

Ode To Motherhood

Text : **Titus 2: 1-15**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Happy Mother's Day.

1. Anna Jarvis from West Virginia pressed for years to get it made a national holiday.
2. In 1914 Pres. Woodrow Wilson signed it into law. (*Woman did not have many rights.*)
3. Near the end of her life Anna Jarvis fought against commercialization of the holiday.
 - a. Sunday with third highest church attendance behind Christmas and Easter.
 - b. Busiest day of the year for restaurants.
 - c. Love is measured by the value of the gift.

B. We all love our mothers.

1. It is the normal response to the one who gave us life : **Rom. 1:21, II Tim. 3:3**
2. In America today it should be even more so because childbearing is truly optional.
3. We salute our mothers :
 - a. First, for choosing to give us life.
 - b. Second, for nurturing us to physical health and strength.
 - c. Third, for molding our character to prepare us for success in life.
 - d. Fourth, a special appreciation for those mothers who prepared us for eternity.

C. We challenge the young Christian women to choose motherhood and to give yourself over to it completely.

1. Surveys show women don't want motherhood to interfere with :
 - a. Who they will be with
 - b. Their appearance
 - c. Their career
2. The **N**ational **O**rganization for **W**omen ridicules godly women who choose to devote their lives to being nurturing mothers.
 - a. Because their voice is so loud and so frequently heard, they're sometimes erroneously thought of as being the voice of women.
 - b. They believe that women who devote themselves to building a family are not doing anything of value or of significance with their lives.
3. Where would such ridiculous nonsense come from ? **From God or From Satan ?**
 - a. It is the deceitfulness of sin disguised as liberal, progressive, forward thinking.
 - b. It is Satan whispering in the ear of Eve ... *Eat and you will be like God !!*

I. God says motherhood is both a blessing and a privilege.

A. Women in the bible felt being childless to be a reproach upon them.

1. O.T. ... Jacob's wife, Rachel :

Gen. 30: 22-23 Then God remembered Rachel, and God gave heed to her and opened her womb. **23** So she conceived and bore a son and said, "God has taken away my reproach."

2. N.T. ... Elizabeth, the mother of John the baptizer :

Luke 1: 24-25 After these days Elizabeth his wife became pregnant, and she kept herself in seclusion for five months, saying, **25** "This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked with favor upon me, to take away my reproach among people."

B. Children are a blessing from God.

1. **Psa. 127: 3-5** Behold, children are a gift of the LORD,
The fruit of the womb is a reward.

4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,
So are the children of one's youth.

5 How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; ...

2. The birth of a child is cause for rejoicing.

- a. Children come from God and God only gives good gifts. **James 1: 17**
- b. The very first birth was a cause of rejoicing. **Gen. 4: 1**
- c. When Hannah gave birth it motivated her to worship God. **I Sam. 1: 19-28**

C. It is the will of God that women bear children.

1. **I Tim. 5: 14** – So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander.
2. Those who disdain motherhood are distaining the will of God.
3. Forbidding the formation of families is the mark of an apostate. **I Tim. 4: 1-3**

II. *Let us never forget*, the goal of Satan is to destroy the church and all God's work.

A. If you wanted to destroy a church or even a whole country, what kind of family structure would you want them to have ?

1. In the U.S. the percentage of people getting married is steadily dropping.
(*In 1960 93% of people between 35 & 39 were married, but in 2010 only 77%*)
2. There were 251,000 divorces in the U.S. in 2010, highest divorce rate in the world.
3. During that time the average marriage lasted only three years.

B. The advocacy for “women’s reproductive rights” directly correlated with the decline of the American family.

1. Since the birth control pill became widely used in the 60s, social decay has increased in direct proportion.
 - a. Women feel free to become as morally depraved as their male counterparts.
 - b. Women are more likely to work outside the home leading to increased divorce.
2. Since Rowe -vs- Wade in 1973 both marriage and birth rates have dropped.
(In the U.S. and Europe the birthrate is so low we can’t maintain population w/o immigration.)

C. Abortion has become the number one cause of death in America.

1. A fifty year old has a much better chance of reaching 80 than an unborn child has of being born.
 - a. Serious proposals have already been proposed to extend the definition of abortion to include a limited time after a child is born.
 - b. It’s also been proposed that abortion be made mandatory in cases of birth defects.
(They raise a quality of life issue, but the bottom line is the cost of healthcare.)
2. More babies are murdered in their mother’s womb than have been killed in all wars.
 - a. In the U.S. 1, 162, 700 plus have been killed in all wars combined.
 - b. Since 1973 more than 38 million babies have been slaughtered in utero. (1.2B ww)
 - c. That is 25 time more than have been killed in wars. (3322 abortions per day)

D. These murders occurred because ungodly women did not want to have a child.

1. According to Planned Parenthood’s Guttmacher Institute **95% are for convenience.**
2. When surveyed as to why they got an abortion women said :
 - a. They did not want their body messed up by a pregnancy.
(It’s a mistake define beauty as external appearance rather than character.)
 - b. They did not want the responsibility, expense or inconvenience of having a child.
 - c. They just engaged in sex for pleasure not for reproduction.
3. Abortions laws were introduced under false pretenses, “What about rape victims?”
 - a. The former Surgeon General Of the U.S., Dr. C. Edward Koop, said that in 35 years of medical practice he had never encountered a case where a woman requested an abortion because of rape or incest.
 - b. These do happen, but they are so rare that the laws we have are not justified.
 - c. The truth is that abortion was introduced to be a means of birth control to limit the number of babies on public assistance. (In origin it had a racist motive.)

III. The values of a family must be passed down from generation to generation.

A. *No relay team will win unless it is proficient at handing off the baton.*

1. Our text teaches us **God's** plan for handing off the baton.
2. **Read Text :** **Titus 2: 3-5**

B. Context :

1. Vs. **1** ... God is instructing what must be taught to His people.
2. Vs. **15** ... “**Let no one disregard you.**” These teaching **must** be enforced.
3. The culture was FAR different then than it is in America today.
 - a. Women had few rights. (e.g., *they couldn't divorce and could be forcibly returned.*)
 - b. They were told who to marry and daughters were often traded like cattle.
 - c. Life expectancy was much shorter so anyone over 40 was “older.”

C. Verse **3**

1. “**Older Women**” (*beyond childbearing years*) **God has a purpose for you.**
 - a. They got much less respect when they could no longer produce children.
 - b. The Greco-Roman would often divorce them in favor of a younger woman.
 - c. The Jew would add a younger wife.
2. “**Reverent in their behavior**”
 - a. The Christian woman must show the proper respect to God via her husband.
 - b. **I Pet. 3: 1-4** In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any *of them* are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, **2** as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior. **3** Your adornment must not be *merely external*—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; **4** but *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.
3. “**Not malicious gossips**”
 - a. The mouth is a window to the soul; it lets one's soul shine forth.
 - b. When there is little of interest happening, gossip increases. (*small towns*)
 - c. It must have been a problem with the women back then.

I Tim. 3: 11– Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. (*Modern women would NEVER ..*)

4. “Nor Enslaved to much wine”

- a. Not a self-indulgent or self-pitying person
- b. **Prov. 31: 4-7** ... Wine is for losers and for pain relief. (*Medicinal .. I Tim. 5: 23*)
- c. Those who love have their eyes focused outward.

5. “Teaching what is good”

- a. The older women have an assignment ... *teach*.
- b. This is not a recommendation, but a command. (*It is a test of obedience.*)

Note : Women do have limitations, but those do not abdicate their responsibility.

->1<- Women are not permitted to teach in the assembly.

I Cor. 14: 34 – The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says.

->2<- Women are not permitted to teach or have authority over a man.

I Tim. 2: 12 – But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.

->3<- These limitation are consequences of the fall. (*Just as is pain in childbearing.*)

D. Verse 4

1. ESV= “Train the young women” (KJV= *teach*, NKJV= *admonish*, NASV= *encourage*)

- a. Mature women are to teach younger women.
- b. Since they can’t teach in the assembly, they must do it outside the assembly.

2. “To love their husbands and their children” (*This of love is more than feelings.*)

- a. They could not choose their husbands. (*Most today can’t choose their own husband.*)
- b. They were required to love the men even though they hardly knew them.
- c. How does one put up with an inconsiderate jerk. **It takes training.**

* *Christian women must have time together outside of structured events like assembly.*

D. Verse 5

1. “To be sensible”

- a. Though our culture is trying to push the sexes into one ... women are supposed to have a different temperament than men.
- b. **I Per. 3: 4** – but *let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.*
- c. The wife is the anchor of the family.

2. **“Pure”** (*Purity flows from the heart.*)
 - a. Many temptation face women today that never had to be dealt with in the past.
 - b. Those working outside the home have more than those in the home.
3. **“Workers at home”**
 - a. The ESV translated this as : **manage their households** *The woman sets the tone.*
 - b. One can put things in a house, but it takes love to make it a home.
 - c. God established this pattern for maintaining a family.

CONCLUSION :

- A. The world evaluates God based upon the actions of His servants.
 1. Verse 5 ... **“so that the word of God will not be dishonored.”**
 2. **I Tim. 5: 14** – **So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander.**
 3. God’s woman holds the future in her hand.
 - a. “The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.”
 - b. A few Godly women can secure the future of the church in a city, state, nation.
Susanna Wesley was the youngest of 25 children and became the mother of 19. Though often sick and living in poverty, she kept all of her children faithful to her view of Christianity. She homeschooled her children and took one hour each week to evaluate with each of her children their spiritual condition. Two of her sons were John and Charles Wesley, the founders of the Methodist movement.
 - c. A determined mother can influence a child to grow up with godly values.
 - d. This was the case with the young evangelists, Timothy. **II Tim. 1: 5**
- B. This day we commend all of you godly mothers who have raised servants for God.
 1. Thank you for choosing to give life.
 2. If your mother raised you to walk close to God ... acknowledge her efforts this day.
- C. We challenge you mothers and grandmothers to keep up the good work.

INVITATION :

Lesson Text :**Titus 2: 1-15**

1 But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine. **2** Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.

3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, **4** so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, **5** to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; **7** in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, **8** sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

9 Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, **10** not pilfering, but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, **12** instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, **13** looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, **14** who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

15 These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.