, God is glorified, His Word is honored, and more and more people are impacted for His name. *[pauseeee]*

Mothers, living according to what God has said has immense implications for His kingdom, but do you realize that impact?

Remember to view your role through the lens of the glory of God, and follow the path that He has set before you. *[pause]*

For the rest of us, do you cherish and show gratitude for the women in your life?

Do you lift up their role to be as high as God has shown us? *[pauseeee]*

Never forget the impact that a godly mother can have!

They can greatly impact other mothers by training them in the ways of the Lord, which affects so many other people.

They can greatly impact their homes, as their homes function well, and their husband and children experience kindness, love, and a godly example.

And they greatly impact people's view of the Word of God, as the more they display faithful godliness, the less the Word of God is reviled. *[pauseeee]*

Do not disregard your special role as women and moms!

So many times nowadays people who are influenced by the world's thinking say, "You are restricting women in the church!"

All they care about is thinking about how the Bible seems to limit women, yet look at the amazing impact and role that women have!

They can teach other moms, they can impact their homes, and they can impact the world for Christ.

You think that's a low job?

Think again.

For that's a world-impacting job that has ripple effects for the glory of God, starting with the home, to the church, and to society.