A Mother – God’s Gift

• God took the fragrance of a flower...
  o The majesty of a tree...
  o The gentleness of morning dew...
  o The calm of a quiet sea...
  o The beauty of the twilight hour...
  o The soul of a starry night...
  o The laughter of a rippling brook...
  o The grace of a bird in flight...
  o Then God fashioned from these things
  o A creation like no other,
  o And when his masterpiece was through
  o He called it simply - Mother.
    ▪ Herbert Farnham

• There’s no better way to honor the women of TPH, and our guests, than to lift up today some great truths that God inspired to be written in His Word, for your benefit.

Titus 2:1-5

1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: 2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.
3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; 4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

• In these last days, Satan has pointed all of the artillery of hell at the
home.

- Think about it:
  - Immorality, adultery, fornication, homosexuality, abortion, militant feminism, juvenile delinquency, sexually transmitted diseases...these are all sins hatched in hell, and they all have 2 things in common:
  - They are:
    1. On the rise
    2. Aimed at destroying the family

- Good news today: God has a plan!
  - “When all else fails, read the directions” (men aren’t the best at this...putting together a toy, navigating a road trip, but this is for the ladies today anyway!)

v. 1 “become”
- Ladies: have you ever told someone their outfit was very “becoming?”
  - The word become in v. 1 literally means that she “beautifies” sound doctrine.
- v. 10 “adorn”...this word in the Greek is the word from which we get “cosmetics” in English.
  - If you really want to be beautiful, not just outwardly, but also inwardly...more than you need Mary Kay, or Merle Norman, you need to live God’s way, according to God’s plan.
    - Put on the lipstick of a kind tongue.
    - The blush of purity and innocence.
    - The foundation of Godliness.
    - Eyeliner of compassion.
And the mascara of sincerity.

- Let’s look today at the things which adorn, become, and beautify sound doctrine.
  - And I hope that every woman here today will leave with a bag full of spiritual cosmetics, with an irresistible spiritual attraction that will ‘catch the eyes’ of a lost world beyond our doors.

I. Her Mandate

- v. 3-4 “teach the young women”
- There’s no way around it…what the young women of TPH are supposed to learn about Christian Womanhood, they are not supposed to learn, primarily, from this pulpit, this preacher…but rather from their elders right here.
  - Our older women have a God-given responsibility to teach the younger women how to be good wives, mothers, homemakers.
- The younger women also have a responsibility, according to this passage, and that is to listen to the older women, and to avail themselves to their wisdom.

- Who is teaching the younger Christian women of today?
  - Who is shaping their family values?

- I’m afraid that in many cases it’s someone like Oprah.
  - The world is sending all kinds of negative messages to our younger women: “If you’re not happy, or satisfied with the old goat…just leave him! After all, you have a right to be happy”
  - We need some older women who have been married for years
to step up and say, you have the right to keep your commitment and your vow before God…and…it’s not your love that sustains your commitment, it’s your commitment that sustains your love!

We need some older women to say, we’ve had our share of problems, bigger ones than you’ve had, and more of them, but it has worked because of commitment.

- The world says: “If this pregnancy is unplanned, then simply destroy the evidence.”
  - Older women must respond: “the circumstances which surround a pregnancy do not determine the value of the child.”
  - Or, “I experienced an unplanned pregnancy, now let me tell you what they’ve done with their life, and how the surprise goes on day after day!”

- There’s probably not a woman in the house that appreciates the old English word used here, “aged”!
  - We’re not talking about the elderly…But by definition, we’re talking about those of you whose children have left the house, or soon will leave.

- If you fit that category, the Bible today reminds you of your mandate.
  - It’s not a suggestion, or an idea if you’re interested, it’s a command…and if you are not investing your life into the lives of these younger women, then you’re not fulfilling all of your God-given responsibilities as a woman.

II. Her Motive
• We don’t have to guess, it’s right here: End of v. 5 “That the Word of God be not blasphemed”
• You say, what does that have to do with it?
  o Simply put, the best thing you can do to improve the influence of this church in Battle Creek, MI, is to help build strong families!
  o Every time the community learns of a family that falls apart at TPH, it contradicts, undermines, and marginalizes what we teach and preach here…it hurts our influence.
• We’re preaching that Jesus is the answer to the world’s problems and that Jesus is the solid Rock on which to build a marriage and home…but for the most part, the world doesn’t listen to what we say…but oooooooh how they watch what we do!
• And Paul is saying that when we allow homes in our church to disintegrate, the Word of God is blasphemed.
• Now, don’t misunderstand, we’re to help the hurting!
  o That’s the right thing to do, that develops influence too…that man or woman whose spouse left them can remain a testimony to God by remaining in church, and remaining close to God, and we have many like that.
    ▪ But it’s a shame when it happens right under our noses, when there WAS something we could do about it…but we didn’t!

III. Her Manner of life

• v. 3 “as becometh holiness”
• “behavior” = fragrance…you should have the fragrance of holiness emanating from you.

• In the OT, the priest went into the holy place to burn incense to the Lord, and even when he departs the tabernacle and rejoins the others, the fragrance is still on his garments.
  o And anyone who gets around him knows, he’s been in the holy place…he’s been with the Lord!

• There’s an ora, a glow about a Godly woman, as the beauty of Christ just radiates from her life!

Mandate—older teach younger, younger look to the older
Motive—Word of God be not blasphemed
Manner of life—life a holy, wholesome, healthy life

IV. Her Message

• What, specifically, are the older supposed to teach the younger?
  o v. 4-5 sober / discreet (v. 5) = serious minded, level headed, good judgment.

• No wonder her husband safely trusts her in Prov. 31, he trusts her to make good decisions, run the house well, and use time wisely.

• A couple just finished their honeymoon, she confessed, “I’m not a great cook, all I know how to make so far is meatloaf and banana pudding”…she sets it before him and he says, “no problem, just tell me which is which!”

• Well, the Bible doesn’t say you have to be a great cook, but it says
you should be level-headed, serious minded, and use good judgment…
  o Not like the guy that said, honey, you must think I’m a perfect idiot. She says, no dear…nobody’s perfect!

• “Love husband”
• Do you really have to learn to love?
  o Remember how it was back then in Bible days.
  o Today we fall in love and get married…back then, it was reversed, arranged by parents!
  o And though’ we don’t do it that way today, the fact remains, according to the Bible, you can learn to love him!

• If you’ve been married, or were married, 30 years or more, please stand…remain standing…give them a hand.

• According to God, it’s your responsibility to teach the younger women how to love their husbands…how they can make it for 30 years, and more!
  o Take a look around, now. Chances are these that are standing went thru what you go thru, and yet they stayed married, because they were committed.
    ▪ And look at the guys they learned to love!
    ▪ Give the Lord glory for that!

• “Love their children”
• Do you really have to learn that?
  o Well, you tell me. I think the womb should be the safest place on earth…but is it?
• Then there’s the modern mother today who says, I love my child too much to spank them.
  o She needs to be taught what real love is. Prov. 13:24 “He that spares the rod, hates his son”

• “Chaste”
  • Old-fashioned purity=pre-marital purity and post-marital fidelity.

• The public school system that raised most of the young women of today, is the same one which kicked God out when they were young…and to think that it’s capable of teaching sex-ed correctly is absurd.
• It’s not up to the school…and we need some older women who will teach the younger women, by example, and in word, how to be chaste!
• And we need mothers who will do the same for their daughters.
  o I’ve actually known Christian moms who gave their daughters contraceptives.
    ▪ Don’t you know that sends them the WRONG message?
    ▪ “If you can’t be good, be careful!”

“Keepers at home”
• Interesting phrase coming from 2 Greek words: one meaning home, the other meaning worker…home workers!

• I realize that many women go to work…and many have to.
  o But you still set the climate in the home.

• An epitaph on his wife’s tombstone written by her husband after 60 years of marriage, read, "SHE ALWAYS MADE HOME HAPPY."
• I Timothy 5:14 *I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house…*

• Certainly some have to work, and the last thing I want to do on Mother’s Day is put you on a guilt trip, so I’m not doing that.
• What I’m saying today, is I thank God for our ladies’ and Godly ladies and Mothers are why we are blessed.

• Aren’t you thankful today for mothers and women of God?
• As Mother’s Day, today is a day to honor them…but as the Lord’s day, it’s a day to glorify God…and what would glorify Him more than for women to recommit themselves today to their mandate, to teach, and learn from each other, to have the irresistible glow of Godliness, the attractive scent of one who’s been with God, the fragrance of holiness!