

Difference Maker Women

God's Man / God's Woman / God's Servants – Lesson 4

1 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 – *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.* ➤

1 *Such **were** some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*

- Jesus and the Holy Spirit can unlock the door to personal transformation!
- For those who walk through that door, these former labels no longer apply.

Amazing! We can be transformed!

- **There is a cure for** idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, thieves, the covetous, drunkards, revilers, and swindlers.
- God does the heavy lifting. Will and work
- But this transformation is neither immediate nor automatic.

Four Transformative Tools!

- Our part: **(1)** Pray and **(2)** study God's word to fuel transformation.
- **(3)** Convert trial into transformation: God will tailor circumstances to what we need.
- **(4)** Tap into the transformative power of Christ community! ➡

- ➡ Hebrews 10:24–25 – *and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*
- We can be transformative assets to one another. Here are the protocol specifics.

➡ The One-Another Protocol

- Goal: Help others love well and do good
- Tool 1: “Stimulate” = stir up, urge on
- Preparation required: “Consider” = thoughtful observation, careful consideration
- Target Group: “One Another” = ↔

➡ The One-Another Protocol

- Hindrance: Isolation – *not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some*
- Implied: Gathering with brothers and sisters is critical. Going solo hobbles tr.
- Tool 2: Encouragement (παρακαλέω) fuels another's motivation to do what is right.

3 The One-Another Protocol

- When brothers and sisters in Christ gather together, they can be difference makers in the lives of one another.
- Passive gathering is a missed opportunity, too.
- But where mutual encouragement fills the air, God's people will love well and do good.

4 The Shepherd & Servant Connection

- Two weeks ago we talked about shepherds.
- Elder / Overseer / Pastor / Shepherd = different titles for the same person.
- God requires men of godly character (26 qualities) for such a role.

The Shepherd & Servant Connection

- 5 Titus 1:9 – *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.*
- Their devotion to the word allows them to well exhort (παρακαλέω) the flock!

6 The Shepherd & Servant Connection

- Rub shoulders with a man having the 26 qualities of an elder & you will receive a boost in your transformation journey.
- Last week we considered a second group described by the word διάκονος translated, servant, deacon, and minister.

6 The Shepherd & Servant Connection

- These are men who serve Christ by serving His people.
- A man having the 11 qualities of a deacon will engender your trust.
- Let him engage with you and he will selflessly promote your true good.

6 The Shepherd & Servant Connection

- The apostles (in Acts 6) identified two ministry priorities, ministry of the Word and practical service.
- Similarly, elders minister as word-driven shepherds and deacons provide ministry support.

6 The Shepherd & Servant Connection

- The Scripture also identifies two groups of women who are similarly engaged as mentors and servants **to women**.
- First let's look at a particular group of women associated with service.

Women Who Serve

- 7 1 Timothy 3:11 – *Women must likewise be (1) dignified, (2) not malicious gossips, but (3) temperate, (4) faithful in all things.*
- This set of qualifications pertains to women and compliments those given to men *diakonos* in 1 Tim. 3:8-13.

8 Women Who Serve

- **(1)** "Dignified" is the same quality used of men in vs. 8.
- Someone you would look up to and respect.
- **(2)** "Not malicious gossips" is used here and of "older women" (Titus 2).

8 Women Who Serve

- "Malicious gossips" is διάβολος, used twice of women, once of men in the last days.
- Otherwise 34 x's as a title for Satan.
- Sobering, a woman can, like Satan, speak ill of others to damage their reputation or work their harm.

8 Women Who Serve

- **(3)** "Temperate" is also used of elders.
- Sober minded and sensible, not rash or reactionary.
- **(4)** "Faithful in all things" = trust-worthy and reliable no matter what she is facing.

9 Who Are These Women?

- Two views: Wives of deacons or simply women who serve.
- If these are qualifications for deacons' wives, then make sure that the men you recognize as deacons also have wives who meet these criteria.

9 Who Are These Women?

- It is also possible this is describing women who engage in service even as the men do.
- Some translations, like ESV, translate γυνή as wives.
- But this is simply the word "woman." There is no separate word for "wife."

9 Who Are These Women?

- When γυνή is translated "wife" a possessive pronoun is used. Your woman.
- No possessive used here – simply women
- The word "likewise" is used to identify a new group. "Elders must be, ...likewise deacons, ...likewise women"

9 Who Are These Women?

- In either case, either as wives of deacons or as women who serve, character matters!
- Look for women who demonstrate this kind of character, get together with them, and allow them to help you become a better servant of Jesus.

Women Mentors for Younger Women

- In Titus 2:3-5, we are introduced to another group of women who are mentoring specialists.
- Their core activity, teaching, is similar to something elders do but it is directed expressly toward younger women.

10 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.*

11 **Women Mentors for Younger Women**

- Consider this a basic introduction.
- Rochelle has taken a year or more to work through this content with younger women in discipleship groups.
- But this morning, let's just get our bearings with an overview of the 4 + 7 qualities.

11 **Women Mentors for Younger Women**

- This passage is found in a section where Titus is being directed by Paul to address key issues relevant to specific age and gender groups.
- Groups: Older men, older women, younger woman, younger men, and bondslaves

11 **Women Mentors for Younger Women**

- Paul directs Titus to address each group and help them, with one exception.
- The older women are the right ones to mentor the younger women, not Titus.
- Women mentoring women, this is vital to church health.

11 Women Mentors for Younger Women

- Paul calls for older women to focus on 4 qualities: 2 virtues and 2 vices (age traps).
- Doing so has a purpose. It will allow the older women to invest in and have profound positive impact on the younger women.

12 The Older Woman's Curriculum

1. Reverent in their behavior = Women whose devotion to God is evident in how they live. Their actions declare for whom they live.
2. Not malicious gossips = women who do not speak ill of others to damage their reputation or work their harm.

12 The Older Woman's Curriculum

3. Not enslaved to much wine = not dependent on an external influence that diminishes the influence of the spirit.
4. Teaching what is good = a mentor capable of instructing younger women in what is good and right.

12 The Older Woman's Curriculum

- As it pertains to younger women, the "teaching of what is good" is explicitly identified to include the seven virtues of verses 4-5.
- There is nothing in the text to limit this teaching ministry exclusively to the home.

12 The Older Woman's Curriculum

- Any location where younger women are free and undistracted to learn from older women is perfectly suitable.
- Nor is there anything in the text to insist that a "one-on-one discipleship model" (as if often and popularly associated with 2 Timothy 2:2) be required.

12 The Older Woman's Curriculum

- Older women should impart to younger women the values and virtues of Titus 2:4-5 woman using every viable means and venue: In the home, at a nearby Starbucks, or in a classroom; One-on-one, with a small group, in seminars, retreats, and large conferences – find what works.

12 The Older Woman's Curriculum

- Verse 4 begins with a purpose clause – "so that."
- Older women are to "Encourage" which is, literally, "cause to become wise."
- Help younger women demonstrate seven characteristics of wisdom.

13 The Young Woman's Curriculum

1. To love their husbands = a consistent promoter of what is in her husband's best interests.
2. To love their children = a woman who is devoted to and pursuing the true good of her children.

13 The Young Woman's Curriculum

3. To be sensible = She orders her life in a way that allows her to accomplish what matters most.
- Also includes mature judgment and restraint

13 The Young Woman's Curriculum

4. Pure = Her affections, aspirations, interests, and diversions are uplifting, edifying, and noble.
5. Workers at home = her energies are home centered, she is actively engaged in what causes her household to flourish.

13 The Young Woman's Curriculum

6. Kind = yes, she is a worker at home but does not allow the demands of that pursuit to give her an excuse to become harsh, abrasive, and irritable.

13 The Young Woman's Curriculum

7. Being subject to their own husbands = choosing to find her purpose in God's calling upon her husband.
- She chooses to invest herself, her time and energy, in the fulfillment of God's plan for her husband. She promotes his good.

Is this even realistic?

- God knows what He is talking about!
- Older women mentoring the younger is a vital God-ordained way for women to be transformed.
- Here's an example – roll video.

The Last Word

- Older women should be these 4 things...
- **So that** they can teach the younger women to be these 7 things...
- **So that** the word of God is honored!
- When women don't demonstrate the 11, the Word of God is easy to dismiss.

The Last Word

- But when older women demonstrate these qualities and teach younger women how to demonstrate these qualities, the Word of God looks good.
- Our society is falling apart. Our only hope is transformation driven by God's Word.

The Last Word

- 14 • When the world sees nothing remarkable, nothing that captures their attention by how we as followers of Jesus live, the Word of God is easily dismissed.
- But when women demonstrate these 11, authentically and unmistakably, that's when the Word shines bright like a beacon.

The Last Word

- You don't have to live the world's way. There is another way.
- You can become someone new in Christ and here is what it looks like.
- Interested?