



*Encouragers
of Young Women
Lesson 03*

Reverent in Behavior

by Jan Patterson

*Like the One who called you,
be holy yourselves also in all your behavior.*

1 Peter 1:15

- We need to be sound in our faith, knowing Bible Truth.
- We need to be spiritually mature.
- We need to be established in sound doctrine.
- We need to honor God's Truth in our spiritual mothering.

*I. Why are We given the job of teaching
younger women?*

A. The qualities listed for them are not generally something a man fully understands.

B. It would be unwise for young preachers to spend much time with young women of their flocks or touch on personal topics with them.

C. Through the ages wise people have understood the value and importance of women IN THEIR GOD-GIVEN ROLE.

“ . . . the manners of women [are] the most infallible barometer to ascertain the degree of morality and virtue of a nation. The Jews, the Greeks, the Romans, the Swiss, the Dutch, all lost their public spirit and republican forms of government when they lost the **modesty and domestic virtues of their women.**”

John Adams (my emphasis)

D. The reputation of the church of Crete and of God's Word was at stake.

Paul charges women to do their part in molding proper biblical womanhood.

“So much depends on the women, in great part on the young women, of the church. The world will, to a great extent, judge the churches by the character which the gospel produces in its **women.**”

RCH Lenski

II. Three Qualifications are Given for Us. Why Only These?

A. The experience of age and of walking with the Lord enables us to be an encouragement to the younger ladies.

B. The ability to teach, being a woman leader in the church or a Bible scholar, and being wise with “all the answers” are not given as qualifications.

Befriending and encouraging younger women is doing our God-ordained part in building Christ's Church.

C. These three are general character qualities spoken of throughout Scripture, and give a comprehensive picture of a womanly Christian character.

- Reverent speaks of holiness.
- Not slanderers reminds us of passages that refer to the tongue.
- Not enslaved to much wine implies self-control which is a fruit of the Spirit.

III. What Does it Mean to be “Reverent in Behavior?”

A. REVERENT means “suited to a sacred character,” (Vine's NT Word Studies).

- The KJV says “as becomes holiness.” It has to do with our PROFESSION and the CHARACTER appropriate to that profession.
- It proceeds from and manifests a holy HEART.

B. BEHAVIOR is your condition, deportment, or demeanor (Vine's).

- The Greek word comes from a verb form that means “to set in order.” It is purposeful on our part.
- Demeanor is the way you “manage” yourself, including conduct as well as facial expressions.
- Your demeanor affects how people perceive you. We want to be the kind of older women that younger women want to emulate because of what they observe in us.



IV. Elaborations on the Phrase from Commentators

"This first [requirement] is comprehensive," including all areas. It is their life, both inward and outward.
(RCH Lenski)

"Their very walk and motion, their countenance, speech, silence, may present a certain dignity of holy propriety" . . . everything about them reveals "a mind rightly tempered toward things sacred and divine."
(Patrick Fairbairn)

"Since the disposition of the inner man is principally manifest in the countenance, the speech, and the apparel, therefore the behavior may be tried by these, whether it is according to holiness or not."
(Thomas Taylor)

" . . . in her whole bearing . . . appearance, dress, speech . . . everyday behavior, which the younger . . . sister could respect and reverence—an ideal she . . . might hope . . . to reach." (Charles Ellicott)

"This reverence is seen in the older women IN THESE SEVEN AREAS [my emphasis] for them to be prepared to teach them to the younger women." (John Barnett, BibleStudyTools.com)

V. *What Does “Reverent in Behavior” Look Like?*

A. **How we Act**

- We don't “*act unbecomingly*,” 1 Corinthians 13:5. We behave in a Christian, ladylike way at home and in public.
- We are kind, Titus 2:5, Ephesians 4:32, Galatians 5:22.
- We are not loud or boisterous, nor always somber and quiet.
- We seek to love others and do “good works” rather than live selfishly. We are ministering to others by looking beyond ourselves.

B. **Our Attitudes**

- We are trusting toward the Lord and the future (Proverbs 31:25)
- We have a *gentle and quiet spirit* toward the Lord and His dealings with us (1 Peter 3:4).
- We are respectful of our authorities—husband, boss, pastor, President and other governmental or law enforcers, and other Christians (1 Peter 2:17)
- We model a *chaste and respectful behavior* (1 Peter 3:2).
- The requirement for a reverent attitude may refer specifically to the seven things we are to teach the younger women. All young women need:

*“words of wisdom and a godly example
in the minutiae of life”*

~Jean Williams, matthiasmedia.com

C. Our Countenance

- Our facial expressions can depict disrespect, mockery, flippancy, irritation, disapproval, dislike. What we show in our faces ought to be welcoming, kind, and friendly.
- Matthew Henry warns older people as they begin to naturally weaken,

“Aged persons are apt to be peevish and fretful, therefore need to be on their guard.”

D. Our Dress

- We have two clear passages that give us guidelines in this area. They are timeless and for all ages of women.
- 1 Timothy 2:9-10 *Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.*
- 1 Peter 3:3-5 *Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on [apparel]; 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. For in this way in former times the holy women also, who hoped in God, used to adorn themselves, being submissive to their own husbands*

Note what is emphasized in these verses – our shamefacedness or humility, our good works, our gentle and quiet spirit, and our submissiveness. If we seek to emphasize them in our daily lives, we will not

have difficulty knowing what is proper to our calling, what is modest/discreet, and what is not costly or showy (ostentatious)

E. Our Speech

- 2 Timothy 2:16 and 1 Timothy 6:20 warn against *worldly empty chatter*. Paul is referring to useless theological discussions and disputes. 1 Timothy mentions *worldly fables*.
- Meaningless disputes over words or teaching are dangerous, divisive, unholy, and they produce strife. Paul actually says they are *worldly fables fit only for old women* (1 Timothy 4:7)!
- We should be careful of where we allow conversations to go with younger women. The safety net is given in 1 Timothy 4:6: *continually nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following*.
- We do need to address their concerns and confusion. But we must keep ourselves as well as them pointed to God's truth as unchanging, powerful, and all-encompassing.

Conclusion

Let's look carefully at these areas of our lives and think of how they "measure up" in holiness. Ask the Lord for His help to fit our calling and profession, and be a helpful example to younger women.