"QUALITIES OF A GODLY MOTHER"

Titus 2:4-5

INTRODUCTION:

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.]

NOTE: The emphasis in verses 4 & 5 shows the primary importance of the family. Most of the exhortations describing the "would be" Godly young woman involve the <u>home</u>.

V. 4

"Teach" = the fact that these virtues need to be <u>taught</u> shows that they do <u>not</u> <u>come naturally</u>.

The words "teach . . . to be sober" are one word in the Greek.

Lit. Teach about matters of seriousness.

The exhortation to Moms from Titus chapter two is described as "sound doctrine" (v. 1) (or lit. <u>healthy</u> teaching).

The world (particularly NYC) today is "sick" when it comes to the family, and is in need of healthy teaching.

The message today may not be popular, but it is healthy. . . It may not be easy to swallow, but it is healthy. . . It may not be the remedy you have been taught, but it is healthy.

If practiced, it will promote the well-being of your family, and the strength your children so desperately need, if they will make it in the future.

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

What qualities should every Christian woman possess?

I.LOVING AFFECTION (v. 4)

A.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 mother?

1.It will provide security for your children (they will not live in fear that the marriage is dissolving).

2.It will remove selfishness 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 before children.).

3.It will set an example 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 pattern their lives after.

B.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 affection!

--Affection brings comfort - it soothes

--Affection brings a calmness - It relaxes tension in the home

--Affection brings a cure - It eases pain

--Affection brings a cause 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).

[ILLUS: "The Best Translation" - Swindoll - Growing Wise in Family Life, p. 23]

One woman stressed the importance of a mother's love this way: "If I live in a house of spotless beauty with everything in its place, I am a housekeeper, not a homemaker. If I only have time for waxing and polishing, my children learn of cleanliness, not godliness. Love leaves the dust in search of a child's laugh. Love smiles at the tiny fingerprints on the newly cleaned window. Love wipes up the tears before it wipes up the spilled milk. Love is the key that opens salvation's message to a child's heart. BEfore I became a mother, I took glory in my house of perfection, but now I glory in God's perfection of my child." ("Family Life," May, 1982, cited in "Kindred Spirit").

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"!

Having a pretty house does not necessarily mean you have a home. "A young soldier and his family were living in a hotel near a military base where he was stationed. One day, his little girl was playing in the lobby when a lady tactlessly commented to her, "Isn't it a shame you don't have a home?" Without hesitating, the little girl responded, "Oh, we do," she said, "We just don't have a house to put it in." ("Kindred Spirit", p. 23).

II.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:

1.Vanities (EX: materialism, etc.)

2.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.

3.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 sold your children, think.

Before you slander your husband, think.
(never belittle him in front of your children)

Because women tend to be motivated by their hearts rather than their heads, God shows the need to establish goals and priorities based on disciplined thinking.

A woman must keep her emotions in check (guarded) by the Holy Spirit) (SEE: "Kindred Spirit" April 1990, p. 22).

III.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."

"Marketing experts tell us that one of the most motivating words in food products these days is the word "pure." Supermarket shopper's eyes light up at labels which boast that the product is 100% natural and pure. No one, it seems, likes anything artificial or impure in food.

Why is it, then, that purity has become a scarce commodity in the lives of many young Christian women? Surely we don't think more highly of food than we do our walk with Christ." ("kindred Spirit," p. 22).

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."

IV.HOMEMAKER (v. 5c)

"Keepers at home" = home worker

"Oikourgous" - from "oikos" - home
"ergon" - work

I Tim. 5:14 - "I will therefore, that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully."

"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).
The problems of working women: Working women are a prime cause for:
1.Inflation
2.Child delinquency
3.Extra-marital affairs

Dr. Joyce Brothers, writing in "Parade Magazine," Feb. 18, 1990, in an article entitled "Why Wives have Affairs," said: "For centuries, almost without exception, husbands were the cheating partners . . . But now, more and more wives are cheating . . . Why do more wives cheat today? . . . They find more equal opportunity in the workplace -- for work and for extramarital affairs."

Working at home pays best!

At home, you will find:

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

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

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

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

On the line of forms which ask for the wife's occupation, my wife with a genuine and deep sense of fulfillment, writes "Homemaker"! What is wrong with being a homemaker? That is the most glorious job in the world! It is something to be "proud" about, never ashamed.

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

V.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).

VI.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 <u>own</u> 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.

ILLUS: A doctor at the clinic gave some instructions to a nurse, who nodded and replied, "OK, you're the boss!" Then she laughed and said, "I don't even say that to my husband!"

A godly, wise, mature woman once said: "I realize my submission to my husband is not my gift to him, nor is it to be a subtle form of blackmail ("Lord, see how submissive I was? Now, where are some results?")

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.

CONCLUSION:

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?

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5/13/90

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