

***Making a House a Home***  
***Titus 2:3-5***

**Inro:** A house is "real property," a physical collection of bricks, mortar, sticks and stones. It has been said many times that a "house does not make a home." *A real estate agent may sell you a house but he can't sell you a home!* So, what makes a house a home?

Having spent 20 years in the U.S. Army our family lived in multiple locations worldwide including almost 8 years in Germany. In each of these locations we experienced life in varied houses with various types of neighborhoods and surroundings. But one thing was common to them all - they were home. Why? Because the things that make a house a home were relocated each time we moved.

These things were not the landscape or the garage or the square footage or the color of carpet. So what makes a home?

It is the character that goes into the house that makes it a home. And, more often than not, it is the woman's touch that transforms a ***House into a Home***. In our text today we see the kind of Christian Character it takes to make a ***House a Home***.

**[Read Titus 2:3-5/pray/dismiss jr church]**

We hear every day about mothers and wives who kill their kids or their husbands – why just the other day a pastor's wife got only 3 years for killing him in his sleep. I believe, however, that most mothers and wives are good; at least Christian mother and wives, they do their best. No one is perfect and being a wife or mother is

difficult at its best as they struggle to make a house a home; investing in their families.

Since our culture has embraced as its greatest value personal happiness families and homes are being destroyed every day just to make someone happy. The dangers of divorce, acceptance of sexual immorality, and a preoccupation with self-fulfillment have taken their toll on the family. While our culture spins out of control and the family unit breaks down, the Bible lifts up the family and exalts the place of the woman in the family. Being a wife and mother is a ministry. It is a ministry of teaching, preparing children to follow God's pathways, and being an example of the love of Jesus.

I heard about a missionary who was trying to stir up interest to get people to go to a foreign country to preach the gospel. At the end of the service a woman dragging a little boy behind her, told the missionary, "I just feel like God is calling me to be a missionary." "He is, indeed" and pointing to the little boy, "And there's the little heathen he wants you to preach to."

Titus ministered in a pagan environment among Christians who had a background in such violence, dishonesty, and immorality that the Cretans were legendary for it. (1:12) The Christian Women were trying to be godly, but they were living in a supremely ungodly society. So Paul tells Titus how the men and women in his church should act; he instructs the older men and the young men, he instructs the older women and the younger women just how they should live Godly lives among the pagans around them. In teaching this to Titus he gives to us the Characteristics of Godly Mother in an Ungodly World. This is ancient advice with contemporary power. What we need is

**Christian Homes not Christian Houses.** And for many of us it falls to the wife to establish

In our home, and it appears in most homes the responsibility for making a **House a Home** falls on the wife. For me, it was always Sally who was the “*mortar*” that turned our house into a home. The Army would take care of moving the “*house*” contents but it was Sally who took care of moving the “*home*.” When we would arrive at the new base the movers would unload all our belongings but it was Sally who took the time to unpack everything; put out our “memories” and begin to make our new “*house*” a “*home*.”

But making a **House a Home** takes more than unpacking...it takes someone to establish the sense of **home** right away. Again that was Sally. I would have to report right away for duty when we arrived at our duty station. It was Sally who would establish the *hominess* of our house. How would she do that? How would she make the **House a Home**? It was the godly Christian Character she added to the house that made it a home. It is the godly Christian Character a woman displays that a home. When Paul taught the Corinthians about marriage and Christians and said the believing wife should stay with an unbelieving husband because by doing so she can sanctify him he was telling her that her new godly Christian Characteristics would set her home apart from others and be a testimony to her lost husband.

In Titus Paul spells out those **Godly Christian Characteristics** a woman should establish in her home.

So what are these **Godly Christian Characteristics** a woman can establish in the home?

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Godly Christian Characteristics; She is to have...**

1. **Christ-like in her Behavior** Vv. 3

- a. Her behavior is to be “...**as becometh holiness**”
  - i. This phrase means, *Befitting, in place & action*
  - ii. It also means *sacred, to act like a sacred person*
  - iii. In other words their life is to be one that is Christ-like in action and person.
- b. At the end of the first chapter of this book Paul taught regarding false teachers—now he is turning to what is holy
- c. Women/mothers are to be Christ-like in the home because it is there where we are watched the most and where we can prove our faith.
- d. **ILL:** A brilliant evangelist aimed his sermons at a well educated visitor who attended his services whom the preacher knew was lost. Every night for a week he would preach his heart out just knowing his brilliant messages could cut through this mans hard heart. When the revival was over, the invitation was given and the educated visitor came forward and accepted Christ as his savior. “Which one of my sermons brought conviction to you?” asked the gratified preacher?

With a chilling smile the new convert answered, “*Sir, it was not through your sermons that I was converted. I slept through most of them. It was an old woman, who hobbled up the steps of your church every night, limping and leaning on her crutches, and between every thump of the crutch on the stone steps exclaimed, 'My blessed Jesus. My blessed Jesus.'* As I looked at the poor disabled woman and saw the genuine content and peace on her face, and found out she lived a consistent life in the face of poverty and loneliness, I saw a living book to which I could not reply. So I wanted the Christ whom she professed.”

- e. It is the life lived by the woman of the House that makes it a home.

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Godly Christian Characteristics; She is to be...**

**2. Careful in her Talk V. 3b**

- a. The word translated "false accuser" is *diabolos* in Greek.
  - i. It appears 38 times in the NT and is usually translated 'devil.'
  - ii. 34 of those 38 times it is referring to Satan.
  - iii. Once it refers to Judas.
  - iv. It means "a slanderer"
- b. Apparently since the Devil is a slanderer when we falsely accuse someone we are acting like him
  - i. The devil is a slanderer.
  - ii. He slanders the name of God, the Church of God, and the people of God.
  - iii. Paul was saying to them, be careful with your tongue, don't be like the devil
- b. III: A woman who had the reputation of being a slanderer asked her preacher one day, I am puzzled, how am I going to get my robe over my wings? His replay, I am more concerned of how you are you going to get your hat over your horns?
- c. ILL: Two boys on the school playground were discussing a classmate. One of them remarked, "*He's no good at sports.*" The other quickly responded, "*Yes, but he always plays fair.*" The critical one added, "*He isn't very smart in school either.*" His friend answered, "*That may be true, but he studies hard.*" The boy with the mean tongue was becoming annoyed with the attitude of the other. "*Well,*" he sneered, "*did you ever notice how ragged his clothes are?*" The other boy kindly replied, "*Yes, but did you ever notice, they're always clean!*" Every negative observation was countered by a positive one.

- d. What an excellent example for us to follow!
  - iv. Let's refrain from "**evil speaking**" and be "**kind to one another**" (Eph. 4:31,32).
  - v. Rather than contributing to the spirit of criticism, let's be known as those who cancel it
- e. A wife and mother can turn a house into a home when she is in control of her tongue.

**The 3<sup>d</sup> Godly Christian Characteristics; She is to be...**

**2. Consecrated in her Drink V. 3c**

- a. The Sunday school teacher was dismayed when she saw the picture that one of her pupils had drawn. "Why, it looks like a cowboy walking into a bar!" she said with concern. "It is," said the child. "But it's all right. He's not going to DRINK anything. He's just going in to SHOOT a man!"
  - i. We laugh but you might be surprised to find out that, according to Barna 12% of Christians drink enough alcohol to be considered legally drunk
  - ii. Many of them Christian women
- b. Paul is saying don't be a slave to alcohol.
  - i. A mother should be a total abstainer.
  - ii. It does have it place in some ways such as in medicines, and etc.
- a. The Bible recognized the dangers of alcohol, and warns us against of its addicting power.
  - i. Alcoholism is the third leading medical problem in the United States.
    1. Each year over 40,000 people die on the highways of America because of Alcohol.
    2. Alcohol is a factor in over half of the murders, one-fourth the suicides and a majority of the divorces in the Untied Stated each year.
  - ii. Some reports says there are the same number of women as men who have problems with alcohol

- b. The Bible says the best way is stay away from it, and as the writer of Proverbs tells, don't even look upon it
- c. **ILL:** *"Preacher, talk to my boy about drinking,"* said an anxious father. *"He came home last night and fell sprawling on the floor, too drunk to get up. His mother cried the rest of the night; in fact, she has been crying ever since."*
- "Why don't you yourself talk to your own boy and urge him to give up drink?"* the preacher questioned. *"Preacher, I can't talk to my son about it because I am to blame. I wanted him to be a man, and I thought it wouldn't harm him to drink. When I gave him his first beer, I didn't dream that he'd ever become a drunk. Please speak to my boy. I can't talk to him."*
- d. The best way to deal with alcohol is to like former President Wilson used to do when alcohol was served at his table. He always placed his glass upside down. In others words, he was saying no to alcohol.

**The 4<sup>th</sup> Godly Christian Characteristics; She is to be A...**

**3. Communicator of Godly Things Vv. 4-5**

- a. Of course mothers are to teach their children how to cook, how to wash, how to keep house and such.
- i. I heard about the new bride who called her mother and asked her how to boil water?
- ii. The word "good" here means good in a moral sense.
- b. I was talking to Sally just the other night about just how our kids had turned out. I told her that she did a great job raising them. What our kids are today in large part comes from their mother. Sally did say that I had my part but the kids spent most of their time with her. Of course I had to reinforce her teaching; I had to agree with what she taught. O couldn't spend my time with them undoing all she had done.

- c. What should a mother teach her children?
- d. **Teach them to be sober**
- i. The word *sober* here means wise, sensible, to use good judgment
- ii. A mother should teach her children to be use good judgment in their dealing with money, their job, their friends, and especially with their friends.
- iii. Sam Jones said, you can't run with the dogs without getting fleas on you.
- iv. When the kids would come and ask Sally if they could go someplace or go to someone's home she would ask them tons of questions: Who are you going with? What you going to do when you get there? Who's going to be there? When will you be home? The list goes on.

I can tell you there were times when the kids were told they couldn't go to so-and-so's house because Sally didn't know the mother or I didn't know the father. If we didn't know them the kids did not enter their home.

**e. Teach them how to love**

- i. Love is the key in the home.
- ii. It is the cement that holds the home together
- iii. **1<sup>st</sup> teach them how to love their spouse** –
1. I realize it says they are to teach the young women to love their husbands but this is one trait the boys need to be shown too.
2. We men just don't know how to show love – Eph tells us that we are to love our wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it.
3. Jesus told us that we are to love the God.
4. But do we really know how to love?

5. When a mother teaches her children how to love her husband she is teaching pure love to all her children not just her girls.
  6. **ILL:** There is a custom in an area of the Netherlands where newlywed couples enter their house through a special door. The door is never used again until one dies and the body is carried out through that same door. God designed marriage like that house. It has one door that is locked tightly. That lock, which keeps the marriage bond secure, is loving commitment for life, which includes a commitment to being reconciled if the relationship should break.
- ii. **2<sup>nd</sup> She is to teach them how to love children**
1. We have a horrible problem with child abuse and child endangerment and child neglect in this country.
  2. Most of it stems from mothers not teaching their children how to love and care for children by caring for and love them.
  3. Children are a gift from God the Bible tells me and to not spend time with and love them is a sin.
  4. **ILL:** The story is told of a little boy sitting on his front steps with his face cradled in his hands, looking dejected. His dad came home just then & asked him what was wrong. The little boy looked up & said, *"Well, just between us, Dad, I'm having trouble getting along with your wife, too!"*

A teacher put this question to little Johnny in the arithmetic class. *"Johnny, suppose your mother made a peach pie and there were 10 of you at the table . . . your mother and father and eight*

*children . . . how much of the pie would you get?"*

*"A ninth, Ma'am,"* was the prompt answer. *"No Johnny. Now pay attention,"* said the teacher.

*"There are 10 of you. Ten remember. Don't you know your fractions?"* *"Yes Ma'am,"* was Johnny's reply, *"I know my fractions, but I know my mother, too. She'd say that she didn't want any pie."*

5. Mothers, your unselfishness makes an impression on the little ones.
- f. **Teach them to be Discreet & Chaste**
- i. The Bible teaching on sexual purity is clear.
  - ii. It is chastity before marriage and faithfulness in marriage
  - iii. If we really love them, we would provide our children with spiritual guidance & leadership in their lives.
  - iv. The Bible tells us, ***"Train up a child in the way he should go, & when he is old he will not depart from it."***
  - v. What does Discreet mean?
    1. It means to be self controlled
    2. Of a sound mind, sane, in one's senses
    3. Able to curb one's desires and impulses
    4. Self-disciplined in one's freedom, self-restrained in all passions and desires
    5. The problem is no one has taken the time to teach the children to be Discreet.
    6. Parents it is your job, not your child's to decide what is appropriate to ware
  - ii. What does Chaste mean?
    1. It means *innocent, modest, and perfect:—chaste, clean, pure, pure from carnality.*

2. By age 18 our children have watched 17,000 hours of TV
3. If you watch 17,000 hrs of anything in the first 18 years of your life it will play a big part in your life.
4. The sad thing is much of that 17,000 hrs of watching is unsupervised by either parent because the kids come home alone.
5. Most of what we watch on TV doesn't teach what it means to be chaste.

**g. Teach them to be Keepers at home**

- i. I got myself in trouble in my class not long ago when I discussed the topic of women working so I will be very careful today
- ii. Many mothers have to work in our society – Some say over 50%, others say over 85%?
- iii. Thus many mothers can't be keepers at home all the time but for the rest of the time, they should be at home with their children.
- iv. If possible they should be at home at night to tuck their children in bed, to say their prayers with them, to help them with their homework, to eat with them.
- v. More important than attending civic and social function, take time to be with them.
- vi. **ILL:** A woman once wrote Gipsy Smith after an evangelistic campaign to tell him she had been converted as a result of one of his messages. She said, *"I believe the Lord wants me to preach the Gospel, Brother Smith, but the trouble is that I have 12 children to raise! What shall I do?"*

She received this letter in reply: *"My dear lady, I am happy to hear that you have been saved and feel called to preach, but I am even more delighted to*

*know that God has already provided you with a congregation of 12! The new convert got the point!*

Susannah Wesley, mother of John Wesley spent one hour each day praying for her 17 children. In addition, she took each child aside for a full hour every week to discuss spiritual matters. No wonder two of her sons, Charles and John, were used of God to bring blessing to all of England and much of America

**g. Teach them to be Good**

- i. The word *good* here means *benevolent, charitable* to people
- ii. Another way of translating it would be to be kind to others.
- iii. You may some day regret many things you did while raising your children; regret losing your temper, some of the words you said and they picked up, or maybe you will be sorry for how you treated someone
- iv. But there is one thing you will never be sorry for – being kind
- v. One way we build friendships is by those deeds which poet William Wordsworth called *"Those little nameless unremembered acts of kindness and of love."*
- vi. **ILL:** One such act was performed for a man in a small village who had suffered the loss of his young son. After the funeral he visited the local undertaker and said, *"I've come to square my account."*

*"You don't owe me a penny. You've paid your bill on the nail," the undertaker replied. "But, I've had no bill for the funeral of my son."*

The old undertaker answered, *"If you had to bear the sorrow, surely I can bear the expense."* –Moody

- vii. ILL: Somerset Maughan tells of his mother. She was lovely and charming and beloved by all. His father was not by any means handsome, and had few social and surface gifts and graces. Someone once said to his mother, *"When everyone is in love with you, and when you could have anyone you liked, how can you remain faithful to that ugly little man you married?"* She answered simply: *"He never hurts my feelings."* There could be no finer tribute.

g. **Teach them to be Obedient**

- i. The text says to teach the young women to be ***"...obedient to their own husbands..."***
- ii. But at the heart of the teaching it is say teach your children to *respect, obey and love*
- iii. There is no greater teaching on obedience and respect than for children to grow up watching how their mother respects and obeys there father.
- iv. ILL: It was testimony night in the church. A lady got up and said, "We are living in a wicked land where sin is on every hand. I have had a terrible fight with the old devil all week." Where upon her husband, who was sitting glumly by her side said, "It's not all my fault either; she's hard to get along with."
- v. What do you think our children think when they see mom and dad being disrespectful to each other?
- vi. What do you think our children think when we tell them to respect their teachers but we don't show respect for their mother or father?
- vii. How about obedience?
- viii. What kind of lesson is it when the husband says to the wife that he would like for her to not spend so

- much money but when they are at the store they spend it any way and tell the kids "don't tell dad"?
- ix. How do you think they are going to react when you tell them they should obey their father?

**Conclusion:** As we build our home according to God's blue prints it's not just men who have a big responsibility its women to. This lesson today is not just for moms. Every woman in this church has the obligation to develop these characteristics. You see, Paul was teaching Titus how the women of the church should live.

It is clear that our society is in a mess and the Church needs to try to halt society's slide toward destruction. The truth is that quite possibly the Lord has placed us on the earth in order to influence the world in which they live. Remember the lesson from Esther 4:14, ***"...who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this."***

Are you going to live up to your God give blueprint?

If you want your house to be a home trying developing these characteristics in your life: ***Be Christ-like Behavior, Be Careful in Talk, Be Consecrated in her Drink & Be Communicator of Godly Things***