



Encouragers of Young Women

Lesson 01

Titus 2 Encouragers

by Linda Minnick

*Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior,
not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine,
teaching what is good,
so that they may encourage the young women . . .*
Titus 2:3-4a

*1 Thessalonians 4:1-3 Finally then, brethren, we request
and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received
from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and
please God (**just as you actually do walk**), that you
excel still more.*

*² For you know what commandments we gave you by the
authority of the Lord Jesus.*

*³ For this is the will of God, **your sanctification** . . .*

Spiritual Mothering: The Titus 2 Model for Women Mentoring Women by Susan Hunt



“Spiritual Mothering: When a woman possessing faith and spiritual maturity enters into a nurturing relationship with a younger woman in order to encourage and equip her to live for God’s glory.” Susan Hunt

Testimony booklet.

- ✓ 500-700 words.
- ✓ Doesn’t have to be something “big.” It may seem little and insignificant to you, but if you are remembering it, it is a “big” thing.

Titus 2:3-4a Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

How gracious of the Lord to single us out as older women and show us how we fit!

Who?

- The OLDER WOMEN
 - Literally “aged”; can mean “senior” in our way of speaking.
 - Life experience.

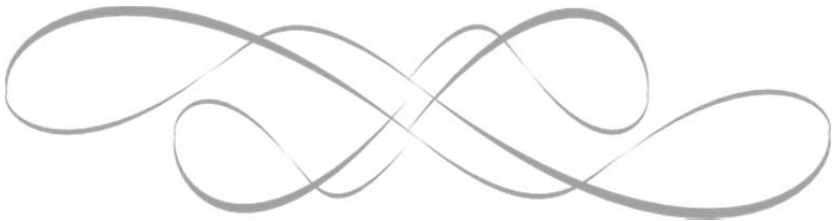
The best encouragers are those who have already experienced what the person being encouraged IS experiencing!

“My personal observation is that women in their fifties and beyond have a life-perspective that is only possible from living through several life-stages.” Susan Hunt

- Life Experience Produces Wisdom

Job 12:12 *Wisdom is with aged men, with long life is understanding.*

Remember, the older women of Titus’ day were not seasoned saints who had walked with the Lord for 30 years. But they did have life experience and as their minds were renewed through the Holy Spirit, their long life of experience could be interpreted with godly wisdom.



What?

- Things that are Fitting for Sound Doctrine.
(1 Timothy 2:9-10)
- Things we **ARE TO BE...**
 - These things are NOT optional.
 - Qualifications

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,*

- ✓ *Likewise* – similar to the men.
- ✓ Only three:
 - *reverent in their behavior,*
 - *not malicious gossips/slanderers*
 - *nor enslaved to much wine, or any fleshly indulgence.*
- ✓ In Summary: godly or ‘spiritually mature’.

“To think of yourself as a woman of ‘sound doctrine’ and ‘spiritual maturity’ may seem presumptuous. Perhaps you feel an element of relief because your assessment is that you can honestly disqualify yourself on the basis of these qualifications. Don’t sell yourself short, and don’t rob the kingdom of what you have to offer! If you are a Christian woman who is seeking to grow in the faith and to live obediently, then you are qualified for spiritual motherhood. If you are not seeking to grow in the faith and to live obediently, then you have a problem that must be confronted! Sound doctrine does not mean that you are a theological expert. Spiritual maturity does not mean that you have reached super sainthood. It does mean that you are growing in your knowledge of the Word and in your desire to apply the Word to every area of your life.” Susan Hunt

- ✓ Does not make reference to your past.

Philippians 3:13-14a *Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on . . .*

You must learn, you must let God teach you, that the only way to get rid of your past is to get a future out of it. God will waste nothing. Phillips Brooks

- **Things we ARE TO BE “DOING”**
 - Teaching: *teaching what is good*
Encouraging: *so that they may encourage*
 - By Example

. . . has more to do with demonstrating “the shape of godliness” than with teaching lesson plans. Susan Hunt

- With Words of Encouragement

Proverbs 25:11 *A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver (KJV).*

Proverbs 15:23 *A man has joy in an apt answer, and how delightful is a timely word!*

- With Words of Wisdom

Proverbs 31:26 *She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.*

Life-experiences and life-observations about family living are rich reservoirs of insights for older women to share with younger women. It is not necessary for all of the older woman’s experiences to have been positive. Failures, coupled with the realization of what could have been done differently, are valuable lessons. Susan Hunt

When a young woman is struggling with her priorities, or with finding time with the Lord, or overwhelmed with keeping her home, or staying on top of training her multiple children, being cross and irritable, not getting enough sleep, feeling out of touch with her husband, guilt for not being involved enough in ministry, etc. She needs someone to come alongside and say, “I know how you feel. I’ve felt that way many times. Would you like to talk about it? Let’s pray and ask the Lord for His help.”

- Be prepared to sacrifice self: time, resources, focus, emotion, spiritual energy.

Filling our role “brings out the best in us because it requires laying self aside.” Susan Hunt

Why?

- To Uphold the Word of God.

Titus 2:1-10

¹ . . . *speak the things which are **fitting for** sound doctrine.*

⁵ . . . *so that the word of God **will not be dishonored.***

⁸ . . . *so that the **opponent** will be put to shame, having **nothing bad to say** about us.*

¹⁰ . . . *so that they **will adorn** the doctrine of God our Savior **in every respect.***

- To Engage in Good Deeds.

Titus 2:11-14

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.***

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;*

⁹ *not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

¹⁰ *For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would **walk in them**.*

- To Function in the Body of Christ.

Recognize and accept your position in the body of Christ as a woman. The body cannot function properly without you.

1 Corinthians 12:14-19

¹⁴ *For the body is not one member, but many.*

¹⁸ *But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, **just as He desired**.*

¹⁹ *If they were all one member, where would the body be?*

The future of the church of Jesus Christ is at stake.

“It is interesting that of all the ways Paul could have told the women to combat the decadence of their culture, he told them to invest their energies in training the younger women to live Christianly in their society. The reputation of the Word of God was at stake. The behavior of Christian women was a pivotal issue, and the involvement of older women was of primary importance.” Susan Hunt



Call Back

If you have gone a little way
ahead of me, call back;
'Twill cheer my heart
and help my feet along the stony track;
And if, perchance, Faith's light is dim,
because the oil is low,
Your call will guide my lagging course
as wearily I go.

Call back, and tell me
that He went with you into the storm;
Call back, and say He kept you
when the forest's roots were torn;
That when the heavens thundered
and the earthquake shook the hill,
He bore you up and held you
where the very air was still.

O friend, call back and tell me,
for I cannot see your face;
They say it glows with triumph,
and your feet bound in the race;
But there are mists between us,
and my spirit eyes are dim,
And I cannot see the glory,
though I long for word of Him.

But if you'll say He heard you
when your prayer was but a cry,
And if you'll say He saw you
through the night's sin-darkened sky
If you have gone a little way ahead,
O friend, call back
'Twill cheer my heart and help my feet
along the stony track.

(Author unknown, taken from the
forward of Rosalind Goforth's book, *Climbing*)

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