

Titus 2:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

Analysis

That they may teach the young women to be sober—σωφρονίζωσιν (sophronizōsin, train/encourage/advise) describes the older women's ministry to νέας (neas, young women). The content: φιλάνδρους εἶναι (philandrous einai, to be husband-loving), φιλοτέκνους (philoteknous, child-loving). Both compound adjectives with φίλος (philos, affectionate love).

This isn't natural instinct but learned behavior requiring teaching. **To love their husbands, to love their children**—Christian marriage and motherhood aren't biologically automatic but cultivated virtues. The gospel transforms domestic relationships from duty or cultural expectation into worshipful vocations. Modern feminism despises this, but Paul dignifies marriage and motherhood as arenas of grace-taught godliness.

Historical Context

Arranged marriages meant many young brides barely knew their husbands. High infant mortality and lack of birth spacing made mothering physically exhausting. Without modern labor-saving devices, domestic work was grinding. The gospel didn't remove these challenges but reframed them as Spirit-empowered callings, not meaningless drudgery.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Young wives: do you cultivate affectionate love for your husband, or has dutiful obligation or contempt replaced love?
2. Mothers: do you embrace child-rearing as holy calling, or has cultural denigration of motherhood infected your attitude?
3. Older women: are you teaching younger women the beauty of biblical femininity, or have you absorbed secular feminism's contempt for domesticity?

Interlinear Text

ἵνα	σωφρονίζωσιν	τὰς	νέας	φιλάνδρους	εἶναι
That	sober		the young women	to love their husbands	to be
G2443	G4994	G3588	G3501	G5362	G1511
φιλοτέκνους					
to love their children					
G5388					

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 5:14 (Parallel theme): I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

1 Timothy 5:2 (Parallel theme): The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

1 Timothy 5:11 (Parallel theme): But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry;

