

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
March 17, 2024

"Both young men and virgins; Old men and children. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above earth and heaven." - Psalm 148:12-13



“*” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Revelation 22:12-17

Leader: Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me,

People: To render to every man according to what he has done.

Leader: I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last,

People: The beginning and the end.

Leader: Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life,

People: And may enter by the gates into the city.

Leader: Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters,

People: And everyone who loves and practices lying.

Leader: I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things

People: For the churches.

Leader: I am the root and the descendant of David,

People: The bright morning star.

Leader: The Spirit and the bride say, Come.

People: And let the one who hears say, Come.

Leader: And let the one who is thirsty come;

People: Let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Revelation 19:7-9

***Hymn #717** (red hymnal) – *“Blest the Man That Feels Jehovah”*

Scripture Reading – 1Timothy 5:1-16; 1Peter 3:1-6

Ancient Creedal Reading – Apostles’ Creed (pg#845 in the red hymnal)

Offerings Presented

[Please put your tithe/offering in the plates before or after the service – Thank you!]

***Doxology #731** (red hymnal)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Prayer of Dedication

***Sung Psalm #96A** (see insert below) – “O Sing a New Song”

Prayers of the Church & Lord’s Prayer (sins)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Reformation Creedal Reading – Westminster Larger Catechism (1647 AD), Q124

Leader: *Who are meant by father and mother in the Fifth Commandment (which is “honor your father and your mother”)?*

People: **By father and mother, in the fifth commandment,**

Leader: *Are meant, not only natural parents,*

Prov 23:22,25; Eph 6:1-2

People: **But all superiors in age**

1Tim 5:1-2

Leader: *And gifts;*

Gen 4:20-22; 45:8

People: **And especially such as,**

Leader: *By God’s ordinance, are over us in place of authority,*

People: **Whether in family,**

2Kgs 5:13

Leader: *Church,*

2Kgs 2:12, 13:14; Gal 4:19

People: **Or commonwealth.**

Is 49:23

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Titus 2:3-5

***Gloria Patri #735** (red hymnal)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Sermon – “Older & Younger Women”

A Sermon Series from the Letter of Paul to Titus

***Hymn #719** (red hymnal) – “A Christian Home”

***Benediction** – Numbers 6:24-26

[After service, until 12:30 PM, there is coffee hour fellowship downstairs – Everyone is welcome!]

Announcements

- *Favor to ask:* Please do not put any **liquids** in the garage bags in the grange, especially during coffee hour.
- Last week the elders polled the congregation about their preference for church to **start during the summer** (there will be no Sunday School in the summer). The results were:
9:00 AM = 7 9:30 AM = 7 10:00 AM = 9 10:30 AM = 7
Thank you for voting; The elders will make the decision and report back to the congregation.
- The church is organizing an **Internet Prayer Chain**, which will be coming soon.

Schedule & Upcoming Events

- On **Easter** (March 31st) new members will be joining the church.
 - We will be taking a *picture* of the whole congregation after service.
 - There will be *no Coffee Hour* on Easter.
- Pastor Doug will be starting a **new Adult Sunday School Study** on April 7th going through the great creeds of the ancient church (Apostles, Nicene, Athanasian and Chalcedon Creeds). We will read through the Westminster Larger Catechism in September.
- On Saturday, July 20th (with a rain date of July 27th), there will be a **pool party and picnic** for the church at the Gabelmann house. (Time & details to be announced.)

Normal Weekly Schedule

Sunday

9:00-10:15 AM

Sunday School for All Ages

- Younger Children's Class (Vika Winters)
- Older Children's Class (Mason Goodell)
- Women's Study (Verna Aldrich)
Taking Hold of God: Reformed & Puritan Perspectives
on Prayer edited by Joel R. Beeke & Brian G. Najapfour
- Adult Study (Pastor Jon Haulenbeek)
Introduction to the Psalms for March 3rd - 24th.
- New Member's Class (Pastor Doug Aldrich)
For March 3rd - 24th.

10:30 AM

LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

(Lord's Supper on the 1st Sunday)

c.11:40 AM

Coffee Hour

Tuesday

10:30 AM – Noon

Christian Classic Study (Pastor Doug's house)
Augustine's City of God

Wednesday

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Study (Pastor Doug's house)
Book of Genesis

Friday

6:30 PM

YADG – Young Adult Discussion Group (Pastor Doug's house)
1st & 3rd Fridays

Saturday

[*morning*]

Prayer Group – Meets at the Decker-Gabelmann house.
If you are interested, please contact Sheryl Gabelmann.

Contact Information

Worship: Every Sunday at 10:30 AM at the Winchester Grange
100 Newfield Rd, Winchester Center, CT 06098

Church's Mailing Address: Trinity Reformed Church; P.O. Box 343; Riverton, CT 06065

Pastor Doug: (860) 379-1147; douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net

Online Resources

Church's Facebook Page: facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/

Church's Webpage: TrinityReformedCT.org

Church Youtube Channel: youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT

Pastor Doug's Youtube Channels:

Simply Reformed: youtube.com/simplyreformed

Pilgrims of Plunder: youtube.com/@PilgrimsofPlunder

Liking, Commenting, Sharing
facebook posts and Subscribing,
Liking, Commenting on youtube
helps boost TRC's online
outreach.

Leadership

Teaching & Preaching Elder: Pastor Doug Aldrich
(860-379-1147; douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net)

Ruling Elders: Bob Ensminger
(860-485-8738; robert.ensminger@arthurgrussell.com)
Rich Gabelmann
(860-605-7852; rgabelmann0415@gmail.com)

Deacons: David Mattson (*chair*), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell,
Mason Goodell, Dean Winters

Music Coordinator & Treasurer: Cindy Rines

Clerk: Sheryl Gabelmann

Sunday School: Verna Aldrich, Mason Goodell

Sermon Notes

Titus 2:3-5

"Older & Younger Women"

A Sermon Series on the Book of Titus

March 17, 2024

Introduction

1) If you were a preacher, what would be the hardest biblical subject for you to preach on?

a) Hell? Sin? Christ is the only way? Authority of the church? Tithing? Slavery?

b) I think for many preachers, and parishioners, it would be the biblical teaching and commands given to women.

2) You see this by the way male/female verses are preached.

a) What is the old joke, that has a lot of truth in it, that:

i) On Mother's Day we praise how great mothers are.

ii) On Father's Day we savage men for being terrible.

b) Or when we preach on the beautiful passage of Ephesians 5:25 - "*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her*" it is preached boldly, without qualification, calling on all husbands to repent and do better.

- i) Yet the verse before it, Ephesians 5:24b - "*so also the wives ought to be (subject) to their husbands in everything*" gets what reaction?
 - Scoffing laughter, or rolled eyes, in the congregation?
 - Numerous nervous qualifications, if not apologizing, from the pulpit?
 - Frequently, the text is just ignored or even overtly rejected from the pulpit. (E.g. the Bible is sexist, misogynistic, patriarchal, and should be rejected.)
 - Isn't that verse, however, beautiful too? Like all of Scripture? Ps 119:96-97
 - ii) By the way, if you lose Ephesians 5:24 you will lose all of verse 25, including: loving husbands, families, the church, and even Christ.
 - iii) As we seen in our insane, godless, anti-family, secular culture.
- 3) Now, are there real qualifications we can come up with for a verse like Ephesians 5:24?
- a) Sure! If a man assaults his wife that is a huge problem.
 - i) The authorities (magistrate, church, etc.) should get involved.
 - ii) Just as Paul warns male elders about the sins of being self-willed, quick-tempered, drunkard, and pugnacious (literally a striker, being violent, a bully) in Titus 1:7
 - b) However, why is our first reaction to Ephesians 5:24 to go to the worst case scenario?
 - i) And we never to do that with Ephesians 5:25? (Which easily could be done, just ask any hen-pecked abused husband.)
 - ii) Because we have an idol, we have been taught by the world to rebel against God's Word.
 - c) So, for today, no more qualifications, no more "*yeah, but . . .*". Instead let us fully hear our sermon text, following Pastor Voddie Baucham's phenomenal advice for preachers: "***Just say what the Book says!***"

Titus 3:3a – Commands to Older Women

- 1) Titus is one of the Pastoral Epistles, books written by the Apostle Paul to pastors (Timothy & Titus) about how to govern the church.
- 2) In chapter 1 of Titus, Paul focuses on elders, those who govern the church.
 - a) In chapter 2, Paul turns to other critical groups in the church.
 - b) Last week we looked at "older men".
 - c) Today, women.
- 3) Why this order?
 - a) Because the Bible commands we should respect our elders (in both the sense of office and of age)¹
 - b) Thus, Paul commands "*older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine,*" - Titus 2:3a
- 4) Let us go through each of these fruits of the Spirit.

¹ Lev 19:32; Prov 23:22; Lam 5:12; 1Tim 5:1; Titus 2:2; 1Pet 5:5.

5) **Reverent in their behavior** (ιεροπρεπής) – To be religious.

a) To show how worldly the church has gotten we don't even like the word "religion" or "religious" anymore.

b) We hear that stupid phrase: "*Christianity is a relationship not a religion.*"

i) Of course it's a religion! It's the one true religion.

ii) The Bible calls Christianity a religion.

James 1:27

iii) Not all relationships are good. Having a relationship with Satan is not helpful.

John 8:44

iv) It's not either/or! As if we had to choose from:

- Believing in correct doctrine, belonging to an organized church, and engaging in proscribed acts of piety. (i.e. the definition of a religion).

Those things we have been hearing throughout Titus!

- And being in a state of affinity and kindred spirit with Christ. (i.e. the definition of "relationship")²

These two things fundamentally go together!

c) One of the huge problems the modern church faces is that we have been feminized, focusing on emotions and relationships instead of truth and correct action.

e) To correct this: Older women, like all Christians, should be religious, such as going to church, praying, reading their Bibles, daily dying to sin and living for Christ.

6) **Not malicious gossips** (διάβολος)

a) Though gossip is a sin for either gender, this is a sin that women in particular wrestle with.

i) Why? Because our strength is our weakness.

ii) Just like men are created to provide, protect and lead, thus are more susceptible to the sin of violence.

iii) So too, women are called to nurture, care and support, thus are more susceptible to the sin of gossip.

b) There is the generic word for "gossip": *psithyrismos*

Eccles 10:11; Rom 1:29; 2Cor 12:20

i) It is from the word "to whisper".

ii) This is to provide harmful information about someone told in secret, as opposed to an open detractor. (*katalalos*, "slanders", Rom 1:30)

iii) It also includes whispering about information that should be kept secret.

iv) It is used in Ecclesiastes 10:11 to allude to a snake-charmer.

v) This is a dangerous sin.

vi) It is rooted in violating the 9th Commandment, "*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*" - Ex 20:16

c) The word used in Titus 2:3, however, is far more intense.

Prov 20:19; 1Tim 3:11; 5:13; 2Tim 3:3

² It is interesting to note that the 1828 Webster's definition of "relationship" is "RELATIONSHIP, noun The state of being related by kindred, affinity or other alliance. [This word is generally tautological and useless.]" A "tautology" is "a needless repetition of words that mean the same thing."

i) What the NASB calls “*malicious gossips*” is one word: “*diabolos*”.

- Literally “devilish” or “deviltry”.

- Directly from the word for “the devil.”

1Tim 3:6-7,11

- The Hebrew word for “*satan*” implies the “adversary, antagonist, slanderer and/or the accuser.”

John 8:44

ii) This is “malicious slander” (see the ESV and NET translations).
Or “false accusers” as translated in the KJV.

d) Gossip that is about your ego is bad. Gossip that is seeking to destroy is demonic.

7) **Enslaved to much wine** (οἶνον πολλῶ δεδολωμένους)

a) Paul returns to a common theme in the pastorals about the dangers of alcohol.

i) Elders are not to be “addicted to wine.”

1Tim 3:3; Titus 1:7

ii) So too deacons.

1Tim 3:8

iii) Older men are to be “temperate”.

Titus 2:3

b) Both Old and New Testaments warn about the dangerous of drunkenness.

Prov 20:1; 23:20-21,29-30; 31:5-7; Is 5:22; 28:7;

Hos 4:11; Matt 24:49; Luke 21:34 Rom 13:13;

1Cor 6:10; Eph 5:18; Gal 5:21; 1Tim 3:3,8

c) Being enslaved to alcohol is a sign of a real problem and one that intensifies other sins.

i) Just ponder today’s sermon text.

ii) Does drunkenness encourage being reverent, able to teach what is good, sensible, pure, a good keeper of the house, kind, submissive, and/or bringing honor to God’s Word?

iii) Or, does it make you do more of the opposite of those things, while engaging in devilry (including malicious gossip, especially for a woman)?

d) One of the most common reasons for indulging in alcohol is escapism.

Prov 23:28-35

i) This is a sign of a greatly compromised faith.

ii) It shows a lack of trust in God and His sovereign control of time itself.

iii) Also, it shows an unwillingness to deal with a particular sin and/or problem.

Titus 3:3b – Older Women to Teach Young Women

1) Of course these fruits of the spirit apply to all Christians, including younger women.

a) The reason Paul focuses on elders, then older men, then older women, is it is their responsibility to model and teach these things in the church.

b) As Paul commands older women, “**Teaching What is Good**” (καλοδιδασκάλους)

2) “*Teaching*” is to provide instruction about doctrine.

a) Remember all “teaching” is dogmatic, doctrinal and about morality.

b) There is no neutrality when it comes to God.

3) “Good” is what is pleasing to God, according to God’s revealed will as taught in God’s Law.

Neh 9:13; Rom 7:16;

1Tim 1:8; Heb 10:1

a) So, “good” is that which, ***in God’s sight***, is beautiful, fine, fitting, proper, moral, important, valuable, of high status, advantageous and of superior benefit.

- b) Goodness exists because it reflects God's nature, which is by definition good, because God is good. Ps 34:8; 100:5; 135:3; 145:9; Jer 33:11; Lam 3:25; Nah 1:7
- 4) Older women are to teach. However, there is a clear context to this teaching.
- a) This is not about preaching at, or teaching men, but *"so that they may encourage the young women."* - Titus 2:4a Is 3:12; 1Cor 14:34; 1Tim 2:12
- b) Besides the simple particularity of the matter (i.e. issues of decorum and personal insight), the focus is on the importance of the family.
- c) As a generalization, men are to be focused outwardly and women inwardly.
- d) As the "two become one", both genders bring their different strengths to the family and help each other in their weaknesses. Gen 2:20-25; Matt 19:5-6; 1Cor 6:16; Eph 5:31-33
- 5) Family is not a bad thing, being a wife and mother is not a curse, as taught by our culture. Instead it is a glorious calling.
- a) Proverbs 31:10 - *"An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels."*
- b) Proverbs 12:4 - *"An excellent wife is the crown of her husband"*

Titus 2:4-5 - Older Women to Teach Young Women

- 1) What are the older women to teach the younger?
- a) Answer: ***"to love their husbands, to love their children"***.
- b) Literally *"husband-lovers"* (φιλανδρος) and *"children-lovers"*. (φιλότεκνος)
- 2) This is not technically *"agape love"*, though that always applies in every situation. 1Cor 13:4ff
- a) This is *"philia"* or *"friendship"* love, in the sense of being bound together.
- b) This is primarily about actions, as Paul shows with the fruits that he lists next.
- 3) **Sensible** (σώφρων) - To be moderate, self-controlled, prudent, sound, sober-minded and/or discreet. 1Tim 3:2; Titus 1:8; 2:2,5;
- a) This is about having self-discipline with regard to one's freedom.
- b) And self-restraint in all of one's passions and desires.
- 4) **Pure** (ἄγνος)³ - To be innocent, chaste, blameless, modest (especially with regards to sexuality), free from defilement
- a) Though everyone is called to purity, this is an especially importantly calling for women. 1Pet 3:1-4
- b) If women are inwardly focused on the home, it is critical that women are to be pure, less the whole family lineage be destroyed.
- c) Also, as a generalization, this is a strength of women, as witnessed by the fact that they usually have a much better understanding of the dangers of pornography and have an easier time resisting that sin.
- d) Historically, women have been viewed as the great moral defenders of the home, which is a noble and good calling.

³ Lev 23:40; Ps 12:6; 19:9; Prov 15:26; 19:13; 20:9; 21:8; Job 40:22; 2Cor 7:11; 11:2; Phil 4:8; 1Tim 5:22; Titus 2:5; James 3:17; 1Pet 3:2; 1John 3:3

5) **Workers at home** (οἰκουργός)

- a) In Greek this is one word (οἰκουργός) which literally means “*homemaker*” or “*house-worker*”.
- b) If there is no home there is no civilization!
- c) Women are better at homemaking. Prov 12:4; 19:14; 31:10-31; 1Tim 5:14
 - i) That women are skilled at homemaking is a blessing.
 - ii) Is there any doubt?
 - iii) Question, when you skinned your knee as a little child who did you run to for comfort? Your mother or your father?

6) **Kind** (ἀγαθός) – To be good (in a moral sense), generous, gentle

- a) Another virtue that women are generally better at than men.
- b) And it should first be focused in the family.

7) **Being subject to their husbands** (ὑποτασσομένας τοῖς ἰδίοις ἀνδράσιν)

- a) Literally, “*being subjected to the(ir) own men*”. 1Cor 14:34-35; Eph 5:22ff; Col 3:18ff; 1Tim 2:11ff; Titus 2:5; 1Pet 3:1ff
- b) This is to obey, be obedient, under the control of, etc.
- c) For most modern people, either men or women, this is one of these verses where our usual first response is either rejection or creating a list of objections or qualifications.
 - i) Why? For thousands of generations this wasn’t a problem.
 - ii) Question, how does a democracy of two work?
 - iii) Women, do you really dislike the idea that someone will provide for and protect you?
 - iv) Also, women, do you find emasculated men attractive or confident, capable men?
 - v) Whatever objection comes to mind why don’t you think of the opposite?
 - For example, if a woman honestly thinks “*but its really hard for us wives to obey our husbands.*”
 - Okay, however, have you ever thought of, “*its really hard for us husbands to love our wives*”?
 - vi) Or, how about this: “*I will respect my husband if he earns my respect*”, does the opposite apply? That “*your husband will only love you if you earn his love*”?
- d) The problem is the sin of hyper-individualism and entitlement, that we believe the individual is the most important and that we are entitled to happiness.
- e) Instead of focusing on our neighbor and that we (by our own abilities Rom 3:10ff outside of Christ) are only entitled to God’s wrath. Eph 2:1-10
- f) Some quick advice about loving our neighbor (which includes our spouse):
 - i) Focus on what you should be giving unto them, what they need according to their being, not by your standards, or demanding things for yourself.
 - ii) In the context of marriage, men are to work on loving their wives. Eph 5:21ff
 - iii) And women are to work on obeying/respecting their husbands.

8) We see the problem by the confusion we have with Paul’s reasoning: “***so that the word of God will not be dishonored***”

- a) Does that confuse you? Why?
- b) Because we have been taught to first focus on ourselves, next (maybe but increasingly less so) how can I have a happy marriage (for myself), then maybe how I can volunteer at the church (to make myself feel good about myself).
- c) The Bible has a very different agenda:
First focus on the church, Christ's spiritual body on earth,
Then focus on your family,
Finally, focus on yourself that you might be found faithful and long-suffering.
- d) This is completely alien to our modern worldly thinking.
 - i) As witnessed by a similar verse, maybe one of the hardest for moderns to hear:
 - ii) 1Timothy 6:1 – *“All who are under the yoke as slaves are to regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against.”* (More about that in a later sermon.)
- e) If one's home is not a good place will that not affect the older men? The elders?
And most importantly the church?

Conclusion

- 1) Having a good home is a great blessings and a major gospel ministry!
 - a) Raising up godly children is one of the best ways to strengthen and grow Christ's church.
 - b) Having a stable loving home greatly encourages men to provide even more for their household, and how much more so for the church?
 - c) The church should be concerned about the family.
 - d) This includes thinking and acting intergenerationally.
- 2) Praise God that He has made men and women different and that we need each other, and that we compliment each other.
- 3) *“So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”* - Galatians 6:10
- 4) The church is the bride of Christ, let us rest in His love, and love those whom He has given us.