The Attack on Women & Motherhood



(A Message to Encourage Women on Mother's Day)
1 Timothy 2:9-15, Titus 2:4-5 and Selected Scriptures
5/9/10

Introduction:

I. **Worldly women** (Becoming controlled by vanity) *(I Timothy 2:9)*

II. **Masculine women** (Exchanging her femininity) *(I Timothy 2:10)*

A. Women are increasingly becoming masculine in their **Clothing**

B. Women are increasingly becoming masculine in their **Hair Styles** *(1 Cor. 11:14-15)*

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Qualities of a Godly Woman & Mother - Titus 2:4-5

A. _____ (v. 4)
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E. _____ (v. 5d)
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Introduction:

Teacher: Susie what do you want to be when you grow up?

Susie: I want to be a doctor.

Teacher: How wonderful! And what about you Julie?

Julie: I want to be a soldier.

Teacher: How commendable! And what about you Hannah?

Hannah: When I grow up I want to be a wife and mother!

Teacher: [dead silence]...

Motherhood is rapidly becoming a "lost art" today!

Vision Forum Ministries:

“Only women can be mothers. Have we forgotten this fundamental?

Only a woman can carry in her body an eternal being which bears the very image of God. Only she is the recipient of the miracle of life. Only a woman can conceive and nurture this life using her own flesh and blood, and then deliver a living soul into the world. God has bestowed upon her alone a genuine miracle — the creation of life, and the fusing of an eternal soul with mortal flesh. This fact alone establishes the glory of motherhood.

Despite the most creative plans of humanist scientists and lawmakers to redefine the sexes, no man will ever conceive and give birth to a child. The fruitful womb is a holy gift given by God to women alone. This is one reason why the office of wife and mother is the highest calling to which a woman can aspire.

This is the reason why nations that fear the Lord esteem and protect mothers. They glory in the distinctions between men and women, and attempt to build cultures in which motherhood is honored and protected.

In his famous commentary on early American life, Democracy in America, Alexis de Tocqueville explained:

Thus the Americans do not think that man and woman have either the duty or the right to perform the same offices, but they show an equal regard for both their respective parts; and though their lot is different, they consider both of them as beings of equal value. They do not give to the courage of woman the same form or the same direction as to that of man, but they never doubt her courage; and if they hold that man and his partner ought not always to exercise their intellect and understanding in the same manner, they at least believe the understanding of the one to be as sound as that of the other, and her intellect to be as clear. Thus, then, while they have allowed the social inferiority of woman to continue, they have done all they could to raise her morally and intellectually to the level of man; and in this respect they appear to me to have excellently understood the true principle of democratic improvement.

De Tocqueville contrasted the American understanding of women, with European sentiments:

There are people in Europe who, confounding together the different characteristics of the sexes, would make man and woman into beings not only equal but alike. They could give to both the same functions, impose on both the same duties, and grant to both the same rights; they would mix them in all things — their occupations, their pleasures, their business. It may readily be conceived that by thus attempting to make one sex equal to the other, both are degraded, and from so preposterous a medley of the works of nature nothing could ever result but weak men and disorderly women.

The War on Motherhood

America’s glory was her women. de Tocqueville believed this when he wrote:

As for myself, I do not hesitate to avow that although the women of the United States are confined within the narrow circle of domestic life, and their situation is in some respects one of extreme dependence, I have nowhere seen woman occupying a loftier position; and if I were asked, now that I am drawing to the close of this work, in which I have spoken of so many important things done by the

Americans, to what the singular prosperity and growing strength of that people ought mainly to be attributed, I should reply: To the superiority of their women.

But this birthright would be exchanged during the last century for a mess of pottage. Perhaps the greatest legacy of the 20th century has been the war on motherhood and biblical patriarchy. Feminists, Marxists, and liberal theologians have made it their aim to target the institution of the family and divest it from its biblical structure and priorities. The results are androgyny, a radical decline in birthrate, abortion, fatherless families, and social confusion.

Incredibly, the biggest story of the 20th century never made headline news [i]. Somehow we missed it. It was the mass exodus of women from the home, and the consequent decline of motherhood. For the first time in recorded history of the West, more mothers left their homes than stayed in them. By leaving the home, the experience and reality of childhood, family life and femininity were fundamentally redefined, and the results have been so bad that if this one trend is not reversed, our grandchildren may live in a world where the both the true culture of Christian family life and the historic definition of marriage are the stuff of fairy tales.

Many “isms” have influenced these trends-evolutionism, feminism, statism, eugenicism, Marxism, and more. But in the end, the philosophical gap between the presuppositions of the Atheists, eugenicists, and Marxists of the early 20th century, and the presuppositions of the professing Church in the 21st century, have narrowed dramatically. The goals of the state and the goals of the mainstream church have so merged, that the biblical family with its emphasis on male headship, generational succession, and prolific motherhood are a threat to the social order of both institutions.

Less than one hundred years ago, the architects of the atheistic communist Soviet state anticipated the death of the Christian family. They explained the need for destroying the Christian family with its emphasis on motherhood, and replacing it with a vision for a “new family.” Lenin wrote:


Lenin

We must now say proudly and without any exaggeration that part from Soviet Russia, there is not a country in the world where women enjoy full equality and where women are not placed in the humiliating position felt particularly in day-to-day family life. This is one of our first and most important tasks...Housework is the most unproductive, the most barbarous and the most arduous work a woman can do. It is exceptionally petty and does not include anything that would in any way promote the development of the woman...The building of socialism will begin only when we have achieved the complete equality of women and when we undertake the new work together with women who have been emancipated from that petty stultifying, unproductive work...We are setting up model institutions, dining-rooms and nurseries, that will emancipate women from housework...These institutions that liberate women from their position as household slaves are springing up where it is in any way possible...Our task is to make politics available to every working woman.

In his 1920 International Working Women's Day Speech, Lenin emphasized:

The chief thing is to get women to take part in socially productive labor, to liberate them from 'domestic slavery,' to free them from their stupefying [idiotic] and humiliating subjugation to the eternal drudgery of the kitchen and the nursery. This struggle will be a long one, and it demands a radical reconstruction, both of social technique and of morale. But it will end in the complete triumph of Communism.

What Attacks are aimed at women today? What temptations lurk to destroy women and motherhood?

I. **<u>Worldly</u> women** (Becoming controlled by <u>vanity</u>) (I Timothy 2:9)

1 Timothy 2:9
In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

"Modest" - Orderly; proper; Well-arranged (so as to not draw undue attention to itself; Attention should be drawn to a godly woman's face (particularly her eyes) not her body. A person's joy, and inner character will emit itself particularly through the eyes - *Pr 15:30 - The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart.*

Your clothing says a lot about you.

Your clothing should not be <u>worldly</u> (Rom.12:2)
Romans 12:2
And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

"Shamefacedness" - not revealing, suggestive, sensual or sexual orientated clothing; Wear the modest clothing of a godly woman, who would not blush in shame, because she does not wear that of a harlot.

"sobriety" - sensible; clothing that reflects self-control & self-discipline.

No one's nakedness should be exposed to anyone other than one's <u>spouse</u>:
See Lev.18. Note: Le 18:6- *None of you shall approach to any that is near of kin to him, to uncover their nakedness: I am the LORD.*

You should not dress so as to provoke the <u>sexual interest and desire</u> of others:
Mt 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

1Ti 2:9 - In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; <u>not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array</u>

Your clothing should be conservative. Your attire should not be overly elaborate, (drawing undo, vain attention to yourself), but should reflect humility.

II. **<u>Masculine</u> women** (Exchanging her <u>femininity</u>) (I Timothy 2:10)

1 Timothy 2:10
*But (which becometh **<u>women</u>** professing godliness) with good works.*

A. Women are increasingly becoming Masculine in their **<u>Clothing</u>**

De 22:5 The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God

Men should wear that which would be considered **<u>Masculine</u>**
Women should wear that which would be considered **<u>Feminine</u>**

What type of clothing (in our culture) would be considered masculine?
What type of clothing (in our culture) would be considered feminine?

The clothing should honor God's plan for gender distinctiveness.

B. Women are increasingly becoming Masculine in their **<u>Hair Styles</u>**
1 Corinthians 11:14-15
Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

C. Women are increasingly becoming Masculine in their **<u>Attitudes</u>**
The way it's supposed to be:
1 Peter 3:3-4
Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

III. **<u>Usurping</u> women** (Forsaking her role & responsibility) (I Timothy 2:12-13)

1 Timothy 2:12-13
But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

1Co 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

IV. **<u>Deceived</u> Women** (Living by feelings not faith) (I Timothy 2:14)

1 Timothy 2:14
And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

V. **<u>Discontent</u> Women** (Leaving her first love) (I Timothy 5:11-13)

1 Timothy 5:11-13
But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry; Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

VI. **<u>Working</u> Women** (Abandoning her domain) (I Timothy 5:14-15; Titus 2:5)

1 Timothy 5:14-15
I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. For some are already turned aside after Satan.

Titus 2:5
To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

"In a Jewish household, the married woman had to grind flour, bake, launder, cook, nurse children, make the beds, spin wool, keep the house, and was also responsible for hospitality and the care of guests." (Reinecker, p. 654).

The #1 task for a mom at home is to instruct her children in the Word of God.
Note the example of Eunice - Timothy's mother (SEE: Acts 16:1; II Tim. 1:5, 3:14, 15).

"So the Bible, God's inspired Word, teaches that it is God's will for women to get married, have children, guide the house and not cause trouble. God is saying that a woman should work in the home. "Guiding the house" means that she is to take care of the business of the home. A family and home has much to be done. Children need attending to and training. Dishes need to be washed. Clothes need to be cleaned and ironed. Healthy home-cooked meals need to be planned, gathered and prepared. Being a full-time mother is a tremendous amount of work! All the more reason why a mother should be at home. It is a shame that many children today are growing up on less than nutritious diets because mom is too busy to cook decent meals. With all the processed foods, should it be surprising that so many children are malnourished and obese?"
by David J. Stewart

A full-page ad appeared in the "Career Women" section of the Denton, Texas, Record-Chronicle on March 29, 2000. The page was headlined, "Once upon a time...Women were housewives & mothers, but now we do it all!"

The problems of working women: Working women are a prime cause for:

1) Inflation
2) Child delinquency
3) Extra-marital affairs

Working at home pays best!

At home, you will find:

a. The best working conditions - no cursing; no womanizers.

b. The best salary - a contented, secure, stable family

c. The best fringe benefits - peace of mind, grateful children, a grateful husband

d. The best retirement plan - the approval of God - "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

A godly woman makes her home a haven, a refuge, a shelter --a wonderful place to come home to.

VII. Immoral Women (Breaking her marriage covenant) (Rom. 1:26; Prov. 7:11-27)

Romans 1:26
For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

Proverbs 7:11-27
(She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.) So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey: He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed. With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life. Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth. Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths. For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her. Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

Conclusion: "QUALITIES OF A GODLY MOTHER"
See: Titus 2:4-5

What are the ingredients to make a godly mother? Varying opinions exist.

"The aged women" - the reason the older women are to be godly is so that they can pass on to the younger women godly wisdom.

The mothers of today are the product of the mothers of yesterday. What you are, your daughters will be. [Good advice: If you want to know what kind of wife that young girl will be, look at her mother.]

V. 4 "Teach" = the fact that these virtues need to be taught shows that they do not come naturally.

***In a world of many opinions, it is needful to know what makes a Godly mother.**

What qualities should every Christian woman possess?

A. LOVING AFFECTION (v. 4)

1. Affection for her husband

The phrase: "to love their husbands" is actually one word in the Greek - "Husband-loving" ("philandrous").
The word translated "love" is phileo, which describes an emotional, feeling love; or an affection.

Women are not the only ones starving for affection any more. Today, more than ever, men are.

God graciously created woman with a tender heart.

Women, being more emotional by nature than men, should find this type of love to be easier to fulfill than men do. (Men are commanded to have "agapa" love for their wives - Eph. 5:25).
However, God says in the last days, people would be "without natural affection" ("a-storgoi" - meaning family love, loyalty).

How will being affectionate toward your husband make you a good <u>mother</u>?

a. It will provide <u>security</u> for your children
(they will not live in fear that the marriage is dissolving).

b. It will remove <u>selfishness</u> from your children
(by being affectionate toward your husband, you are teaching your children that they are not the only ones who get hugs and kisses. You are showing them that the world does not revolve around them. NOTE: The command to love husbands comes <u>before</u> children).

c. It will set an <u>example</u> for your children to follow.
(You will be the kind of woman your boys will gravitate toward when dating. You will be the kind of woman your girls will <u>pattern</u> their lives after.)

2. Affection for her children

"To love their children" = lit. "children-loving" affectionate toward their children).

The same affection that is shown to the husband must be shown to the children. Children need <u>affection</u>!

--Affection brings <u>comfort</u> - it soothes
--Affection brings a <u>calmness</u> - It relaxes <u>tension</u> in the home
--Affection brings a <u>cure</u> - It eases <u>pain</u>
--Affection brings a <u>cause</u> to do right - Mother's affection is a great motivating factor in a child's life.

A woman determines the emotional climate of her home.

"Compassion, empathy, and gentleness communicate the love of God better than the best written word" ("Kindred Spirit," p. 22).

God does not measure a woman's success by how much money she contributes to the family's income, nor by how spotless she keeps her house; but God measures success by how much she loves her husband and children -- This makes a real "home"!

What Every Child NEEDS From a Mother

Children Need…

1. **A Mother's <u>Love</u>** (Titus 2:4)

Children Need…

2. **A Mother's <u>committment</u>**

Children Need…

3. **A Mother's <u>Time</u> and <u>Attention</u>** (Prov. 29:15).

Children Need…

4. **A Mother's <u>Patience</u>**

Children Need…

5. **A Mother's <u>Encouragment</u>** (Prov. 25:11; Eph. 4:29)

Children Need…

6. **A Mother's <u>Admonition & Discipline</u>** (Proverbs 29:15)

Children Need…

7. **A Mother's <u>Prayers</u>** (I Samuel 1:27-28)

Children Need…

8. **A Mother's <u>Right Example</u>** (Acts 16:1; II Tim.1:5)

Children Need…

9. **A Mother's <u>Bible Instruction</u>** (2 Tim. 3:14-15)

B. SELF-CONTROL (v. 5a)

"Discreet" - lit. to have a "saved mind." (from "sozo" - to save; and "phren" - mind).

What is a saved mind? It is a mind that has been delivered from:

a. Vanities (EX: materialism, etc.)
b. Obsessions (EX: food, etc.) NOTE: The word can be translated "self-controlled" (NIV), pointing to the control over one's thoughts, lest they control you.
c. Distractions - Anything that would harm your ability to make serious decisions (EX: drugs, alcohol, etc.) (the word is often translated "sober" - Ro. 12:3; I Tim. 2:9; Titus 1:8, 2:6, 2:12).

A godly mother is one who thinks before she speaks.
(Your words have a greater impact than you realize)
Before you scold your children, think.
Before you slander your husband, think.
(never belittle him in front of your children)

C. PURITY (v. 5b)

"Chaste" = pure, holy in mind and body.

A godly mother is a holy mother because God is holy. "Be ye holy for I am holy."

Purity should permeate all areas of one's life -
--Purity in thought (beware of TV and media)
--Purity in speech (Her speech is pure)
--Purity in deed (actions)
An immodest or vulgar mother is an embarrassment to the children and a shame to the testimony of Christ.
I Tim. 5:22 - "Keep thyself pure."

D. HOMEMAKER (v. 5c)

"Keepers at home" = home worker
"Oikourgous" - from "oikos" - home
"ergon" - work

E. GOODNESS (v. 5d)

"Good" - to be "good" is to be like God, for "there is none good (intrinsically) but one, that is God." (Mt. 19:17)

Any goodness we have comes from God, so we must go to God to get it!

The virtuous woman will do her husband "good and not evil all the days of her life" (Prov. 31:12).
"Goodness" involves kindness.

As someone has stated in practical terms, "Kindness bends down to smell the flower in a child's outstretched hand. Kindness waits patiently in bustling grocery lines and speaks a word of encouragement to a weary checker. Kindness touches the discouraged with gentle words of hope."

All of us are commanded to be kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you" (Eph. 4:32).

F. SUBMISSIVENESS (v. 5e)

"Obedient" = lit. "submit yourself" - a military term meaning to rank yourself under, or to take your place.

The word means to take your place under the authority and leadership of someone else.

"Submission" does not imply inferiority of essence, but difference in function.
Ex: Submission and headship in the Godhead (I Cor. 11:3).
Ex: Differences in function in the military, NFL, and on the job.

"To their own husbands" - It is a shame to see how submissive some ladies are to their boss at work, and the unsubmissive attitude they then show at home.

Submission is simply a matter of obedience for the Lord's sake!

The reason why a woman will not submit to her husband is because she will not submit to Christ.

Final Words:

Why is it so important that you be a godly mother?
The answer is at the end of verse 5. - "That the word of God be not blasphemed."
The world is watching you. More than that, your children are watching you. If they reject Christ because of your inconsistent life, you will answer to God for that.

Today, our society has its priorities all out of whack.
One evidence of such is the big push for a cleaner ecology and the preservation of wildlife. They worry about the extinction of the whale, the bald eagle, and the elephant, etc., yet overlook the most endangered species on earth. The old (rather, "old-fashioned") species called the Mother is today an endangered species. A real mother. A godly mother. "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies" (Prov. 31:10).

Ladies, will you determine today to let God make you into a Godly mother?