

Titus 2:1-10

Building a Healthy Church

Titus as an Elder Verse 1

How careful should we be with our word? Have you ever heard the saying, “sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me?” It’s a lie. Obviously, words have the power to impact our lives.

Paul isn’t simply encouraging Titus to speak sound doctrine; this is actually a command. The word for speak in this sentence is an imperative verb, thus, Titus is commanded to speak sound doctrine. Speaking sound doctrine is a necessity for the health of the church.

Older Men Verse 2

The idea is that as we age maturity ages with us. As men grow in their faith they should be marked by temperance, dignity, sensibility and sound faith, love and perseverance.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ How would the culture describe a good man? How does that differ from the Biblical description?
- ❖ Why is it important to understand that the world’s definition of a man is different than God’s?

Older Women Verse 3

Women of faith and maturity should become reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, not consumed with alcohol and should be teaching what is good.

Older women should be an example of a Proverbs 31 woman. This doesn’t happen overnight. It’s a process that is to be taught to the next generation.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ How would the culture describe a good woman? How does that differ from the Biblical description?
- ❖ Why is it important to understand that the world’s definition of a woman is different than God’s?

Young Women Verses 4-5

Who is to directly teach the young women? The older women. And what are they to teach them? To love their husbands, love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind and to be subject to their OWN husbands. Why are these things important? So that the Word of God will not be dishonored.

We have two issues in verses 4 and 5: there has to be those willing to teach and there has to be those willing to learn. Teachers and teachable spirits are necessary among the women of faith. In verse 4 Paul says that older women are to “encourage” the younger women. The word encourage literally means to cause someone to be of sound mind and to have self-control.

Why is biblical womanhood so vital? So that the Word of God will not be dishonored. Dishonored is where we get the word blaspheme. It is blasphemous for young women to disobey the Word of God.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Ladies, do you consider yourself someone open to correction? If yes, how do your actions support this. If no, why not?
- ❖ This passage speaks specifically to older women teaching younger women, but what role do fathers, brothers, sisters and other church members play in the life of a young woman?
- ❖ Paul is pointed about the severity of disobeying the Word of God, it's blasphemous. Why do we need to take obedience to God so seriously?

Young Men Verses 6-8

The young women need to be "encouraged" and the young men need to be "urged". Young men are urged. Urged is a strong word. That means we don't have time to "play around". We need to get to work training the next generation of men. Whether we want to recognize it or not, the culture is hard at work training the next generation of men and the church is embarrassingly absent. Why? I'm sure we could think of many different reasons. I think it may be simply that men can't lead men where they haven't been.

Why are these characteristics necessary for the young believer? So that our opponents will be put to shame...having NOTHING bad to say about us. If the opponent is shamed when they wrongly accuse us what happens when the accusation is true? The church is shamed when men claim Christ and live like the world.

We saw that when the young women disobey the Word it is blasphemous and when the young men disobey the Word it is shameful. This is why it is not an option to pour into the next generation. If you are an older mature believer and you aren't taking the time to mentor someone younger in the faith...you are in rebellion to the Word of God. Go find someone and start praying for them and encouraging them.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ There is a focus on actions in verses 7-8. How do our actions reveal our faith?
- ❖ Why do we need to urge our young men to become who God has called us to be?
- ❖ Again, Paul points out the importance of being above reproach. Why is it so important for young men to be faithful to God's Word?

Bondslaves Verses 9-10

Our culture no longer has slaves or bondslaves. Paul is not advocating for slavery in this passage. Paul is teaching that wherever you find yourself...glorify God. Because our circumstances never limit our ability to glorify and worship God. Whether in slavery, prison, homeless, isolated, left for dead...glorifying God is possible. If your circumstances determine your ability to glorify God, then your faith is more centered around you than Christ.

Conclusion

Our culture today will try to blur the line between men and women, almost to the point where our culture is teaching that there isn't any difference between the two. We are seeing in Titus that the Scriptures clearly teach us there is a difference. We must be diligent in teaching the biblical roles of men and women.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Older men and women, how are you taking responsibility for training and encouraging the next generation?
- ❖ Younger men and women, how are you working to become a person that can later lead the next generation?