



Encouragement for the Young...

by Sarah Mizell

Older women likewise...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, that the word of God may not be dishonored. Titus 2:3-5

Do we allow the older women to do this? Do we think they're being "bossy" or "know-it-alls"? Do we view what they say as unsolicited advice?

Older women have at least 3 major things that younger women do not:

- **Perspective.** They know not to sweat the small stuff. They know what really matters and what is important because they've already been where we are. They've made it through the stage of life we're in and have come out on the other side. They have the hindsight to know where our focus should be.
- **Experience.** This doesn't mean the older women have all the answers to every situation. But very likely they've gone through a similar situation that younger women are struggling through. If they don't have a helpful solution for us, they can offer us empathetic support.
- **Wisdom.** They've gained this wisdom from life experience and from studying God's word and applying it to their lives.



Some of us are fortunate and blessed enough to have women in our family that help guide us and that we draw strength from. I'm blessed with my Mammaw who, to me, is the 21st Century "Virtuous Woman." She married my Pappaw when she was 16, never finished school, and was a mother at 17. She raised her 10 brothers and sisters along with her own 4 kids.



She took care of her family and others always before doing for herself. She was always an example of a Godly wife and continues to be a tremendous example of what God wants me to be as a mother and a Christian woman. As I watch her and listen to her words of wisdom, I can only try to soak it all in with hopes of being more like her. Sadly, I don't get to be with her as often as I'd like. However, there are many women like my Mammaw that are part of our Brownsburg church family. We can learn so much from these women, such as things as simple as how to fold a fitted sheet or get a stain out of a shirt, to more critical things like how to deal with a strong-willed child or how to be the wives, mothers, friends and examples that God wants us to

be.

No one can help us in any of these areas, however, if we aren't receptive and willing to listen. Instead of seeking answers and advice from some "expert" who has PhD after his name, we should be seeking out the Godly older women who can share their experience and wisdom with us and who care enough about our souls to help us be who God would have us to be.