

Women's Ministry in the Local Church

Chapter 8: *Discipleship*

In this chapter, Ligon Duncan explains more fully his fourth reason why a women's ministry is important in every healthy evangelical church. (This was first mentioned on pages 37, 40-41.)

We ought to have an intentional, deliberate approach to female discipleship because:

- 1 *Men and women are different.*
- 2 *These God-given differences need to be recognized, taken into account, and addressed.*
- 3 *Men and women face different kinds of temptations, so discipleship needs to be relevant and specific.*

THE TEXT: Titus 2:3-5

The text for this chapter calls the church to equip older women to disciple younger women. Please notice that the chronological order of the texts we have studied in previous chapters unfolds a logical scope and sequence to develop a coherent apologetic for a women's ministry.

Submission to authority is essential for:

- 1 *covenantal compassion*
- 2 *community*
- 3 *discipleship*

Discipleship that takes place within God's ordained authority structures:

- 1 *will equip women for ministries of community and compassion*
- 2 *will invigorate women and the church*

Telling the next generation about the past:

- 1 *gives hope for the future because we remember God's faithfulness to His character and promises*
- 2 *instructs the next generation to tell their children and keep His commands*
- 3 *Titus 2:3-5 speaks directly to older women who are to disciple younger women.*

Titus 2 shows how a local church is to disciple God's people:

PRINCIPLE # 1: *Ecclesiastical Authority and Responsibility*

- 1 *Discipleship flows out of the pulpit ministry.*
- 2 *Biblical doctrine of the church is essential for biblical discipleship.*

PRINCIPLE #2: *Teach Sound Doctrine*

- 1 *Sound doctrine systemizes Scripture to see the whole picture and interrelated parts.*
- 2 *We are products of our theology: what we believe about God.*

PRINCIPLE #3: *The Communion of the Saints*

- 1 *Truth is to be taught in the context of relationships.*
- 2 *Older men/ women have a generational responsibility to share gifts with younger.*

PRINCIPLE #4: *The Gospel has a Redemptive, Transforming Influence in Believers' Lives*

- 1 *Sound doctrine taught and lived out in relationships authenticates the gospel.*
- 2 *Growing in grace/knowledge of Jesus develops individual/community maturity.*

PRINCIPLE # 5: *The Gospel has a Redemptive, Transforming Influence on Culture*

- 1 *Cultural transformation takes place when God's people love Him and love others.*
- 2 *Covenant life has a redemptive influence on culture.*

PRINCIPLE # 6: *The Gospel is the Motivation*

- 1 *The grace of God teaches us to say no to ungodliness.*
- 2 *Gospel love propels our obedience. Christ's love compels us. (2 Cor. 5:14)*

PRINCIPLE #7: *The Gospel is the Unifying, Integrative Factor*

- 1 *Discipleship is an expression of our redemption in Christ.*
- 2 *Discipleship takes place in the context of the covenant community.*

Covenant consciousness:

- 1 *will protect us from being territorial with our ministry*
- 2 *will cause us to think about the common good rather than our individual preference*

Biblical discipleship:

- 1 *is transmitting a way of thinking and living*
- 2 *is passing on a legacy of biblical faith and life to the next generation*

Women who disciple women:

- 1 *have a holy reverence for God that is reflected in their character and conduct*
- 2 *practice the presence of God and share their wisdom/experience with the rising generation*

Bryan Chapell's Titus 2 observations:

- 1 *Paul affirms the important community contribution of older women.*
- 2 *Paul does not tell Titus to teach younger women, but have older women teach the younger.*

Godly women:

- 1 *are to train other women to think and live according to biblical principles of womanhood*
- 2 *are called to a life-on-life discipleship that guides and nurtures other women to maturity*

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

The profoundly beautiful and simple story of Mary puts in motion:

- 1 *characteristics of the covenant*
- 2 *principles of biblical womanhood*
- 3 *principles of discipleship and women's ministry*

This is one of the most stunning examples of an older and younger woman in Scripture.

Mary:

- 1 *She had a covenant consciousness and understood the communion of the saints.*
- 2 *She knew God's sovereign initiative in her life.*
- 3 *She had a generational perspective.*
- 4 *She had a strong sense of covenantal community and compassion.*

Elizabeth:

- 1 *She was intentional in her discipleship.*
- 2 *She was filled with the Holy Spirit.*
- 3 *She spoke words of welcome, affirmation, encouragement and instruction.*
- 4 *Her home was a safe place.*

The Sovereign of heaven and earth, the Covenant-Maker and Covenant Keeper:

- 1 *chose a young woman to be a life-giver to the Life and Light of the world*
- 2 *prepared and positioned another woman to love and nurture her*

THE TASK

The women's ministry is to:

- 1 *Train women in the biblical principles and practices of womanhood.*
- 2 *Emphasize that the Titus 2 concept does not just apply to married women.*
- 3 *Equip women to assume their generational responsibility to learn from older women and train younger.*
- 4 *Pray for the women.*

THE TOOLS

A women's ministry can begin by asking some strategic questions:

- 1 *How is women's ministry enabling our church to obey Titus 2:3-5?*
- 2 *How does our discipleship reflect principles of Titus 2?*
- 3 *How are women equipped to train younger women in biblical principles of womanhood?*
- 4 *What opportunities are women provided to develop nurturing older/younger relationships?*
- 5 *Do we need an organized Titus 2 ministry?*

Dr. Peter Jones' conclusions regarding the importance of women having a biblical worldview:

- 1 *Women must know their Bibles, understand the biblical worldview, and make their voices heard.*
- 2 *It is essential that the church equip women to speak to the burning issues of the culture.*
- 3 *Christian women must know and lived the truths of biblical womanhood as they disciple other women.*

Biblical Foundations for Womanhood resources:

- 1 Topic: *A covenantal approach to discipleship/Christian education*
Book: *Heirs of the Covenant*
- 2 Topic: *Titus 2:3-5*
Book: *Spiritual Mothering*
Book: *The Legacy of Biblical Womanhood (chapters 4 and 12)*