MBC WOMEN'S TRAINING

BEING A TITUS 2 WOMAN IN THE CHURCH

CLASS 2: THE CALL TO TEACH WHAT IS GOOD

- September 12: The Value and Need for Women in the Church
- October 10: The Call to Model Godly Character
- ***November 7: The Call to Teach What is Good***
- December 12: The Call to Encourage Younger Women

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

- It goes without saying that there is an attack on femininity in our world today.
- With the rise of gender-confusing ideologies, such as homosexuality and transgenderism, it has gone to the extent that our world struggles to define something as simple as "man" and "woman".
- Additionally, with the rise of feminism, there has been an unhealthy blending of the concepts of "value" and "roles" between men and women that has caused rifts through the church.
- Egalitarian views have become prominent today that says whatever roles men can do, women should be able to do. (i.e. pastoral ministry, preaching, eldership, etc.)
- Speaking more generally in a church culture, it can be hard for women to find their fit within the body and to understand what God would have for them in the church.
- What is the role of a woman in the church? What are they called to do and to be in the context of Christ's body? What are the contributions they can and should make to one another?
- How do women fit into the context of passages like Ephesians 4:16, speaking of what every joint supplies for the building up of the body in love? How are women to use their gifts for this purpose?
- Paul, in Titus 2:3-5 gives a wonderful understanding of and, by implication, a high calling for the role of women in the church.
- The purpose of this class will be to unpack, over the course of the year, the vital role that women play in the ministry and health of the church, specifically in how they are called to take what they have been equipped with and minister to one another.

WHY DOES TEACHING DOCTRINE MATTER?

- **Titus 2:3-5** - *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.*
- As we consider the call to teach those things that are good, those things which are in accordance with sound doctrine, we must consider why this is important.
    - Why is there so much emphasis on teaching doctrine and theology?
    - If I understand the gospel, why does it matter to think through doctrine?
    - Isn't this more for theologians/academics rather than just "ordinary Christians"?
- We're going to lay this foundation in two ways:
    - Understanding the threat of deception
    - Understanding how doctrine affects living
- If we don't understand ***why*** doctrine matters, we won't be compelled to know ***how*** to do it well.

THE TIMELESS THREAT OF DECEPTION

Satan's Strategy from the Beginning

- From the beginning, there has been an attack on the word of God. It is Satan's primary, and ongoing, strategy when it comes to deception. He is the father of lies (John 8:44)
- **Genesis 3:1-5** - *Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.' " The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*
- **Question:** What are the deceptions that Satan wove into his temptation to Eve? What were they focused on?

- Satan knows that if he can get someone to doubt in God's word and/or God's character, that he has laid the seedbed for deception which will lead someone away from the Lord.
    - What happened when Eve's thoughts of God were twisted?
    - Her focus went to what seemed good to ***her***
    - **Gen 3:6 -** *When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.*
- As her thought of God changed, it affected how she lived.
- Satan's strategy has not changed. Thinking of other biblical accounts, such as Job and Jesus, Satan's efforts were focused on twisting the perception of God's character or the word of God itself.
- Satan's deception is aimed at doctrinal/theological truth. It is this distortion and denial of sound doctrine that has bred countless false teachings[1]
    - **Sensualism**: Attractiveness and desirability have replaced God's Word as my standard for determining God's best in my life (Gen. 3:1–6). [God's Mind: 2 Timothy 3:16–17]
    - **Sensationalism**: I believe that immediate success is more desirable than success in God's time (Matt. 4:1–11). [God's Mind: 1 Corinthians 1:18–25]
    - **Universalism**: Because we live together in the same world with the same kind of imperfections, we will live together in eternity (Matt. 13:24–30). [God's Mind: John 1:12–13; 3:36; 5:24]
    - **Rationalism**: I will substitute human reason for simple childlike faith anchored in the Word of God (Matt. 16:21–23). [God's Mind: Isaiah 55:9]
    - **Existentialism**: I am the master of my fate and the captain of my soul (2 Cor. 4:4). [God's Mind: John 3:16–21]
    - **Illusionism**: I believe that everything that appears or claims to be of God is of God without further investigation (2 Cor. 11:13–15). [God's Mind: Deuteronomy 13:1–5; 1 John 4:1–4]
    - **Ecumenism**: I believe that all sincere religions involve valid expressions of worshiping the true God (Rev. 2:9; 3:9). [God's Mind: Acts 4:12]
    - **Humanism**: I alone can defeat Satan without God's help (Jude 9). [God's Mind: John 15:5]

[1] John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, eds., Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2017), 687–88.

The Context of Titus' Ministry and Refuting Deceptive Doctrine

- Looking to the more direct context of the command for women to teach what is good, this command was given because of the crisis happening in the churches in Crete as it pertained to doctrine/theology.
- **Titus 1:5-9** - *For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, namely, if any man is […] holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching,* ***so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.***
- **Titus 1:10-11** - ***For*** *there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families,* ***teaching things they should not teach*** *for the sake of sordid gain.*
- **Titus 1:13-14** - *This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith,* ***not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth****.*
- This is the context in which Titus was placed and why there was such an urgency for his ministry in Crete. Men were ravaging the church, and the root of it came from their **doctrine** – it was rooted in what they were teaching.
- There was an air of deception that resulted in whole families being upset.
- This is why, from the leadership to the sheep, there was a need to anchor them in sound doctrine.

Scripture's Constant Warnings of Deception

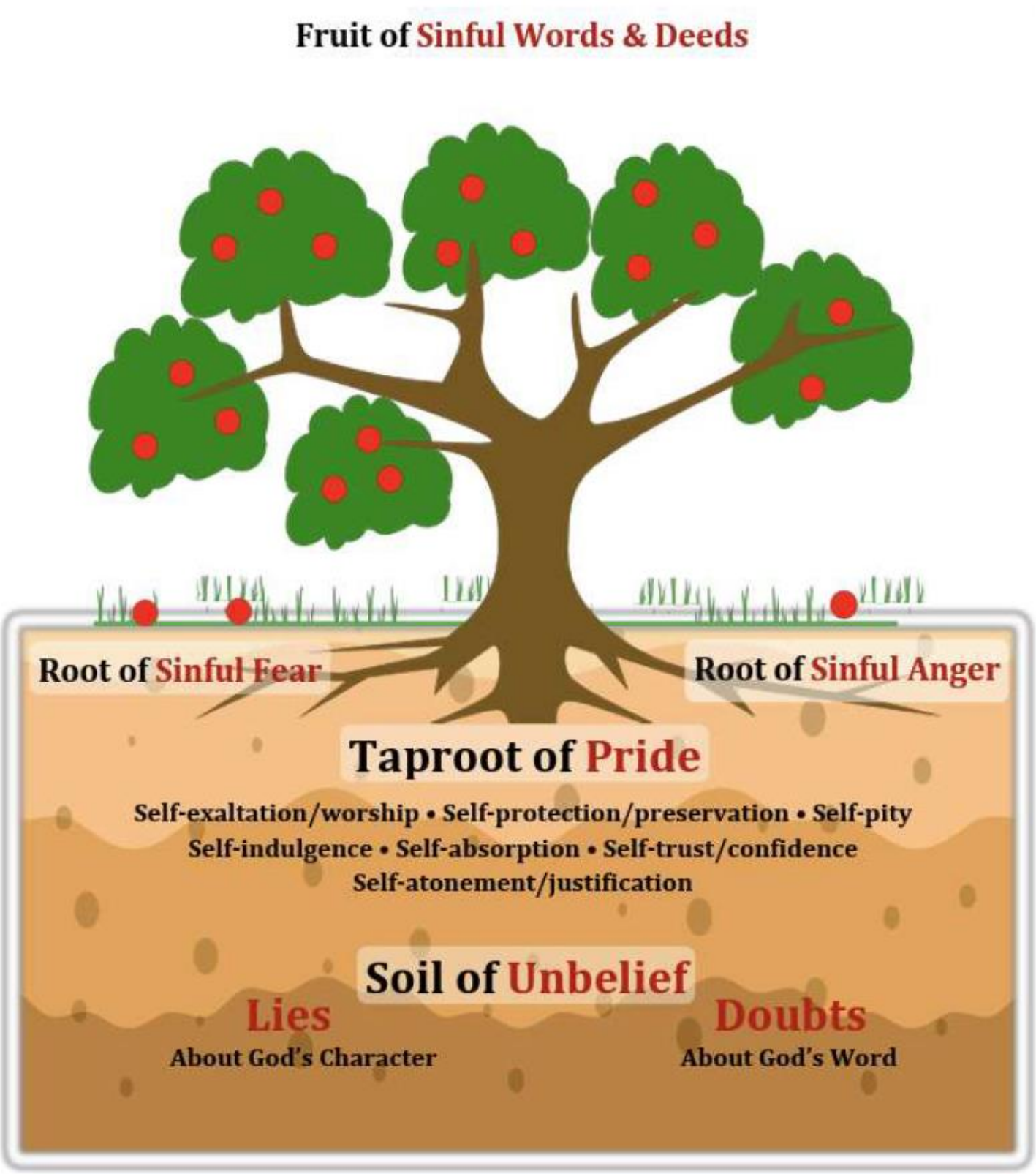
- This kind of Satanic deception has been and will be a continual force from now until the final judgment. Because of that, God's word is replete with warnings and exhortations related to the need to be on the alert for deception.
- It is characteristic of ungodly men in these last days (2 Tim 3:1-13)
- It is propagated through the ministry of false teachers, those in the spirit of anti-Christ (2 Pet 2:1-22; 1 John 2:15-24)
- This will characterize the ministry of the anti-Christ (2 Thess 2:3-12)
- This will be Satan's tactic throughout the tribulation until the end (Rev 20:3)
- All of this is tied to deceitful doctrine.

We Live in a World of Deception

- **2 Corinthians 11:3** - *But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*
- "So why do we fall for his deception? Why do we go for the lure? For starters, Satan's lies don't come at us overtly, through talking serpents. Rather, they may be attractively disguised in a New York Times bestseller, a popular mommy blog, a movie, a TV show, or a catchy hit song. They may also surface subtly in a classroom with a brilliant professor or in sincere advice from a relative or friend, a therapist, or even a Christian writer, teacher, or counselor.

  Day after day, we are bombarded with countless forms of deception that make their way into our minds, lobbed at us not only by our tireless enemy, the devil, but by this fallen world system in which we live and by our own sinful, weak flesh, all of which are at odds with God and the Truth and seek to seduce us."[2]
- Satan hasn't changed his tactics – **BECAUSE THEY STILL WORK!**
- We first listen to the lie, dwell on the lie, believe the lie, and then finally act on the lie (cf. James 1:14-16)
- The lies today, particularly the lies propagated to women, attack on many different fronts: thoughts about God, self, sin, priorities, marriage, family, emotions, etc.
- These things are couched in deceptive language to make them sound desirable (remember Eve as she viewed the tree in the garden – Gen 3:6)
    - Abortion → Women's reproductive rights
    - Anti-marriage/family → Freeing women from oppression
    - Sexual promiscuity → Freedom of sexual expression
- So much of the deception is couched in language of freedom, but what it does is draw us into further enslavement to sin and self-exultation.
- Others include view of self-worth tied to physical appearance, the ease of divorce/remarriage, redefining of marriage itself, defining what a woman, and womanhood, is, the capacity to control emotions, etc.
- You can trace off of these deceptions back to God and His word.

[2] Nancy Leigh DeMoss, Lies Women Believe/Lies Women Believe Study Guide- 2 Book Set (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2018).


Fruit of Sinful Words & Deeds
Root of Sinful Fear
Root of Sinful Anger
Taproot of Pride
Self-exaltation/worship • Self-protection/preservation • Self-pity
Self-indulgence • Self-absorption • Self-trust/confidence
Self-atonement/justification
Soil of Unbelief
Lies
About God's Character
Doubts
About God's Word

THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUND DOCTRINE FOR GODLY LIVING

- Given the relentless nature of Satan's deception in this age, it is critical for us to understand how godly living is influenced by sound doctrine, and then looking at how God is using godly older women as a means to teach sound doctrine to younger women in the church.

Sound Doctrine's Emphasis in the Book of Titus

- In light of the number of references to deception/false teaching that Paul gives to Titus, it is no wonder that Paul speaks so often about the need for Titus, elder, and the people that comprise the Cretan churches to be living out sound doctrine.
- This is the key comparison made on the outset of chapter two and serves as the distinguishing mark of Titus' ministry.
- **Titus 2:1, 15** - *But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for* ***sound doctrine****. […] These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.*
    - ὑγιαινούσῃ (sound, free from error, correct); διδασκαλίᾳ (teaching, instruction)
    - Titus, along with the elders he would appoint, were called to speak those things fitting for correct teaching – which Paul references earlier as coming from the ***faithful word*** (1:9)
- Paul knew that if there was to be effective ministry in the church, it needed to begin with an understanding and conviction of sound biblical doctrine.

Belief Affects Behavior

- "Right doctrine is essential to right living. It is impossible to live a faithful Christian life without knowing biblical doctrine. Doctrine simply means "teaching," and there is no way that even the most sincere believer can conduct a life pleasing to God without knowing what God Himself is like and what sort of life God demands of His people. Those who set biblical theology aside also set aside sound Christian living."[3]
- Behavior is an extension of theology, and there is a direct correlation between what we think and how we act.
    - "Two people stand on top of a bridge; one believes he can fly, and the other believes he cannot fly. Their next actions will be quite dissimilar. In the same way, a man who believes

[3] https://www.gty.org/blogs/B240821/doctrine-the-key-to-christian-living

that there is no such thing as right and wrong will naturally behave differently from a man who believes in well-defined moral standards."[4]

- There is never a command given in the Bible that is not predicated on theology and sound doctrine.
    - It is our understanding of the gospel that defines a faithful walk as a believer:
        - **Eph 4:1** - *Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called…*
        - **Phil 1:27** - *Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ…*
    - It is our understanding of Christ that influences body life in the church:
        - **Eph 4:32** - *Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*
    - It is our understanding of God's character that influences our own sanctification
        - **1 Pet 1:15-16** - *but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."*
        - **Rom 12:2** - *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*
    - It is our understanding of Christ and the church that gives parameters for marriage:
        - **Eph 5:31-32** - *This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.*
    - It is right thoughts of Christ that motivate the killing of sin:
        - **Col 3:1-5** - *Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. […] Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.*
- This kind of indicative/imperative pattern that we see consistently in the NT highlights the fact that what you believe will impact how you live AND that doctrine is meant to transform us.
- **2 Tim 3:14** - *You, however, **continue** in the things you have **learned** and **become convinced of**, knowing from whom **you have learned them**…*

[4] https://www.gotquestions.org/sound-doctrine.html

UNDERSTANDING WOMEN'S ROLE IN TEACHING IN THE CHURCH

- With the foundation for doctrinal importance and growth in our understanding of it having know been laid, we need to examine what Paul means in his instruction to older women, through the ministry of Titus to be "***teaching what is good***".
- Much ink has been spilled today regarding the role and ministry of women within the church, and while that is not the overall focus of the passage, it would be helpful to think through this.

Egalitarianism/Complementarianism

- These two schools of thought are built upon the question of roles for men and women within the church. (i.e. understanding what the Bible says about the ministry of men and women within the local church)
- There are two prevailing viewpoints:
    - **Complementarianism** – The viewpoint that God restricts women from serving in certain church leadership roles and instead calls women to serve in equally important, but complementary roles.
        - The office of elder (that office charged with the teaching, leading, shepherding, and oversight of the flock) is an office tasked only to men.
        - Teaching within the corporate body, specifically the gathering of men and women, is designated for men, not women.
    - **Egalitarianism** – The viewpoint that there are no biblical gender-based restrictions on ministry in the church.
        - Because believers are all one in Christ and there is no distinction between men and women as image bearers of God (Gen 1:26-27; Gal 3:28), ministry within the church, including the office of elder, can and should be available to both men and women.
        - Other passages, such as Acts 2:17-18, Romans 16, and 1 Corinthians 11:5 speak of both men and women teaching and prophesying.
- The confusion in these views, I believe, comes down to a distinction in how the Bible communicates the **value** and **roles** of women. Egalitarians often conflate the two, while complementarians view them as distinct.

- ***Myth #1***: What I do defines who I am.
    - ***Truth***: Our identity, value, worth, etc. is determined by our status as an image-bearer of God and as a believer in Christ.
        - **Gen 1:27** – *God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*
        - **Gal 3:28** – *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*
    - These passages speak nothing of role, but of how God views believers in Christ. God does not express his love to a male believer in greater or lesser degrees than He does to a female believer. We are all heirs of Abraham according to promise (v. 29)
- ***Myth #2***: God never designed a distinction in roles.
    - ***Truth***: God has designed numerous distinctions in roles and giftings for believers within the church.
        - God delegated headship to Adam in the garden (caring for the garden – Gen 2:15; naming the animals – 2:19)
        - Jesus discipled the 12 apostles to serve as spiritual leaders
        - The 12 appointed 7 men as proto-deacons (Acts 6)
        - Paul instructed Timoty and Titus to appoint faithful men to the role of elders
    - Outside of gender-specific roles, there has always been distinctions within the body in regard to giftings
        - **1 Cor 12:6-7** – *There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*
        - **Eph 4:11** - *And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers…*
- **1 Tim 2:11-15** - *A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.*

- This passage is given within the context of a letter from Paul to his disciple, Timothy, speaking of how the church is to function together – how one is to conduct himself in the household of God (1 Tim 3:15)
- Women, then, are called to come under the divinely designated authority of godly men who are called to teach and oversee the flock of God, and they are called to abstain from teaching within the corporate gatherings of the church.

- Some important things to note:
  - The fact that women were permitted to receive instruction directly would have been radical to the culture at that time. This was an instruction that elevated women to a position of being instructed directly vs. instruction to the husband and passed on to the wife.
  - This is a timeless truth (not tied to the culture of the time) as Paul ties this principle to the creation account (it's true in Genesis, it's true in Paul's day, and it's true in our time as well)
  - It highlights the significance of ministry within the home and the influence that women can have in the lives of their children.
- Women are vital to the ministry of any local church – they possess spiritual gifts…they can have a huge impact by teaching children and discipling other women…they provide an invaluable ministry to their husbands and children…there are a plethora of ways that women can be used of the Lord both inside the church and outside
- But when it comes to the formal life of the church, the teaching and oversight responsibility is to be in the hands of men.

The Importance of Women Teaching/Discipling/Counseling Women

- **Titus 2:3-4** - *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…*
- "If you qualify as an older woman, there's a reason you've been learning about life all these years. More than one reason, actually. One is to help you accumulate godly wisdom—from your mistakes as well as your triumphs—and apply that wisdom to the hurdles you encounter. But equally important is the ability to share that hard-won wisdom with others, especially those who aren't as far along in their journey as you are."[5]

[5] Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, Adorned: Living Out the Beauty of the Gospel Together, 72.

- While God has not called women to a role of leadership within the church, He has given them a high calling in the area of disciplining younger women.
- We know this because it is true of all believers:
    - **Col 3:16** - *Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another…*
    - **Rom 15:14** - *And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.*
    - **1 Thess 5:14** - *We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.*
- However, Paul recognized that there is something important about generational discipleship from men to men and women to women.
    - "Women who by God's grace have cultivated the fruit of the Spirit in their lives are to come alongside other women who need help developing self-control, kindness, and well-ordered priorities.

      Wives who have learned how to love and respect their husbands well over the long haul—"for better, for worse"—are to teach younger women how it's done.

      Mothers who have faithfully raised and trained their own children are to use the wisdom they've gained in the classroom of experience to teach younger women who are in the childbearing/child-rearing years."[6]
    - "Titus was not instructed by Paul to teach the young women; instead, he was to find mature women to whom he could teach sound doctrine. […] These older women, in turn, were to teach the young women how to live godly lives."[7]
- Why is this?
    - Remember, our doctrine affects how we live. In the case of older, godly women in the church, those who have developed convictions in the word of God and have encountered the deceptions of Satan and how those have impacted their walk with Christ are to take all that they have learned and equip younger women with it.
    - In that, it is something that God uniquely equips women to do.

[6] Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, Adorned: Living Out the Beauty of the Gospel Together, 72.
[7] Elyse Fitzpatrick, Women Helping Women, 88.

THINKING THROUGH THE CALL TO TEACH

- "You may struggle to see yourself as a teacher. Perhaps you envision a classroom, PowerPoint slides, two nights every week with commentaries spread out on your kitchen table—a picture that is daunting to you. Perhaps the thought of standing up in front of a group to speak makes you a little queasy.

  If so, take heart. I thank the Lord for women He has gifted and equipped to teach the Word to other women in structured settings. I hope your church has women like that. But I don't believe that's the only (or even the primary) kind of teaching the apostle Paul had in mind when he called us to be teachers.

  The truth is, you're always teaching, simply by the way you live. Your conversation in unguarded moments teaches. Your response to gossip teaches. Your reaction to an unexpected problem teaches. The question is not whether you're teaching; it's whether you're teaching (as Paul says) "what is good."[8]

Teach as an Overflow of a Life in the Word of God

- **Col 3:16** - *Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another…*
- We must understand that, like how we live, what we teach will flow out of what we know of God and His word.
- To teach what is good, we must know what is good.
- We've used the example before of drawing from a well.
  - As you dwell in the word of God, and it in you, your well begins to fill.
  - We draw from that well to teach and admonish one another.
  - If that well runs dry (i.e. we aren't daily coming before God's word for our own hearts) we will have superficial (or perhaps hypocritical) instruction.
- The best preparation for teaching what is good is to saturated yourself with biblical truth, and to be living it out!
- **Ezra 7:10** - *For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.*

[8] Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, Adorned: Living Out the Beauty of the Gospel Together, 73–74.

Teach With a Mind for Biblical Change

- In Titus 2:3-4, Paul says that older women are to exemplify godly character and teach what is good, and with that, Paul provides a desired outcome.
- **Titus 2:3-4** - *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****…*
- While we'll examine this in greater detail in our next class, it highlights the need to never allow for doctrinal teaching to remain theoretical or academic. It is not a teaching that simply fills our heads, but is meant to impact our hearts and lives.
- Discipleship is about helping someone connect the timeless truths and principles of God's word to everyday life. Work, money, family, marriage, singleness, purity, beauty, etc.
- Biblical truth is always meant to equip believers for life and godliness (2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:3)

Questions to Consider

- ***Older women***
    - If a younger woman were looking for a mentor who is solidly grounded in biblical truth and who makes truth beautiful, would she think of you? Why or why not?
    - What practical steps could you take to be better prepared to mentor a younger woman? (Remember you don't have to be perfect to be helpful!)
    - How could you encourage a younger woman in your life to be more intentional about "planting and watering" her heart in the soil of good doctrine?
- ***Younger women***
    - Where have you picked up the "doctrines" (teachings) that most influence your life—TV/movies, friends, family members, mentors, books, Scripture, church? Are these wise, godly sources? What is the fruit of these teachings in your life?
    - What qualities in a potential mentor would tell you she has a firm commitment to sound doctrine? What are some possible red flags?
    - What steps could you take to deepen your grasp of God's Word and to saturate your mind, heart, and life with sound doctrine?[9]

[9] Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, Adorned: Living Out the Beauty of the Gospel Together, 48.