

Making God's Word Attractive

I. Slide#1 Announce:

- A. Slide#2 2nd Service Baby Dedication: Jordan/Jennifer Bursch. *Harper Grace Bursch*.
- B. Slide#3 Children at Risk: Next week 18th, 3-5pm.
 1. Jacob Ludwig, *alumni* of CCCS, *the chief operational officer* of **FACESS** which stands for (Freeing American Children from Exploitation & Sexual Slavery)
 2. Dedicated to the care of young girls who have been rescued from sex trafficking and slavery here in the U.S.
 3. Right now they are capable of caring for up to 200 rescued girls at their undisclosed facility in Calif. He'll be showing us ways can be involved. Come out & help us support their ministry.
- C. Slide#4 Pray for Mothers:

II. Slide#5 Intro:

- A. So last week we looked at *the things that were lacking* (1:5). This week *the things which are proper* in 2:1.
 1. Now the shift from the **protection** of sound doctrine to the **practice** of sound doctrine.
 2. Note, the interweaving of lives in the **community life** of the church.
 - a) God **did not** design the Christian life to be lived **independently**.
- B. Title: *Making God's Word Attractive*.
- C. Paul is helping Titus understand what **holiness** looks like for *older men, older women, younger men, younger women*.
 1. Note: Paul doesn't have a category for *middle-aged men*. 40 and under was considered **young**, everyone else was considered **old**.
- D. Whether *young or old, married or single*, we are all needed in the local church.
 1. God has a job for us to do. Regardless of age, gender, occupation, or any other classification. He calls us to **live differently**.
 2. There obviously should be **a personal investment** in regular fellowship, disciplined worship, & this **church community life** as he describes here to the church of Crete.
- E. Read text.

III. Slide#6 MEN - *He created them male...*

- A. **Masculine Spirituality**
- B. Slide#7 In the **Chinese view** of the universe, it is the **yang**, or *active masculine principle*, that is always the necessary complement to **yin**, *the passive feminine principle*. [Taoism; dark/light]

1. Slide#8 For the Judaeo-Christian it is **half** of the image of God: **God created humanity as a self-image, male and female God created them** (Gen.1:27) [not really 1/2]
- C. Slide#9a **Complementarianism** is a theological view held by **Judaism, Christianity, & Islam**, that men & women have **different but complementary roles and responsibilities** in marriage, family, life, religious leadership, and elsewhere.
- D. **Contrasting viewpoints maintain:**
1. Slide#9b **Egalitarianism** (fr. *Egal*=equal) - women and men should **share identical authority and responsibilities** in marriage, religion and elsewhere.
 2. Slide#9c **Chauvinism** - that men and women are of **intrinsically different worth**.
 - a) Here we read, **God created them male and female**.
 - b) Slide#10blank They were made equal in dignity; equally valuable; equally important; of equal worth; equal dignity before God & before each other.
 - c) Yet, **different, not only in our plumbing/anatomy but in the roles** Gods given to us & our **different functions**.
 - (1) So, men & women have different designs, diff functions but the same purpose...*God's Glory!* [to blend these as 1 is to diminish God's *self-image*]
 3. Slide#1 He created them **male**...our 1/2 so to speak, was always that of **Leadership** from the beginning.
 - a) Yes, *he shall rule over you* came **after** the fall, but even **before** the fall...
 - (1) Adam was created 1st, then Eve.
 - (2) Eve was created as a helper for Adam.
 - (3) Adam *named* Eve. (not vice-versa)
 - (4) God named the Human race, **Man** (not woman, nor something gender neutral) **He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind(adam) in the day they were created**.
 - (5) The serpent came to Eve 1st. (going for the *role reversal maneuver* tempting Eve to take the **leadership** role)
 - (6) God spoke to Adam 1st after the fall.
 - (7) Adam, not Eve, represented the Human race. (we're counted sinful cuz Adam's sin)
- E. Slide#12blank Remember a **Man** & His **male** disciples founded Christianity. Most of its major saints & heroes were **men**. **Men** penned all of the OT & NT. **And**, 95% of senior pastors in America are **men**.¹
1. A quote from an article I read said, *"Today's churchgoing man is humble, tidy, dutiful, & above all, nice."* :(

¹ This section is from CBN.com/spirituallife/ChurchAndMinistry/menhatingchurch.aspx?

2. Where are the high achievers, alpha males, risk takers, & visionaries. The fun-lovers & adventurers?
 3. The bible's full of men like Moses, Elijah, Daniel, Peter, Paul's, & David *who was able to dance in his underroo's in complete abandon.*
 - a) These guys were **lions**, not lambs. **Take charge men** who **risked** everything in service to God. They **fought** valiantly & **spilled** blood. They **spoke** their minds & **stepped on toes** of *religious people*. They were true leaders, tough guys who were feared & respected by the community. [Wait. Jesus was a Lamb...*yah, in reference to how He went to his death*]
 - b) **Explain:** 4 military guys in Haiti after earthquake. *Just call me Jack* [calm, strong, firm presence]
 4. The church of the 1st century was a **magnet to males**. Jesus' strong leadership, blunt honesty, & bold action mesmerized men.
 5. All of these men had 2 things in common: they had an **intense commitment to God**, & they were what you's call **saintly**.
- F. Slide#13 Gen.1:26,27 (msg) **God created human beings; he created them godlike, Reflecting God's nature. He created them male and female. God blessed them: **Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible** for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth.**
- G. For most of human history a man would go through 2 life phases...**boy** to **man**.²
1. This **transition** was made up of **5 events** that happened almost simultaneously: Leave your parents home. Finish your vocational training or education. Start a career tract. Meet a woman, love her, honor her, court her, marry her. Parent children with her.
 2. Rather than moving from boyhood to manhood we created a **3rd life stage** in the middle called **adolescence**.
 - a) It starts with the **teen years** & *in many cases* **continues indefinitely**.
 - b) Maybe the problem in our culture is that ***we don't know when*** we become men. **And, no pressure** is exerted on us to do so in society today.
 - c) **Is it** when we can legally drive, vote, join the military, or drink alcohol? Is it when we graduate from High school or college? Is it when we get married, have kids, buy a house...no one knows. No one will say.
 - d) **We are left with *indefinite adolescence!***
 - e) Slide#14 Driscoll called it a **Peter Pan syndrome** where some men want to remain boys forever (singing, *I don't want to grow up*) (*reason?* most despise/fearful of responsibility)
 - (1) Then some who make it to manhood, get married, have kids...**but then reverting back to boyhood in what we term a mid-life crisis**. [Some changing in their wives for a newer model]
 - f) Paul said(paraphrased), **When I was a boy, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a boy. But when I grew up, I put away boyish things.** (1 Cor.13:11)

² This is taken from Mark & Grace Driscoll, Real Marriage, ch.3.

- g) You were made to be a **producer...not just a consumer**.
- H. Slide#15 Men were told to **Take Charge** (subdue it) - This appointment by God gave man the **privilege but also responsibility** as *caretakers* of Gods backyard.
- I. Men were told to **Be Responsible** (have dominion) - **Man is to rule or have dominion**. God's dominion was presented by a *representative*.
1. **Be His Representative** - Egyptian kings later **represented** their rule or dominion by making representative statues of themselves.
 - a) Men **you** are God's *representative* here, **you sons-of-God**.
 2. **Be a Leader** - **Yes**, leadership is needed w/in the home, **but also outside the home** to **sustain the common good** & the **direction** of those around him. **And, lead with a sense of sacrifice & responsibility**.
 - a) Also, to stand as a **protector** of all those under his care, particularly over **women & children**, as well as **all vulnerable**, in need of defense [orphans, widows, hurting, enslaved, etc]. **If need be, to sacrifice his very life** to protect others.
- J. What if **Men** were about, not just trying to *please their wives*, or to *fulfill religious tradition*, **but men** who were spiritually alive **to rock their world**. We don't need to call **men** back to the **church**. We need to call the **church** back to **men**. :)
- K. **Want to fix your marriage?** - Do what God said in ch.1 of the bible.
- L. **Want to have a good dating relationship?** - Do what God said in ch.1 of the bible.
- M. **Want to attract an awesome Christian woman?** Do what God said in ch.1 - **Take charge/be responsible**
1. **Jesus is giving you freedom to be male, a real man**. Adventurous, passionate in your pursuits, willing to fight for what is right.
 2. **Jesus** the *ultimate man*, the *ultimate lover*, and the *ultimate fighter*.
 - a) Col.2:15 (msg) **He/Jesus stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets**.

IV. Slide#16 **WOMEN** - *He created them female...*

- A. **Mothers Day**: Honoring Mothers was so important God placed its instruction right in the 5th commandment. *Honor your father & mother*. Deut.5:16
1. Slide#17,18blank As one said, *"The first 10 years of the life of a child lie in the heart of its mother. All the remaining years will be colored by the touches of those 'mother years'."*
 2. **Moses, Samuel, & Timothy** lives were shaped by their praying, spirit-led mothers.
 3. **So we can remember our moms**: *night vigils, seasons of intercession, maybe her well-marked Bible, or soulful words of admonition...if you were blessed with a godly mom*.
 4. The best **monument** that a child can raise to a mother's memory is that of a *clean, upright life*, such as she would have rejoiced to see him/her live.

- B. The profession of motherhood is *more than* a **variety of tasks**:
1. It involves a **higher calling**. It is a calling to **invest years** in the life of another. It is a calling to **love unconditionally**. It is a calling to **sacrifice**. It requires a **serving heart** & a willingness to **give**.
 2. "A mother's love runs so deep, that God has to specifically tell her son that he must **leave her, & cling to his wife!**" :)
- C. **Slide#19 Mother** is used approx. 300 x's in Scripture.
1. In Scripture we have **every kind** of mother: *rich moms, poor moms, single moms, widowed moms, moms that suffered hardships, moms that seemed to have had a easy life. **One mom that brought the Messiah into the world, & another that boiled & ate her son*** (2 Kings 6:29).
- D. **And what is required of moms today?** It's the most creative job in the world & involves: Fashion, decorating, recreation, education, transportation, psychology, romance, cuisine, literature, art, economics, government, pediatrics, geriatrics, entertainment, maintenance, purchasing, law, religion, energy and management.
1. **Anyone who can handle all those has to be somebody special.**
- E. **HONOR**
- F. **Proverbs Book Overview**: Proverbs has much to say about **wicked women** & about **nagging wives in** (Ch's.1-9). **The** book closes, however, with a glorious tribute to the **godly, dedicated woman** who brings **honor** to God & **joy** to her family.
1. The book of Proverbs **begins** with the wise words of **a father**(1:8) **and ends** w/the wise words of **a mother**.
 - a) 1st & last, **the home** is the bastion of the nation. *As the home is, so is the homeland.*
- G. **Slide#20 Motherhood, a Powerful Profession**-They can even guide the hearts of kings.i.e.Lemuel's mom Prov.31
1. She taught him lessons on **chastity & self-control** (1-7)
 2. **And** that the **afflicted** are to be **comforted & defended** (8,9)
 3. **Slide#21 Happy** is that person who **had** a God-fearing mother who warned about sin; **and happier** is the person who **heeded** her warnings.
 - a) She teaches him the perils of **loose living** (i.e. Promiscuous sex & drunkenness) **& the universal duty of compassion**.
 - b) **Open your mouth for the speechless** - Speak **up** or speak **out**. **Make your views heard**.
 - (1) The speechless refers to people who are *unable to defend themselves*. People "who cannot speak for themselves." "Those who are helpless."
 - (a) Be an advocate for those who cannot speak up for themselves. **Like what Jesus did it for the women taken in adultery.**
 - (b) **Babies** who will be aborted are **speechless**. **Children** sold into slavery don't have a voice. **Young boys & girls** sold into prostitution are **voiceless**.

H. Mothers, what would you like your son or daughter to remember you by?

1. This is what her son (*Lemuel*) remembered.

a) By him writing this tells its own story of his acceptance of these powerful warnings.

I. Mom's don't allow your grown children to *remain children*, but help them to become **adults**.

1. Motherhood is a *delicate dance* between **mothering & smothering**.

a) *Balance?* – Don't force, don't push, don't smother.

2. Mom's continue to look for opportunities to **share wisdom** with them.

3. Give **God** centered counsel, **not mom** centered. (point them to **Jesus**)

J. **Prov. 31:10-31** form an *acrostic* in Hebrew (22vs - 22 letters). **The ABC's of the perfect Wife/Mother.**

K. **SACRIFICE**

L. **Slide#22** A **good mother** is the symbol & incarnation of **sacrificial love & care**.

1. In *Lithuanian* the word for **mother**(*motina*/*moTenUH*) means **martyr**.

a) It is a beautiful picture of **sacrificial motherhood**. (A Mothers Devotion)

M. In **2 Sam.21:10** In the long annals of sacrificial Motherhood we know of nothing more beautiful or moving than **Rizpah's** devotion.

1. **Rizpah**, 1 of the wives of king Saul. When her 2 sons were hung by David as a satisfaction for the Gibeonites, because Saul blew off his covenant with them & had sacked their towns. **Rizpah took up a sad & lonely vigil (from barley harvest, til 1st rain, end of summer)**. **Day by day night by night there she stood waving off circling birds & vultures, & by night prowling jackal & wolf**. When David heard of this **mother's devotion**, he went in person to Gibeon, took down the bodies & gave them a decent burial.

2. Her noble act is a picture, or symbol, of a mothers care **for the bodies** of her children, & **still more, for the welfare of their souls**.

N. To the tired moms:

1. One young mother said to her friend, "He's eating **solids** now...*keys, bits-of-paper, pencils*."

a) Oh, **moms of toddlers** don't give up. **Moms of teens** don't give up.

Moms of prodigals don't give up. **Moms of special needs kids** don't give up.

2. **Who was greater, Thomas A. Edison or his mother?** When he was a young lad his teacher sent him home with a note which said, '*Your child is dumb. We can't do anything for him.*' Mrs. Edison wrote back, '*You do not understand my boy. I will teach him myself*'. And she did, with results that are well known.

3. Mothers, **It's worth it. It's worth it. It's worth every hour** of it.

It's worth every sleepless night of it. **It's worth every moment of counsel**.

It's worth the repetitions. It's worth it.

a) Like the little boy who said, “Mom, I remember that little prayer you used to say for me every day, “*God help you if you ever do that again!*”

- O. Slide#23 (10) Adorn -it is used of the arrangement of jewels in a manner to set off their full beauty (LKGNT)
1. It then entices/attracts. We are to adorn *the doctrine of God* to those around us.
 2. Is the way you live out the gospel & share the gospel an attractant or a repellent?
- P. Whether *young or old, married or single*, we are all needed in the local church.
1. God has a job for us to do. Regardless of age, gender, occupation, or any other classification. He calls us to *live differently*.
 2. Don't just **protect** sound doctrine, **practice** sound doctrine.
 3. Since God **did not** design the Christian life to be lived *independently*. *Interweave your lives* into the **community life** of the church.