

*D GROUP – Life on Life Discipleship for Women

OUTLINE

Titus 2 for Women, Being a Godly Sensible Woman, Part 2

THE ROLE OF WOMEN - OPENING DISCUSSION:

#1 How does being sensible make you different than the person of the world?

#2 Name one Bible character who showed sensibility and one who showed a lack of sensibility.

#3 Share your list of examples of sensibility from Proverbs 31 (last study's D Group Project).

The CONTEXT of Titus 2... *The Curriculum for older women to train the younger* 4 that they may encourage the young women to love their husband, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.

REVIEW: In our last study of Titus 2 we saw that sensibility was a crucial habit because of the ungodly society in which we live, not unlike the society of Crete, where Titus was ministering when Paul wrote this letter. We noted that the sensible woman is one who is in her right mind, is calm, and uses common sense when making decisions. Synonyms in the Bible for sensible include discretion (using the Bible to view life around her); temperate (avoiding extremes and excesses); and self-control (showing restraint in one's impulses, emotions, urges, wants and desires). As we continue to see what the Bible teaches about sensibility in godly living we now want to focus on the areas of our life where this quality needs to be visible. Then we will give some practical steps to help develop a sensible life. Let this be an encouragement, a challenge and a test to see how you are doing.

Key areas of your life where sensibility is needed First, sensibility is needed over your **THOUGHTS**. No one can be a healthy Christian without healthy thoughts. It is not that you are what you eat—God's Word says you are what you think. Proverbs 23:7 *For as he thinks within himself, so he is.* And God's Word tells us what He wants us to think about. Philippians 4:8 *Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.* You have to work at this, but the sensible person has learned that much of what he or she thinks is a matter of choice. Temptations will fly through the mind, but Christians can choose whether or not they will land. We choose whether we will dwell on wrong thoughts. As one Christian leader said, referring to his thoughts, you can't prevent the birds from flying over head, but you can prevent them from making a nest in your hair. 2 Corinthians 10:5 *we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.* Practically, I say in my heart, "No, that thinking is wrong; it is not true; it disagrees with Your Word; it does not please You. I want to obey You, Lord, and turn the focus of my thoughts to You and Your truth." You can't dwell on wrong thoughts and focus on Jesus at the same time. A sensible person realizes that spiritual health depends on spiritual thoughts. Thoughts are the key to being filled with the Spirit, living obediently, overcoming temptation, and growing in spiritual maturity. So the godly Christian woman will work at keeping her thoughts healthy. Why? **Because that sounds sensible!**

Second, sensibility is needed over your EMOTIONS. A sensible woman will not let her emotions overrule her reason. She will not allow their intuition rule over her logic. So how can you deal with your emotions? Here are some good guidelines from scripture. **1 - Be honest about your emotions.** Ecclesiastes 3:4 says there is *A time to weep, and a time to laugh; A time to mourn, and a time to dance.* 1 Corinthians 12:25-26 admonishes us to be genuine and compassionate towards brothers and sisters in Christ. ²⁵ *the members should have the same care for one another,* ²⁶ *And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.* Be honest about your emotions. Talk to God about how you feel, about what is going on in your heart. **2 - Take responsibility for your emotions.** Proverbs 16:2-3 says – ² *All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, But the Lord weighs the motives.* ³ *Commit your works to the Lord, And your plans will be established.* Ask yourself, are your emotions drawing you closer to Christ or pushing you farther away? Are they reflective of a pure heart or of one divided by mixed motives? Are you taking your thoughts captive in obedience to Christ?

Third, sensibility is needed over your APPEARANCE. In 1 Timothy 2:9 God says, *I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly.* The sensible woman considers her dressing habits. Be aware ladies, not only does your dress reveal your character, but it also sends some very loud and clear messages. The sensible woman becomes aware not only of her intended message of her appearance, but also of the possible received messages of her appearance.

Fourth, sensibility is needed over your SPENDING. Are you faithful with money? Are you investing into heaven? What does your checkbook say about your heart? Are you trying to serve Jesus and have it all, too? Be sensible.... Whatever you do, don't develop a habit of spending what you don't have and remaining in debt. Not only is that sin, but you're also sowing the seeds of destruction for your marriage, since the majority of marital problems are financial in nature. The Lord Jesus taught many principles about money. Consider these passages. Luke 16:11 *If therefore you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous mammon, who will entrust the true riches to you.* Matthew 6:19 *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.* ²⁰ *But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;* ²¹ *for where your treasure is, there will your heart be.* Be sensible about finances. Don't use credit cards unless you already have the money to pay off the bill. Don't write checks for everything. Use cash, and when it's gone, don't spend any more. Make a budget and use it. Be sensible about your spending habits.

Fifth, sensibility is needed over your MARRIAGE. The sensible couple never ever considers divorce. They remove the word from their thinking and their vocabulary, because God says in Malachi 2:16 *For I hate divorce, says the Lord.* The sensible couple works at making their marriage fresh, joyful, alive, in love—and they never consider divorce. The sensible man and woman seek to be controlled by the Spirit of God and to live according to the Word of God, and nothing else.

Practical steps to help develop a sensible life How can a Titus 2 woman grow to be sensible?

1st - Always check your MOTIVES. What can men and women do to become more sensible? Make a lifetime habit of asking yourself, "What is my motive?" —in relationships, conversations, dress and life choices. Is everything you do done for Christ's glory? Can what you are doing be done in the power of the Spirit? Know that the only things that God will ever reward for are those things done for His Glory and done in the power of the Spirit. Sensibility only comes as life is lived dependent upon and submissive to Christ—not dependence on feelings, ideas or opinions, but dependence upon Christ and His Word. Are those your internal motives?

2nd - Be faithful in the CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES. Be a biblical Christian and avail yourself of the means of grace. In our day, it's popular to have a self-defined God and a personalized, independent Christianity where people think...I can do what I want and still be saved; I can attend sporadically, read the Bible once in awhile, fellowship when it's convenient, never mentor, never give, never serve, and still be healthy spiritually. That kind of Christianity is self-defined, not God-defined. When you live that way, you're like a piece taken out of a jigsaw puzzle trying to make it out on your own. You've made up your own idea of where you fit, all the time denying you belong with all the other parts of the puzzle. You're standing outside of God's plan, all alone, where it is easy to be damaged or smashed. And you're trying to force yourself to fit where you don't belong. A Christian who will not do what God says all his children are to do, a believer who doesn't commit himself to the normal disciplines of the Christian life, is a jigsaw puzzle piece in danger of being lost or damaged. When Christ comes into your life, He gives you a new heart that wants to obey, wants to read the Bible, wants to grow in community, wants to be accountable, wants to minister your gift, wants to give sacrificially and wants to worship with others corporately. A sensible Christian seeks to fulfill all these disciplines of the Christian life—they are the means by which we experience God's grace and growth in our lives. Don't commit to Christian disciplines out of an ambition to become a super Christian, but because it will bring God glory and honor Christ. Sensibility is developed in the context of the local church, under godly elders who teach the Word, with older godly men and women mentoring the younger. Are you faithful? If not, you won't grow to be sensible.

3rd - Pray for godly MENTORS. You should have gotten this message from Titus by now—in order to live these character qualities, women must be trained in them by older godly women [and men must be trained in them by older godly men]. The best way this happens is in the context of ministry. This is not an option, ladies. If not your mom, then seek out some other older godly women – D group! It is necessary for you to learn to appropriate these qualities—even with the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to guide you. In the context of a biblical mentoring relationships, these older women are ones who can give godly counsel, properly evaluate your life, save you from many dangers and keep you from many errors. Pursue discipleship not from one person, but from the BODY of CHRIST!

4th - Develop A TEACHABLE HEART. To become sensible, you must be teachable. Proverbs 12:15 *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.* Titus teaches us that younger women are to be taught these qualities. This means that the young woman must ask questions and be a learner—be teachable, be prayerful, be dependent. Are you ready to learn, or do you resist? Are you ready to obey or just to hear? Be teachable, Why? **Because that sounds sensible!**

QUESTIONS for Discipleship Groups

1. Discuss how our previous lesson, Being a Godly, Sensible Woman, Part 1, impacted you since our last meeting?
2. What one truth in this lesson about being sensible, stands out to you, as a new concept, or a most timely reminder?
3. How will you grow in being sensible this week? How can others help support you?

A Thought to Consider:

Have you been faithful to pray for one another, and to encourage one another to grow in being sensible? How can you improve your faithfulness to one another?