

Introduction

Welcome to our 2023-2024 study for Encouraging Biblical Womanhood. As in every ministry at CBC, we desire to exalt our Lord Jesus Christ by making disciples. This year's study will focus on discipling women in the timeless qualities of biblical womanhood described in Titus 2:3-5. To that end we will be reading the book *Let the Women Be Women* by Chris Mueller, which teaches through each phrase of the Titus 2 passage, so we will know how to carry out our God-given role as women in the home, church, and world.

Elements Of This Study Guide

1. Prepare with the Word: A devotional prompt that will lead you into Scriptures that connect with the content of the chapter. Use the space to write out notes on the Scriptures as directed.
2. What do you think? Get your thoughts rolling on the issue at hand. These questions may be used as discussion starters at our monthly meetings.
3. Read and relate: These questions are designed to help you understand the main points of the chapter and the scriptural principles being taught, as well as help you to personally connect with the material. Usually, you will find the answers to these questions right in the chapter.
4. Takeaways: Here is where you reflect upon what was taught and apply it to your personal experience by choosing a key quote, asking questions, and making concrete steps of application.
5. Gospel hope: A reminder of the gospel of grace that will give you hope as you seek to be the woman God has designed you to be. Add your own thoughts or a prayer of thanks here.

"The best thing a woman can be, is what God made her to be."- Philip De Courcy

Chapter 1 Let the Women Be Women

Cutting Through the Confusion

Prepare with God's Word

Read Titus chapter 2.

1. Make a list of the qualities that older women should strive to have. (Verses 3-4)
2. Why are older women to live out these qualities? (Verse 4)
3. Make a list of the qualities that should mark younger women. (Verses 4-5)
4. Why should these qualities mark the lives of younger women? (Verse 5)
5. What is Paul's undergirding command to Titus concerning all groups of people? (Verse 11)
6. What has the grace of God done? (Verses 11-12)
7. What is our hope for the future? (Verse 13)
8. What did Jesus do? (Verse 14a)
9. Why did Jesus do it? (Verse 14)
10. How do verses 11-14 encourage you as you seek to be the woman God made you to be (verses 3-5)?

What do you think?

What confusion do you see in our culture regarding a woman's design, role, identity, etc.? How about in the church?

Read and Relate

Read chapter 1, "Let the Women Be Women; Cutting Through the Confusion."

1. What is the goal of this book? (Page 18)

2. List some of the author's reasons why there is such confusion about true femininity and masculinity in the church.

3. What is the way out of the confusion concerning masculinity and femininity?

4. What is the good news the author shares on pages 24 and 25?

Takeaways

Quote: Choose a key quote from the chapter that was important, convicting, or encouraging. Write it here and explain why you chose it.

Question: Perhaps the material sparked a question you want further clarification on or a concern. Write out your question.

Concrete: Prayerfully consider if you are genuinely following God's blueprint for women. What specific steps of application is God leading you to make after reading this chapter?

Gospel Hope

When God's grace appeared in your life, Jesus saved you, redeemed you, purified you, and made you his own. He completely changed your desires and direction as a woman. He has not left you to figure out how to live this Christian life on your own but instructs you through His grace. And one day you will see your glorious and great Savior! This is your blessed hope! (Titus 2:11-14)

Chapter 2 Let the Women Be Biblical

God's Design Through Scripture

Prepare with the Word

Read the following passages. What do you see about God's original design and the corruption of His design? Try to come up with at least eight to ten observations from each passage.

Genesis 1:27-28

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Genesis 2:18-25

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Genesis 3:1-21

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

What do you think?

What are some biases and fears that you bring with you into a study of women's roles?

Read and Relate

Read chapter 2, "Let the Women Be Biblical; God's Design Through Scripture."

1. Man and woman are equally created in the _____ (page 29). What are some of the implications of this truth?
2. Give some reasons why God's design of submission is a beautiful way to imitate Christ and glorify God. (Pages 32-33)
3. What should be the role of a woman within the church body? (Pages 39-42)
4. Why does God place the priority upon the woman in the home? What is the impact her ministry has on the world?

Takeaways

Quote: Choose a key quote from the chapter that was important, convicting, or encouraging. Write it here and explain why you chose it.

Question: Perhaps the material sparked a question you want further clarification on or a concern. Write out your question.

Concrete: What specific steps of application is God leading you to make after reading this chapter?

Gospel Hope

When God created you as a female bearing His image, He said what He had made was very good (Genesis 1:31). He designed you to be a helper (Gen 2:18) and a life-giver (Gen 3:20). That is very good! Your femininity is very good. The physical body He has given you is very good. You are a fearfully and wonderfully made woman of eternal worth and value (Psalm 139:14). Praise God for your life!

Chapter 3 Let the Women Be Disciplers

The Necessity of Mentorship

Prepare with the Word

Read 1 Thessalonians chapters 2 and 3. Make a list of actions and attitudes godly mentors (Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy) have toward their disciples (the church at Thessalonica). How does this list inspire you as a woman mentoring others or as one being mentored?

What do you think?

Describe some of the mentors in your life and what you have learned or are learning from them.

Read Chapter 3, "Let the Women Be Disciplers; The Necessity of Mentorship."

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Takeaways

Quote: Choose a key quote from the chapter that was important, convicting, or encouraging. Write it here and explain why you chose it.

Question: Perhaps the material sparked a question you want further clarification on or a concern. Write out your question.

Concrete: Consider these suggestions for how to apply this chapter:

- A. Younger women, seek to cultivate relationships with older women. Find out their expertise in an area, then go to them with questions in that area. Who comes to mind? How will you go about cultivating this relationship? If you don't have any older women in your life, why not?

- B. Older women, evaluate yourself in the following areas. Where do you need to grow? How will you seek to grow in this area of weakness?
 - a. Reverent behavior
 - b. Tongue under control
 - c. Not addicted to anything
 - d. Training younger women

Gospel Hope:

Paul told the Roman Christians, "I am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another" (Romans 15:14). If you feel left out of the discipleship process, take courage: the Lord will help you! You can start today to learn from someone and/or be trained to help others make progress in the faith.

Chapter 4 Let the Women Be Likable and Loving

A Godly Woman Loves Her Husband

Prepare with the Word

This chapter focuses on the command for women to “love their husbands” (Titus 2:4). Since that command is without explanation in the text, let’s get some help by looking at another passage in Titus. Read Titus 3:1-7. Make some observations about how the general commands in verses 1-2 could be applied to loving your husband.

How can Titus 3:3-4 help you have the proper motivation to love your husband, children, or anyone else?

What truths in the gospel message in verses 5-7 shape your identity as a Christian? Explain.

What do you think?

A friend is confiding in you about her feelings for her husband and says, “I just don’t love him anymore.” What would you do? What questions would you ask? What counsel from the scriptures would you give?

Read and Relate

Read Chapter 4, "Let the Women Be Likable and Loving; A Godly Woman Loves Her Husband."

1. Describe the Greek word used for love in the phrase "love their husbands" Titus 2:4. See pages 67, 69, 70, and 76.

2. List the six points in the section "Understand God's Purpose for Marriage."

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

3. Answer the question posed on page 73. "If marriage is so great, why does God have to exhort young women to love their husbands in Titus 2?"

4. Why do you think God explains young women to love their husbands before he explains them to love their children?

Takeaways

Quote: Choose a key quote from the chapter that was important, convicting, or encouraging. Write it here and explain why you chose it.

Question: Perhaps the material sparked a question you want further clarification on or a concern. Write out your question.

Concrete: Which of the five qualities to develop and demonstrate to be more likable do you think you should grow in the most? What is your plan to do so? (See pages 79-85)

Gospel Hope:

Because of the grace of God richly poured out upon you, you have a transformed heart. By the Spirit's renewing power, you can put off selfishness, malice, and hatefulness, and instead be peaceable, gentle, and considerate. Christ poured his kindness and love on you when you were unworthy of it, and you now are changed to reflect that same kind of love to your husband, children, or others close to you (Titus 3:1-7).

Chapter 5 Let the Women Be Training & Nurturing A Godly Woman Loves Children

Prepare with the Word

Here are three familiar passages of scripture about children. Read each one slowly and try to discern the proper biblical attitude we should have toward children. What do these passages teach about how to love our children?

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Psalm 127:3-5

Mark 9:36-37

What do you think?

What are some ways you see the world's opposition toward having and raising children?

How have you grown spiritually because of being a mother and/or a spiritual mother?

Read and Relate

Read chapter 5, "Let the Women Be Training & Nurturing; A Godly Woman Loves Children."

1. Why does Paul tell Titus that the older women on Crete should teach the younger women to love their children? (Page 91)
2. Explain the meaning of 1 Timothy 2:15: "But she will be saved through the bearing of children, if they continue in faith and love and sanctification with self-restraint." (See pages 92-93 for help.)
3. The Greek word for "love their children" in Titus 2:4 means to love children in what ways? (Page 96)
4. What suggestions in the section "The Practice of Loving Children" stood out to you as especially important? (Pages 98-104) Why?

Takeaways

Quote: Choose a key quote from the chapter that was important, convicting, or encouraging. Write it here and explain why you chose it.

Question: Perhaps the material sparked a question you want further clarification upon or a concern. Write out your question.

Concrete: In what ways can a woman who doesn't have children apply the teachings of this chapter? (See pages 96, 98, 105, and 106.)

What specific steps of application is God leading you to make after reading this chapter?

Gospel Hope:

God gives the "barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children" (Ps. 113:9). Those children may come from your body, or they may be spiritual children. As you fulfill the mandate to be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth with image bearers (Genesis 1:28), be encouraged that every woman has a place in this great endeavor (Matt 28:18-20). Therefore, He will strengthen you and help you do what He has called you to do!

Chapter 6 Let the Women Be Sensible

A Godly Woman of Sound Mind

Prepare with the Word

Sensibility is the most repeated quality in the book of Titus. Lack of this essential quality leads to devastating consequences. Here are Proverbs that use the word “sensible” in various translations. Read through them and try to get a big picture of what it looks like to be sensible.

Pro 10:19 NLT – “Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth shut.”

Pro 10:23 NLT – “Doing wrong is fun for a fool, but living wisely brings pleasure to the sensible.”

Pro 11:12 NLT – “It is foolish to belittle one's neighbor; a sensible person keeps quiet.”

Pro 12:8 NLT – “A sensible person wins admiration, but a warped mind is despised.”

Pro 12:16 CSB – “A fool's displeasure is known at once, but whoever ignores an insult is sensible.”

Pro 13:16 CSB – “Every sensible person acts knowledgeably, but a fool displays his stupidity.”

Pro 14:8 NASB20 – “The wisdom of the sensible is to understand his way, But the foolishness of fools is deceit.”

Pro 14:15 NASB20 – “The naive believes everything, But the sensible person considers his steps.”

Pro 14:18 NASB20 – “The naive inherit foolishness, But the sensible are crowned with knowledge.”

Pro 15:5 NASB20 – “A fool rejects his father's discipline, But he who complies with rebuke is sensible.”

Pro 15:20 NLT – “Sensible children bring joy to their father; foolish children despise their mother.”

Pro 15:21 NLT – “Foolishness brings joy to those with no sense; a sensible person stays on the right path.”

Pro 17:24 NLT – “Sensible people keep their eyes glued on wisdom, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth.”

Pro 19:11 NLT – “Sensible people control their temper; they earn respect by overlooking wrongs.”

Pro 22:3 CSB – “A sensible person sees danger and takes cover, but the inexperienced keep going and are punished.”

Pro 26:16 CSB – “In his own eyes, a slacker is wiser than seven who can answer sensibly.”

Now, compile and write a descriptive portrait of a sensible woman based on these Proverbs. What does she do? How does she behave? What are her defining characteristics?

What do you think?

Share a funny story of one of the silliest, least “sensible” things you have ever done.

Read and Reflect

Read chapter 6, “Let the Women Be Sensible; A Godly Woman of Sound Mind.”

1. What are the author’s six biblical descriptions of a sensible woman? (Pages 112-114)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

2. How does Paul describe Cretan culture in Titus chapter 1? Why did this prompt Paul to emphasize sensibility as the number one-character quality for Titus to model and teach the Cretans? (Page 115)

3. For each of the following areas, write one way the author says you can grow in sensibility:
- a. In your thoughts:

b. In your emotions:

c. In your appearance:

d. In your spending:

Takeaways

Quote: Choose a key quote from the chapter that was important, convicting, or encouraging. Write it here and explain why you chose it.

Question: Perhaps the material sparked a question you want further clarification upon or a concern. Write out your question.

Concrete: What specific steps of application is God leading you to make after reading this chapter? Consider specific action points from the areas listed in question 3 above.

Gospel Hope:

Do you want to grow in being sensible as described in this chapter? Take heart that you can be “transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2) You are already a new creature in Christ (2 Cor 5:17) and by the power of the Spirit you can press on toward the goal of being like Jesus (Phil 3:14). His divine power has given you all you need for life and godliness through the true knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 1:3). Make it your ambition to please the Lord by growing in sensibility (2 Cor 5:9).

Chapter 7 Let the Women Be Pure

A Godly Woman is Pure

Prepare with the Word

To help understand our command to be pure, read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8. Spend some time writing notes about this passage specifically as it relates to sanctification in the area of sexual purity. What do you observe? What are some timeless principles you can draw out from the text? How is the Lord leading you to apply these truths?

What do you think?

How would you answer if an unbeliever asked you, “Why do Christians make such a big deal about sex?”

Read and Relate

Read chapter 7, "Let the Women Be Pure; A Godly Woman Is Pure."

1. What are the purposes of sexual intimacy within the context of marriage? (Page 130)
2. Why doesn't God draw a specific line for us regarding how much physical touch is acceptable between a couple who is not yet married? (Page 131-132)
3. Two passages of Scripture are very important in getting at the heart and motives for purity. Read these and explain why they are foundational. (Page 138).
 - a. 1 John 3:2-3
 - b. Mark 7:20-23
4. What practical instruction do these verses give us on avoiding sexual sin?
 - a. 1 Corinthians 6:18
 - b. Romans 13:14

c. 1 Peter 2:11

d. 2 Timothy 2:22

Takeaways

Quote: Choose a key quote from the chapter that was important, convicting, or encouraging. Write it here and explain why you chose it.

Question: Perhaps the material sparked a question you want further clarification upon or a concern. Write out your question.

Concrete: What specific steps of application is God leading you to make after reading this chapter?

Gospel Hope:

For those who are single and are seeking to remain pure, be encouraged that God has not closed off marriage and intimacy to you. You are not going to miss out. Singles, widows, divorcees, those in hurting or healthy marriages—all of us--will get married to Christ (Revelation 19, the wedding of the Lamb) which will be the ultimate consummation to which all temporary marriages point. You can experience intimacy with the Creator Himself, the Lover of your soul, as you abide in Christ (John 17:26). If you have failed in the area of sexual purity, turn from your sin, and seek forgiveness from Christ, who is full of grace and mercy. Those who come to Him, He will never cast out (John 6:37).

Chapter 8 Let the Women Be Homemakers

A Godly Worker at Home

Prepare with the Word

The author refers extensively to the passage about “younger widows” in 1 Timothy 5 as a help to understanding God’s call for women to be workers at home in Titus 2:5. Take some time to carefully read 1 Timothy 5: 1-16, which forms the whole context regarding honoring widows.

1. Make a list of the characteristics of a “widow indeed” from verses 3-10.

2. Who has responsibility to provide for these widows? (See verse 16 also)

3. Paul didn’t want younger widows to be put on the list. Why? Make a list of the potential negatives or temptations of younger widows in verses 11-15.

4. What did Paul (and thus the Lord because it is His Word!) want the younger widows to do? Why?

5. If you combine both lists (your answers to questions 1 and 4), what picture emerges of the Biblical priorities of a woman?

What do you think?

What arguments have you heard in favor of a married woman, with children at home, working outside the home? What arguments have you heard against this scenario? Which do you find most convincing? Why?

Read and Relate

Read chapter 8, "Let the Women Be Homemakers; A Godly Worker at Home."

1. Women are to have the character quality of being hard workers. Choose several of the scriptures discussed on pages 147-151 and explain the reasons they give for supporting such a work ethic.

2. In what ways is the Proverbs 31 woman a model of being a worker at home?

3. Agree or disagree? Cite the page number and explain your answer.
 - a. Being a worker at home is a gray area. _____

 - b. Training their children is a top reason for young moms not to work outside the home.

- c. The Bible explicitly states that women cannot work outside the home. _____
 - d. Women in every season of life should be sure they're fulfilling their responsibilities at home before they go into the workplace. _____
4. What are some ways young single women can also prioritize their homes? How can they prepare themselves if the Lord would lead them to marry someday?
5. What are some of the questions a woman should answer if she is trying to decide whether to take employment outside the home? (Page 161)

Takeaways

Quote: Choose a key quote from the chapter that was important, convicting, or encouraging. Write it here and explain why you chose it.

Question: Perhaps the material sparked a question you want further clarification upon or a concern. Write out your question.

Concrete: What specific steps of application is God leading you to make after reading this chapter?

Gospel Hope:

For those who would love to be full-time homemakers but must provide for their families...

For those who are facing opposition for leaving a career to care for their families at home...

For those who are struggling to find at-home work the blessing it was promised...

For those who know they need to repent of laziness or apathy or wasted opportunities...

For those plodding along at home just trying to be faithful...

For those who long to excel still more in making a Christ exalting home...

“God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” (2 Cor 9:8)

Chapter 9 Let the Women Be Kind

A Godly Woman Is Kind

Prepare with the Word. Observe what the following verses teach about the kindness of God. How can you imitate the kindness of the Lord?

Romans 2:4

Luke 6:35-36

Titus 3:4-5

John 13:1-5

What do you think?

What is one of the greatest acts of kindness someone displayed to you? What made it especially kind?

Read chapter 9, “Let the Women Be Kind; A Godly Woman Is Kind.”

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6. Which suggestions for planning and practicing intentional acts of kindness resonated with you? Why? (Page 179-180)

Takeaways

Quote: Choose a key quote from the chapter that was important, convicting, or encouraging. Write it here and explain why you chose it.

Question: Perhaps the material sparked a question you want further clarification upon or a concern. Write out your question.

Concrete: What specific steps of application is God leading you to make after reading this chapter? Consider your answer to question 6 above.

Gospel Hope:

To motivate you to show kindness that commends the gospel, meditate on these ways the Lord has shown kindness to you:

- He sought you out like the good Shepherd rescuing a straying lamb (Matt 18:12-14).
- He plucked you out of the devil's clutches and transferred you into God's kingdom (Col 1:13-14).
- He set his love on you when you were unlovely and hateful (Titus 3:3-6).
- He chose you, adopted you, and gave you a place in His family (1 Peter 2:9-10).
- He forgave you a debt you could never repay (Matt 18:23-35).
- He never gives up on you as He completes your faith and makes you mature in Christ (Phil 1:6).

Chapter 10 Let the Women Be Submissive Subject to Her Husband

Prepare with the Word

Take a close look at the five times wives are instructed to submit to their husbands in the New Testament. For each passage, try to see it with fresh eyes. Observe the context, word choice, reasons why, cause and effect, etc. What is the Lord saying about a wife's submission to her husband?

Ephesians 5:22

Colossians 3:18

1 Peter 3:1

1 Peter 3:5

Titus 2:5

What do you think?

Why is submission so important to God?

Read and Relate

Read chapter 10, "Let the Women Be Submissive; Subject to Her Husband."

1. Is submission something only wives do? What are some other situations in which submission is expected? (Page 186)

2. How does the Trinity display submission? (Page 187-189)

3. Explain the Greek word for submission. How does this help you understand the meaning? (Page 189-190)

4. True or false? Cite the page number and explain your answer.
 - a. Godly men may use submission as a means to control their wives. _____

- b. The wife submits herself; no one forces her to submit. _____
 - c. Submission shows spiritual strength not inferiority or weakness. _____
 - d. Couples should seek to be on one mind in decision making but ultimately the leadership rests with the husband. _____
 - e. Wives must submit to abuse in a marriage. _____
5. What internal heart attitude produces submission? (Page 194-195)

Takeaways

Quote: Choose a key quote from the chapter that was important, convicting, or encouraging. Write it here and explain why you chose it.

Question: Perhaps the material sparked a question you want further clarification upon or a concern. Write out your question.

Concrete: What specific steps of application is God leading you to make after reading this chapter?

Gospel Hope:

1 Peter 3:6 holds up Sarah as a model of submission to her husband Abraham. But the Scriptures are honest about the times she took matters into her own hands, was harsh, and laughed at God's promise. Yet, the final word we have on her character is that she "considered Him faithful who had promised" (Hebrews 11:11). Because she "hoped in God" (1 Peter 3:5), she could submit to her husband and do what is right without fear. Let Sarah's example encourage you that although you may have failed, you can grow in trusting and treasuring Christ in such a way that you can humbly submit to the authorities in your life.