

Titus 2:1-10
“Journeyman and apprentice”

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I. Introduction

Reading Paul’s letter to Titus causes us to realize that our Lord is not interested in us becoming people who have spiritual and religious, theories or philosophies. He wants His people to live outward transformed lives, this is what He calls sound doctrine. We are called to live for eternity today not sit on the sidelines and wait for Him to come!

Bookshelves full of theological books don’t stand a chance next to a loving well-ordered home. The things listed by Paul are a recipe on how to have a healthy Church.

II. Vs. 1-3 A recipe for a healthy church

Vs. 1 Paul commands Titus to teach “*sound doctrine*”; the idea behind this phrase isn’t right thinking its right living. In fact the N.L.T. interprets this verse as “*Promote the kind of living that reflects right teaching.*” Many people, even those within the Church, cannot escape the fact that the Bible is a book that tells us HOW TO LIVE! **People would prefer to have teaching that would inspire and encourage, not teaching that would convict and correct!** In Matthew 28 inverses 19-21 Jesus said that we were to teach “*them ALL THINGS that I have commanded you.*”

Vs. 2 In general older men need to conduct their lives in the wisdom and grace that age and experience has given them. They also should have both a disposition and stability that is often lacking when we are younger. These four standards are for all older men in

the church and for the younger men to be trained by the older with a goal to these standards:

- a. **Sober:** Paul doesn't say "*sober minded*", the exhortation is to be temperate in the use of intoxicating drink. It is not an all-out ban but moderation and discretion. It is interesting that this is the first quality mentioned as it may not ensure that the others would be complied but it would no doubt increase the odds.
- b. **Reverent:** The word means dignified or perhaps we would say "*classy*" and speaks of a person who when they speak people pay attention not only for the wisdom and experience in which they speak but also the humility.
- c. **Temperate:** This Greek word describes an attitude of the mind that leads to a self-controlled life and is the opposite of a careless life. We are to be people who lives with a purpose who can't afford to waste time for we realize time is short.
- d. **Sound in faith, in love, in patience:** Older men should know what they believe but also be able to not only communicate what they believe be words but also by action. The word "*patience*" is a word that means "*active endurance*" and not "*passive waiting*".

Vs. 3 The use of the word "likewise" suggests that the older women were to have the same four qualities as the older men plus ***four additional ones***.

- a. **Reverent in behavior:** They must deplore a behavior that reflects a transformed life, one lived in holiness and grace.
- b. **Not slanders:** the Greek word for "*slanders*" is **devil** and the meaning is that they must not be "*false accusers*" picking up gossip and spreading it around. This was an apparent past time on the Island of Crete. Slander and gossip are quite literally satan's work. It is a horrible reality that most people would rather hear a story that defames a person than one that speaks of their goodness.
- c. **Not given to much wine:** Like the men the above admonitions are made a lot easier if a person isn't intoxicated. A woman who is long in drink will soon wear short on every persons patience.
- d. **Teachers of good things:** Experienced godly women are a great asset to the body of Christ and specifically younger women whom they ought to be mentoring. They can mentor them with regards to so many aspects of life.

Just like in the family the spiritual health and wellbeing lies in the hands of older,

experienced and mature believers who have both the experience and time to serve others.

They are a great benefit to the church and are a great blessing to the body of Christ.

III. Vs. 4-8 Nurture not left to nature

Vs. 4-8 Titus was not to teach the young women directly, instead he was to equip and encourage the older women to teach the younger. Their instructions were to begin with home as young mothers are given a strategic and influential position in God's work.

There are 6 things that older women were to teach younger women:

- a. **Love their husbands, to love their children:** The greatest priority for a godly home is LOVE and the order of this is husband first children 2nd. If the young woman set this at the top of her accomplishments her home would be a success. Our western society is very different than the ancient Eastern society when it comes to love and marriage. In our society love and romance come before marriage but in ancient eastern society marriage was often before love and romance and the young couple would need to learn to love each other. ***What is interesting is that although such love for their husbands and children would be instinctual Paul believed that the Biblical perspective must be TAUGHT, that NATURE must not be just left up to NATURE.***
- b. **To be discreet:** This is the same word rendered "sober-minded" and "temperate" already and points to right thinking controlling right actions. As parents we need to discipline ourselves before we can our children.
- c. **Chaste:** The word means "pure of mind and heart" as wives are to be true to their husband in mind, heart and actions.
- d. **Homemakers:** This doesn't suggest that the home is to be the prison that keeps a wife and mother but rather that the wife and mother is managing the household as part of her ministry.
- e. **Good:** This word in the Greek can be translated "kind" which means that she does not run the household like a dictator but rather as a kind servant.
- f. **Obedient to their own husbands:** What this is referring to is that she understands the biblical order of the home which love rules. Where the love of God and the love for each other rules the home there is never a problem with obedience and biblical order as both husband and wife desire the same things: to glorify God and serve their spouse. Notice that Paul adds to not have love rule the home is to give a clear shot that those who observe the family will speak against the God we claim to serve.

Vs. 6-8 The word "*likewise*" is a linking word that shows that young men needed to learn things similar to younger women. The message of godly living was to permeate every fabric of the Christian family. They were to be urged to "*take life seriously*" as often ***young men squander time and forget that it is not a replenishable commodity.*** A

teachers best sermons are caught not taught, that is they are visible in their actions not just their speech.

- a. **Sober minded**: Titus must be a good example in all things, whatever he wanted the church to be he must be first. In Matthew chapter 23 verse 3 Jesus said that the Pharisees were hypocrites because “*they say, and do not!*”
- b. **In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works**: The Greek word for pattern is where we get our English word “*type*” as it meant an impression made by a die. The word rendered “*incorruptibility*” is also rendered “*sincerity*” and in the Greek means “*without wax*”. In the Greek culture they were very into marble sculptures but the artists often made mistakes that couldn’t be repaired and would make up a mixture of bees wax and stone powdered to fill the gaps. The only way to see if the sculpture was incorruptible was to place it in the sun and wait to see if it was truly “*without wax*”. Saints we are to be placed in the SON to make sure we are without flaw.

Titus was to be more than an instructor or communicator, he was to be an example or pattern for others to follow. To shepherd the flock of God is not to punch the clock as we are always on duty 24/7. We do not practice our calling only on the job or behind the pulpit but everywhere. When our conduct matches our conversation those who disagree with both will be ashamed and embarrassed to say anything against us, as Jesus said to the angry mob in John 8:46 “*Which of you convicts Me of sin?*”

IV. Vs. 9-10 Employee of the year

Vs. 9-10 Titus was to teach bondservants about their specific duties as Christians.

Believers were to be obedient to their masters for the Masters sake. They needed to be the

best workers in their Masters household. Paul wanted these Christian slaves to be the best examples of believers they could be and he warns them of three common sins they must avoid:

- a. **Disobedience**: The employee is to obey their boss and seek to please them which means going beyond what is expected or demanded. They must do so from the heart not begrudgingly. This ought to be especially true if you are blessed to work for a believing boss but even if not you ought to be the best employee they hire.
- b. **Talking back**: This includes not only talking back but griping and complaining as well especially to other employees. This can be challenging for an employee who may very well know the job better than the boss or the supervisor. It is a bad testimony to all when a Christian employee complains and gripes about who they work for or their bosses.
- c. **Stealing**: It was common place in that day for a slave to pilfer small items from their master to sell and then report that they had been broken or lost. Christian workers must not steal objects or time from their employers. The number one loss for companies is in house theft and the loss of productivity. Millions every year are taken and often from Christians who claim that their employer owes it to them.