

## **\*D GROUP – Discipleship: *relationships for the purpose of becoming like Christ***

### **OUTLINE**

### **Titus 2 for Women, How to Love Your Children – Part 2**

#### **THE ROLE OF WOMEN - OPENING DISCUSSION:**

**#1** *What are qualities of children make them likeable and what makes them unlikeable?*

**#2** *What is the current worldly errant thinking about kids and how do Christians reject it, but still LIKE kids?*

**#3** *In what ways do Christian Mom's struggle with LIKING their children?*

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

The most crucial **TRUTH**: *1 Corinthians 11:3 I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ. Functioning in our roles is the only way men & women can glorify the Trinity.*

#### **FROM LAST TIME:**

Why does a godly woman love her children?

- 1) Loving kids is a priority;
  - 2) Kids need love for emotional and physical health;
  - 3) Loving children is a privilege; and
  - 4) a godly woman can raise a generation of godly children.
- Loving children is a parental priority and a God-given mandate.**

### **HOW DOES A GODLY WOMAN LOVE HER CHILDREN?**

How can a woman commit to this? How can she love her children when they drive her crazy, break her heart, drain her dry and burden her sleep? By studying the pattern given to us in the New Testament epistles, we can learn how to love our children.

**1<sup>st</sup> – She must first be transformed by Christ.** Only then can she experience real internal rest. Only by being transformed by Christ and find abundant life. Only by meeting Christ can she live for others and not just herself. Matthew 11:28 – *“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”* No woman can live like Christ without Christ living in her.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – She must fully function in the church.** Titus 2 was written to women who were functioning in a community of Christians, involved in ministry, living under the authority of a team of godly elders, receiving instruction from the Word of God, and living under the mentoring of older women who showed them how to live like Christ. Women who don't regularly attend worship, have no ministry in the church, do not participate in a small group of caring adults or discipleship, do not discipline themselves through regular study of the Word of God, or pray with brothers and sisters in Christ, are not going to survive as spiritual moms. Women who seek to fulfill the normal duties of every Christian – the disciplines of study and prayer, ministry to the body, generous giving, mentoring – these women will have a far greater spiritual impact on their children than women who don't.

**3<sup>rd</sup> – She must depend upon the Holy Spirit.** Both of the key New Testament parenting verses, Ephesians 6:4 and Colossians 3:20, are preceded by a command to be under the control of the Holy Spirit. This means that mom is to daily confess her sins, deny her desires, fill her mind with the Word of God and depend only on the Holy Spirit to empower her to mother her children. When a godly mother yields to the Holy Spirit in obedience to the Word of God, she will experience the fruit of the Spirit. It is God's Spirit producing His fruit in her life that allows a mom to love her children biblically, even when their behavior is unlovable.

**4<sup>th</sup> – She must follow Christ's plan.** In order to love her children, the godly mother must totally reject the world's ideas about women. She must reject the pictures of women painted by the media, and follow Christ's plan for a woman, as set forth in Titus 2. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 provides further insight into God's plan for mothers and the family. The Israelites, after 40 years of wandering, are only ready to enter the Promised Land when they are called to have an obedient heart, obedient to all of God's commands. High on God's priority list is the command to instruct our children, which is the key not only to a spiritually strong family, but a strong nation as well.

### **WHAT DOES A GODLY WOMAN DO TO LOVE HER CHILDREN?**

**1st – She models obedience to God’s Word.** In Deuteronomy 6:4-6, Moses says a strong family must have a heart committed to God’s truth – *“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.”* Moses says, God’s truth must be a heart concern for two reasons:

- 1) **God’s Word was written to be obeyed** (is the Word of God, the Bible, your authority?); and
- 2) **God’s Word must be on your heart** (a weight or concern; something you think often about).

**2nd – She makes her home a biblical training environment.** A child patterns his life after what he sees modeled in the home. Deuteronomy 6:7 – *“You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk to them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up”.* **Set a high priority to diligently teach your children** (God’s way is for the Dad to take the lead in teaching). How do you do this? Seek counsel from godly men and women – one idea is to set a goal (once, twice, three or more times a week) to have T.A.B.L.E. time – Tune (sing), Ask/Adore (pray), Bible (read), Love (family ministry?), Enjoy (laugh a lot – make teaching fun and relevant). Deuteronomy 6:7 says “teach” (instruct) and also “talk”, which is informal instruction – share Christ and the wonders of God all through the day. Use every circumstance as a lesson to teach. **Fill your heart with Christ and His Word, and His truth will leak out!**

**3rd – She develops biblical habits for her home.** The home is where habits are formed. Study the New Testament for biblical habits that we should be teaching our children – service, prayer, studying God’s Word, obedience, honesty, persistence/character, diligence/effort, stewardship, hard work, wisdom and counsel, thankfulness, trusting God. Godly moms (and dads) obey the Word by organizing (prioritizing, setting aside time, planning/purposing, reevaluating...) their home life so they can teach formally and talk informally about the Word of God and model biblical habits for their children to follow.

#### **SUMMARY – What is God’s message to each of us as he exhorts women to love their children?**

- 1) **Parents, children are a gift from God.** Psalm 127:3 – *“children are a gift of the Lord”.*
- 2) **Every Christian must esteem women who give their lives to mother children** – affirm the role and value of motherhood.
- 3) **Husbands, take the lead in parenting** – Ephesians 6:4 and Colossians 3:21 (these are directed at the dads!).
- 4) **Single women – learn the ways of motherhood.** Build relationships with families, kids; pray for your heart and for a godly father that will love and cherish you and your children. Train yourself, learn, seek opportunities.

**Loving children the way God designed does not come naturally. It comes supernaturally as we depend upon the Holy Spirit to empower, the Bible to direct, and godly mentors to advise us.**

#### **QUESTIONS for Discipleship Groups**

1. Restate the biblical pattern given from the New Testament, and discuss specific ways each of these principals help women to love children. If women are lacking in any of these, what impact might it have on how she loves children?
2. A godly woman who loves her children will make what three truths a priority in her life? What ways can you obediently, and joyfully implement these three truths in your life?
3. What steps will you take this week to grow in loving – and liking—children more?

**Complete the Homework Exercises and Call ONE Other Woman in Your D Group to Go Over Your Answers, and to Pray with One Another.**