

## **Young People Who Make a Positive Impact** **1 Timothy 5:11-15**

### **Introduction:**

1. Satan desires to convince young people that their actions carry no consequences and that they have no real impact. He says, “Live and let live; eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die; do what feels good; live to please yourself; don’t worry about your destructive behavior, you’re only hurting yourself.”
2. Of course, none of these statements are true. They are all lies that are designed to bring young people into bondage and destroy them.
3. Your life has impact – not just on yourself, but also on those around you. As a believer, your life and actions have the ability to either help or hinder the cause of Christ, and to help or hinder the cause of Satan.
4. Our text deals with the issue of young ladies (specifically young widows). This was very prevalent in Paul’s day. Paul is dealing with the issue of widows and instructs the church not to support any lady who is under 60 years old. Why? vs. 11-12
  - It appears that widows that were needy would make a spiritual commitment to Christ to serve the church wholeheartedly with their lives, and the church, in turn, would meet their needs. Paul says that younger widows would be tempted to go back on their commitment to Christ and get remarried, therefore they were not to be considered.
5. But then Paul gives instruction to young ladies about how they can live a godly and exemplary life. Why? Look at the end of verse 14: that they “*give none occasion...*” (cf. Titus 2:5), “...*that the Word of God be not blasphemed.*”
6. What is the point? Young ladies, your life has impact, either for good or bad, for Christ or for Satan. How can your life make a positive impact for Christ? There are three principles that Paul gives in our text.

### **First, a godly work**

1. One of Paul’s greatest fears was that these young ladies would learn to be idle (inactive, lazy). Have you ever heard the expression, “Idle hands are the devil’s workshop?” No, that phrase is not in the Bible, but the principle is there.
  - The idea is of a person who wastes time in a non-productive manner.
2. Two different times, Paul equates idleness with becoming a busybody (becoming consumed with other people’s business and lives). 2 Thessalonians 3:11; 1 Timothy 5:13
3. A lack of productive activity leads people into sin. This is so applicable to today. So many young people today do not possess a good work ethic. Many young ladies would rather surf the web, spend time on Facebook, e-mail and text everybody they know, send pictures, and look at everybody else’s pictures, etc. By the way, many young men would rather play video games than work!
4. When we are constantly idle, the devil will be more than happy to find things to occupy our time, and it will be things with no redeeming value. This country is in

- trouble because fewer and fewer young people understand the meaning of the word “work.”
5. Young people, take a little advice from somebody older than you. Make a decision to spend less and less time in your social media outlets and more time in good, honest, and profitable work. Idle hands **are** the devil’s workshop. Young ladies, let your life be a testimony of a godly work.

### **Second, a godly mouth**

1. What happens when young people are not actively engaged in profitable behavior (vs. 13)? They become tattlers and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.
  - Paul talks about ladies going from house to house and running their mouths. Today, people do not have to go physically from house to house to spread gossip. They can go house to house in a matter of seconds via their computers or phones.
  - When you become a busybody in other people’s business, you inevitably end up saying things which you shouldn’t say.
2. One of the keys to having a godly mouth is to practice shutting it more!  
Proverbs 10:19
3. But I must say, this is not applicable to only verbal, spoken words. Today, people speak through their phones and computers, and oh, how they talk!
  - People will sit behind their keyboards and say things they would never say to somebody’s face. This is such an incredible danger, and you need to beware. Never type something that you wouldn’t say verbally.
  - What a shame when people resort to Facebook to gossip, slander, and criticize others. This is wrong and sinful.
4. But what a testimony it is when a young lady is discreet and demonstrates a godly, Christ-honoring mouth. She speaks gracious and kind words that edify and build up others. Proverbs 31 says that “*She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.*”

### **Third, a godly home**

1. The idea of verse 14 is that if young ladies will do what this verse says, it will keep them from trouble and will keep Satan from getting an advantage against the work of Christ and His church.
2. The world completely demeans the incredible and powerful work of verse 14. If a young lady’s goals and dreams center around the things in this verse, she is made to feel stupid and worthless. This, of course, is Satan’s trick and Satan’s ploy to undermine the home.
3. The idea of this verse is that the young lady who marries and has children makes it her number one priority to provide a loving home in which her family is well taken care of.
  - Titus 2 says that the older women should teach the younger women to love their husbands, love their children, and be keepers at home.

4. We know that God has given the man the responsibility of leading his wife and family in a godly, Christ-like way, but it is the wife who guides the home day in and day out. She sets the temperature and turns a house into a home.
5. These three points all tie together. Many young ladies enter marriage without a good work ethic today. As a result, they are more interested in other people's business than their own home. They are used to being served, not serving.
6. Let us make one thing clear: to provide a godly, clean, loving home is W-O-R-K.
  - Keeping a nice, clean home for her family, cooking nutritious, well-balanced meals, seeing that the family has clean, pressed clothes to wear, being actively engaged in her kids' schooling (both academically and spiritually), encouraging and helping her husband in his work, being an example in serving others in need in the church body, etc. It is work to keep up a home and take care of a family.
  - I adore my mother today for her incredible home-making skills. I did not appreciate the work or sacrifice as a child or teen, but I sure do today! She truly made our house a home. She said, "That was the only thing that was important to me. I just loved you kids so much and was so proud of you."
  - It is also all that my wife ever wanted – to take care of her home and family. She is the glue that keeps everything together. She is a master at what she does.
7. How can a young lady make a positive impact for Christ? She can possess:
  - A godly work
  - A godly mouth
  - A godly home