

1 Timothy 5:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

Analysis

I will therefore that the younger women marry (Βούλομαι οὖν νεωτέρας γαμεῖν, Boulomai oun neōteras gamein)—'I desire therefore that younger widows remarry.' Boulomai expresses apostolic will/preference. **Bear children** (τεκνογονεῖν, teknonogenein)—have children. **Guide the house** (οἰκοδεσποτεῖν, oikodespotein)—manage the household, be homemaker.

Give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully (μηδεμίαν ἀφορμὴν διδόναι τῷ ἀντικειμένῳ λοιδορίᾳς χάριν, mēdemian aphormēn didonai tō antikeimenō loidorias charin)—'give no opportunity to the opponent for slander.' Antikeimenos (the adversary) could mean Satan or human opponents of Christianity. Loidoria is reviling, abuse, slander.

Paul's solution for younger widows: remarriage, childbearing, household management. This provides purpose, prevents idleness, and protects the church's reputation. Critics could slander Christians if young widows lived aimlessly on church support. Better they embrace productive roles that demonstrate gospel transformation of domestic life.

Historical Context

Critics of Christianity claimed it disrupted family and social order. If young Christian widows refused remarriage and lived idly on church funds, this would

confirm accusations that Christianity undermined Roman family values. Paul insists younger widows remarry and manage households—demonstrating Christianity strengthens rather than destroys domestic life.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's counsel for younger widows to remarry balance with affirmation of singleness elsewhere (1 Corinthians 7)?
2. Why does household management and childbearing protect against giving adversaries grounds for criticism?
3. How can churches honor both marriage/family and celibate devotion to ministry as valid callings?

Interlinear Text

βούλομαι οὖν νεωτέρας γαμεῖν τεκνογονεῖν
I will therefore that the younger women marry bear children
G1014 G3767 G3501 G1060 G5041

οἰκοδεσποτεῖν μηδεμίαν ἀφορμὴν διδόναι τῷ ἀντικειμένῳ
guide the house none occasion give G3588 to the adversary
G3616 G3367 G874 G1325 G480

λοιδορίας χάριν·
speak reproachfully to
G3059 G5484

Additional Cross-References

Titus 2:5 (Parallel theme): To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

1 Timothy 6:1 (Parallel theme): Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.

Titus 2:8 (Parallel theme): Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

1 Timothy 4:3 (Parallel theme): Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

Daniel 6:4 (Parallel theme): Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

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