

Lesson 5 – Reverence for God in Older Women

1. The Christian church has patterned many ministries for women after the portion of Titus that you will be studying in the next weeks. As you examine Titus 2:3-5 you will be looking at God’s standard for living as well as the role God has asked of women in the world and in the body of Christ.

Many see Titus 2:3-5 as a standard for a discipling ministry within the church. The lessons taken from the book of Titus will also reflect on the reasons Paul gave to Titus for the teaching of women in the body of Christ. It is my prayer that you might continue to grow in your faith and follow Christ’s command to help another grow in their faith. Do not forget that as you move through these lessons you could be memorizing a Scripture verse to strengthen your faith or to help you share your faith with others.

Please open by reading Psalm 5:1-7 as a **prayer** before the Lord. The word *reverence* is key in Titus 2:3 and David’s prayer used the word *reverence* to show his heart for the LORD. Now please begin with these **observation questions**.

- Read Titus 2:3-5 and mark the directives given to older women in one way, and the standard for younger women in another way.

³Likewise, older women are to show their reverence for God by their behavior. They are not to be gossips or addicted to alcohol, but to be examples of goodness. ⁴They should encourage the younger women to be lovers of their husbands, lovers of their children, ⁵sensible, pure, managers of their households, and kind, and to submit themselves to their husbands, lest the word of God be discredited, Titus 2:3-5, *ISV*.

- Notice the first word in Titus 2:3. Good biblical interpretation requires you to look at what was written before when a sentence is introduced with a word like this. Read Titus 2:1,2 and think about why Paul introduced Titus 2:3 in this way.
- Will you paraphrase (put into your own words) Titus 2:3-5 using the following chart.

Older women are:	Older women are to encourage:	Why?

2. Please examine these word studies for some of the **key words** used in this passage.

Strong's # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong's Concordance, unless written in <i>italics</i>:	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
4247 Greek presbutidas Titus 2:3	Older women , aged women <i>KJV</i> , an old woman	A hapax legomen, the only place this word was used in the New Testament.
2412 Greek hieroprepeis Titus 2:3	Reverence for God <i>ISV</i> , as becometh holiness <i>KJV</i> ; <i>to act like a sacred person.</i>	A hapax legomen.
2688 Greek kataktemati Titus 2:3	Behavior <i>ISV</i> , demeanor, a position or condition	A hapax legomen.
3374 Hebrew yirah Psalm 5:7	Reverence , fear, dreadful, fearfulness, awe. <i>If one recognizes God as all-powerful, this will be reflected in their attitude.</i> ¹	Psalm 2:11

3. The Greek word Paul used for reverence, *hieroprepeis* is a compound word from the word *hieros*, meaning sacred, and the word *prepo* meaning to become. The Greek word *hieron* is the word for temple. The Greek word *hiereus* is the word for priest, the one serving at God's altar. Considering these word studies, what then is meant by the phrase "older women are to show their reverence for God by their behavior"?

4. What does it mean to be reverent in your attitude toward God? Psalm 2:11 says, "Worship the LORD with reverence and rejoice with trembling." The Hebrew word for reverence is listed with the word studies above. Please read Psalm 2:11 in its context and meditate on what it means to have "reverence for God." Jot down your thoughts about this here.

One way to understand a phrase is to think about what would be the opposite of that phrase. Read Titus 2:3 again and think about what that would be. Older women are "to show their reverence for God by their behavior" or will they show their _____ for God by their behavior.

What does reverence for God mean to you? How are you to become more reverent for God in your own behavior?

How would you answer these statements regarding reverence for God?
 ...reverence for God in the way a woman talks?

Continued on the next page.

...reverence for God in the way a woman dresses?

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible*, Chattanooga, AMG Publishers, 1990, p. 1732.

...reverence for God in the way a woman spends her time?

Will you ask God to help you discover what gets in the way of you showing reverence for God?

How can you show your reverence for God today?

What are three ways that you can show reverence for God in this coming week?

a.

b.

c.

Please humble yourself before God and thank Him for how His word has challenged you today. You might close with this hymn that offers praise and adoration to the Lord God.

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee; Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy, Though the darkness hide Thee, Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy- there is none beside Thee perfect in pow’r, in love and purity.

Reginald Heber and John B. Dykes