



Titus 2:1-10

“Adorned with the Doctrine of God”

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22:38

Well, this morning, we're going to be in Titus chapter two. So if you have your Bibles open to Titus chapter two, if you don't have a Bible, there should be a Bible in one of the seats in front of you.

22:50

Titus chapter two, and we're gonna read from verses one through 10. So if you are able, please stand with me for the reading of God's word. Titus chapter two, verses one through 10. But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.

23:11

Older men to be sober -minded, dignified, self -controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women, likewise, are to be reverent in behavior, not slanders or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self -controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

23:43

Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works. And in your teaching, show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

24:06

Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything. They are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything, they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

24:24

This is God's word, let's pray. As we take some moments now to look at these passages, and there is a lot in here, a lot of good, a lot of correction that needs to take place. I know in my life, and I'm confident in our lives, and I pray that we would stand before your word, humble, open, for it to read us, for it to correct us, that we might live right in a way that brings honor and fame to your name.

25:06

And so where we need to be changed, I pray that you change us. Where we need to be corrected, I pray that you correct us. Where we need to be encouraged, I pray that you would encourage us. That your spirit would come and do its work here in our midst today.

25:22

That's in Jesus' name we pray, amen. All right, you may be seated. Pastor Dave always starts with a question, so I figured I would too. The question in relation to this text that I think kind of captures what Paul is trying to do here is this.

25:42

How do we promote good discipleship and cultivate a healthy church? How do we promote good discipleship and cultivate a healthy church? Or maybe a better question since Pastor Dave's message last week, if you remember, Crete, the island of Crete where Titus is at, was that like a great place to do ministry?

26:06

No, it was a rough place. These are Cretans, there's liars, they're not easy people. This is not an easy culture for Titus to be a pastor in and to plant churches in. Alright, so maybe a better question would be what is Paul's remedy for a church in a culture gone awry?

26:28

Right, and that's a bit relevant for us too. We are a church in a culture that is trying to promote everything that the Bible is against. So what does Paul say, okay, church, this is what you need to do.

26:46

What does Paul tell Titus? The pastor here, as Paul is writing to his young disciple, Titus, who he left there in Crete to establish these churches, pastor of these churches, what does Paul tell his young disciple?

27:01

This is what you're to be about, right? What a great opportunity we have to hear the apostle tell a pastor of a church, this is what you and then the members of the church are to be about. Paul has been contrasting one group from another.

27:25

He started the book with saying, I'm contending for the sake of the elect. Pastor Drew did a great message on that a few weeks ago. And he left personal qualifications, sorry, listed personal qualifications for church leaders in chapter one, verses five through nine,

in contrast to those opponents that pastor Dave taught last week in verses 10 through 16 of chapter one, who are there teaching all sorts of nonsense.

27:56

Now Paul spells out how he wants now Titus and then the different groups that he's addressing in this passage within the church, how they are to behave. And then he moves into a theological discussion that pastor Bruce will pick up on next week.

28:14

So Paul begins with a summary command. We have our outline. He begins with our summary command to Titus, Titus, as for you. That's the idea. In verse one, then he gives instructions to older men, verse two, then to older women, verse three, in the first part of verse four.

28:36

Now because he perceives older women's ministry to be directly related to the younger women, he moves into a discussion for the younger women without kind of transitioning outside of the older women.

28:51

He views the role of the older women to instruct the younger women, and we'll talk about that. Now the fourth group is the younger men, and I love the simplicity. He doesn't put much ink to the younger men.

29:04

He goes, here's why you guys need to be self -controlled. Done, right? And then he moves to a few comments to Titus in verses seven and eight. Titus himself being a young man, probably Paul goes, hey, young men, be self -controlled.

29:20

Oh, Titus, you are a young man and a young pastor. So he gives Titus a few words of encouragement. And then he finishes with a word to bondservant. So that's the outline of this passage. Now this morning, I'm going to spend more time in the first section talking about older men, older women, and younger women.

29:45

Going to comment a little bit on what he gives to Titus and just brush over the bondservant section. Pastor Drew a few weeks ago when he closed out first Timothy did a great job on that. These are pastoral epistles, so they're repetitive.

30:01

So I'm going to use our time this morning to focus on really those first few groups because I think there's excellent application and exhortation for us. Now, so to get oriented, as we read this passage, we observe a few things.

30:17

First, there's this idea of self-control. If you were paying attention, you notice he used that word four times. Self-control in 10 verses. That's a lot. That's noteworthy. There's something that Paul, he's hitting that drumbeat of being self-controlled.

30:37

So that's a key point. He uses a Greek word that we translate into sound or healthy is another key word. In chapter one, Paul said that the church leaders must be able to instruct others in healthy or sound teaching and argue against those who oppose it in chapter one verse nine in the qualifications of an elder there.

31:04

He then describes the Cretan opponents and instructs Titus to rebuke them sharply so that they would be sound or healthy in faith in verse 13. Paul begins chapter two by commanding Titus to teach what is appropriate for healthy or sound teaching, doctrine,

in verse one of chapter two, to urge older men to be sound, to be healthy in faith, love, and steadfastness, and to keep his own speech healthy, right?

31:37

So this is a key term idea that Paul uses over and over and over in this section. And I point that out to say this idea of healthy doctrine. If you don't walk away with anything today, walk away with this.

31:53

Kind of the thrust of what all of Paul's exhortation to the various groups in this passage spring from his conviction that healthy doctrine, healthy teaching, good understanding of the Bible produces healthy and right living and an example to those around us.

32:18

So the foundation is healthy teaching. And that's what he commands Titus. This is what you be about. And then the results are everything we're actually gonna make comments on today. So this idea of healthy or sound.

32:34

Then he gives us three, I guess we call them summary statements, purpose statements, in verse five. He says this, that the word of God must not be blasphemed, right? So he gives instructions there for what purpose?

32:52

God's word will be upheld and not blasphemed. In verse eight, that the opponents must be shamed by not having anything evil to say against Paul and Titus in the church, right? That their right living based upon right doctrine produces a testimony that the opponents, even though they're trying to lob accusations, none of them are gonna stick.

33:22

In verse 10, great, great passage. Verse 10, that the teaching of God our savior must be adorned, must be put on, right? I point this out as we go into this passage to say this. Paul cares about right teaching. That's the whole foundation of this, that the right teaching produces the right living. You see, in contrast to the Cretans who don't have right living, they're teaching all sorts of nonsense. And the result is, well, they profess to know God, this is what he says in verse 16 and chapter one, they profess to know God, but they deny him by their works.

34:11

They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for good works. Not a very polite thing to say there, Pastor Paul, right? Like he says, this is who their doctrine is so bad. They profess to know God, but look at their life.

34:34

One plus one does not equal a sack of potatoes, right? Like they're professing to know God, but their life doesn't look like anything they're professing. It doesn't make sense. They're detestable, disobedient, unfit for good works. Then in verse 14, Pastor Bruce is gonna cover this, talking about Jesus who gave himself up for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

35:13

So in contrast to the Cretans who, they're no good for good works. But what is Christ trying to do? Well, through the good theology who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession.

35:31

That's all theology. That's all good teaching. To produce a people who are zealous, passionate for good works. Not a lazy people, zealous people who are passionate about good works. This is what Paul's getting at.

35:51

So he starts in verse one, but as for you. Now, if you look back at just the previous verse in verse 16, they profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. I just read this. They're detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good works.

36:06

But as for you, right? So they're this, what do you do? What do you do, Titus, Pastor Titus? What is your job? But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. Teach, this is a command. It's in the imperative voice here.

36:27

It's a command of a commanding officer to a lesser person, right? A lesser rank, whatever that term would be, right? This is Paul, commanding Titus. This is what you are to be about, Titus, teach. Teach what is in court with sound doctrine.

36:44

I want to pause for a second. We live in a culture today as I'm sure Titus was where pastors are under great pressure to do everything but teach and prepare for teaching to instruct. Why? Because the enemy knows if he can attack the pulpits and the teaching gets corrupted, the teaching gets wishy -washy, the teaching gets not biblical.

37:12

Your guys' lives, well, it's going to reflect that teaching. So if he can attack this, he wins there. So he doesn't tell Titus, Titus, here's your job as a pastor. Be a great program manager.

37:30

That's not what we're supposed to do, church. We need your help to keep us accountable to make sure our Bibles are open and our noses are in it as pastors. That's what we're to do. That we're to instruct the congregation in sound doctrine for your benefit, for your testimony, for the sake of the church, for the testimony of the church, right?

37:53

And all those those purpose statements that we just recorded or commented on a few moments ago. Now he uses this that is appropriate. It's fitting for healthy teaching, sound doctrine. This is a common theme in the pastoral epistles.

38:12

And Paul has just said that Titus must appoint church leaders in the previous chapter who are... who devoted themselves to the gospel so that they can give healthy teaching, right? We covered that in the last chapter.

38:29

And the same charge is given to Titus. And by extension, the same charge is given to us as pastors, the men that God has called to open the Bibles and to instruct the church. This is our job. This is our responsibility to do.

38:45

And this is what he gives to Titus. Now this whole section, I want you to remember, this is a command given to Titus to instruct. So Titus, what do you tell old men? Tell them this. What do you tell older women?

39:01

Tell them this. What do you tell young men? Tell them this, right? So this whole thing is an instruction to Titus, a pastor, and then by extension us pastors to you guys on what to communicate. Now he starts off.

39:15

Older men, verse two, older men are to be sober -minded, dignified, self -controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. So Paul first addresses elderly men in the

church. Now, as we read through this, I don't think the... you read commentaries and the question is, okay, well, what's the age?

39:44

Like once you hit 45, right? Well, what is that age? Like you could ignore this if you're under 40. I don't think that's the force of the text. I think it's relative to the audience. And here's an example.

40:01

If I stand before our 180, our teenagers, I'm 40 years old. To them, that's old. To some of you, I'm still a puppy, right? I think that's the idea. So it's not, okay, I'm 40. I'm not old, but to some I am, right?

40:24

I think that's the idea. So what that does is it eliminates the option of, hey, you could ignore this if you're under 40. No, it's relative. There's going to be individuals that are looking up to you in your 30s, in your 20s, right?

40:47

There's going to be children in our children's ministry, the 180 crew that was serving in our VBS. Those kids looked up to you, right? I think that's kind of the idea. Now, specifically, older men, there's a gray-haired aspect to the passage.

41:00

So I don't want to overstate the case, but I think that's what's happening here. Now, Paul's going to give, you notice all the commas in this passage? Old man, boom, comma, comma, comma, right? Each word between those commas can be its own message.

41:19

And I'm going to brush over them so quickly. And some of them I'm just going to read and go to the next one because... or else this message would be a 35 -point sermon, and that's too much, right? So there's a lot here, and we're just going to make brief comments and move on so we can actually get through the text.

41:39

So first, he says, older men, to be sober -minded. The idea there is to be clear -minded, sober in judgment, having self -controlled thinking. Now the same word is used to describe the qualification for elders in 1 Timothy chapter 3 and for deacons in 1 Timothy chapter 3, and I comment on that because a lot of times we read the qualifications of a pastor or an elder and we think, well that doesn't apply to me.

42:08

These things are not, these things are common to Christianity, right? It's not just, oh a pastor has to be this, but everybody else is off the hook. Of course there's, you might not be called to teach, there's things like that, but integrity is not something that's exclusively to a pastor, right?

42:29

Sober -mindedness, having clear judgment, clear thinking, right? Here's a way to look at, I like this summary, to be God -minded, to be God -minded. Men, are you orienting your life, orienting, is that the right way to say that?

42:49

Your life in a way that is God -ward focused, or have you positioned your lazy chair in a way that is TV focused, right? That's kind of a way to put it sharply, right? These aren't things, these are things to be measured, right?

43:07

These are things to be thought through. You should be able to look at your life, and look back at the years, and you should see an upward trajectory of being more and more sober -minded, more and more dignified, more and more self -controlled, right?

43:22

It's something that should be measured. If you're the same today as you were 25 years ago, there's great danger. There's great danger there. There's something wrong there, right? If your thinking is not being more and more conformed to biblical truth, there's something wrong there.

43:47

Men, old men, we need men who are sober -minded, who have right judgment, who think God's thoughts after him, who are pillars in the church of stability, right? That's the idea, who are dignified. I love that word, dignified.

44:08

It signifies that, that which lifts the mind from the cheap to that which is noble and good and of moral worth. They're dignified. It's also part of Paul's description of deacons. Now, Matthew Henry, in his old English way, he says this.

44:30

He uses the word "grave" its synonymous to dignify. It says, grave, levity, meaning like pride being puffed up, is unbecoming in any age, but especially in the aged. They should be composed and stayed, grave, fixed in habit, in speech and behavior.

44:55

Godliness and dress, levity, pride being puffed up, and vanity in behavior, how unbeseeming in their years. In other words, if you're a gray -haired man that's acting like a child, that's an embarrassment.

45:11

That's what Matthew Henry is saying, a great Puritan writer. Donald Guthrie says this, a seriousness of purpose, particularly suited, suits the dignity of seniors, yet gravity must never be confused with gloominess, right?

45:32

Gravity must never be considered with gloominess, men. It's the idea of being fixed, of being dignified, that you recognize as life has gone on and you've learned a lot of the important lessons and what's truly valuable, you're at a point where you're saying, this is what matters.

45:57

I'm Godward -focused, I'm fixed, I'm secure, I'm not gloomy and grumpy, right? As my years take by, I don't get gray hairs and get more and more grumpy, I get more and more dignified, right? So often, as we get older, we just get grumpier, right?

46:19

We get less patient instead of more patient. That's the wrong direction. That's the wrong direction. It's not the direction of biblical manhood. Old men sober -minded, dignified, self -controlled is a key term in this passage, as we said.

46:39

Occurring in the discussion for older women, here with older men, younger women, younger men. It's a key term. It's also, it's a key term in the qualifications of elders. It's also a fruit of the spirit. I'll point that out. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, self -control, right? None of us are off the hook. Self -control, being stable, right? Being able to control oneself.

47:09

Older men who are out of control are a sad reality. It's unfitting, immature, infantile. Older men, be fixed, be grounded, not moved by emotions, in control, godly. It's what the church needs. Older men, it's what I need you to be.

47:37

It's what our kids and our children's ministry right now, it's what they need you to be. It's what the women in our church, it's what they need you to be. Sober -minded, dignified, self -controlled, pillars, fixed, men, that's what they need us to be, to be men who aren't distracted by trivial things, by nonsense.

48:10

Not men who were walking around looking like they're sucking on a lemon and just passionate men, zealous for good works. That's what the church needs. That's what the world needs as well, right? The fourth point, and this is a triad, sound in faith, love, and steadfastness.

48:31

He links these together under that idea of sound, of healthy, of fixed in faith. Older men, are you taking the time to feed and educate yourself in the faith, in the scriptures? Are you growing day by day? I used the illustration, I've used it before. I think I got it from Voddie Baucham. And he talks about, okay, Bruce Cook, he works on job sites. Bruce, if you go up to a brick mason who's been doing it for 25, 30 years, and you say, hey, I got this young guy, I need you to teach him everything you know.

49:14

And that seasoned guy looks at you and goes, hey, I gotta be honest, I've been faking it. I honestly don't know what I'm doing. This tool that's shaped like an L, I don't even know what it's for. There's this stick with a bubble in it.

49:32

Couldn't even tell you what its name is. We laugh at that, right? Because that's silly. Old men who have been saved for 25, 30 years. Can you stand up and tell me what justification by faith alone means? Can you give me a Bible reference? And share with me the hope of your salvation. Articulate, are you sound in your faith, right? There's giggling in the first one, there's an awkward silence in that second exhortation, right?

50:08

Well, pastor, that's for your job. You're able to know... you be sound in faith. Attack that bookstore, open your Bibles. The older you get, the more tear-stained the pages of your Bibles should become.

50:28

As you dive into it, you know it more and more and more. That's what Paulists take. That's what we need men to be. That's what we should be about. Sound and love. Older men, are you in love with God's commands more today than you were years ago?

50:48

Are you falling more in love with Him every day? Are you loving the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? And are you loving your neighbor as yourself? Are you in an upward trajectory of that reality? Or are you growing in your grumpiness and bitterness and just wanna spray everybody in the face with a hose and tell them to get off your lawn? Are you growing in love? That the older you get, the more you're defined as a man of love.

51:20

That convicts me royally, like greatly. And I hope it convicts all of you because we need to be this. Steadfastness, endurance, patient. There's a tendency for us to drift. Older men, are you consistent? Are you patient? Are you more filled with hope today of your salvation than you were when you first believed?

51:47

What a radical, like this, we read, like we read this so quickly, but wow, that's what I want to become. And I might feel shamed in all the failures that I haven't... I've been messing up so much. Okay, repent. Do right today. Get in your Bible today and start that today. Become the man of God you're supposed to become and start measuring your growth.

52:22

Start observing your growth. Start plotting that out. Get accountable. Get in a small group. Be men that your church needs. This is what Paul tells Titus. This is what you instruct older men. This is now 2,000 years later, Pastor Mike instructing older men, do it.

52:41

Do it. Older women. Likewise, verse 3, are to be reverent in behavior, not slanders or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good. So now he goes to older women. And again, I think this is relative to the audience.

53:02

And he first says, reverent in behavior. Now there's two Greek words that combined and the first one is temple and the second one is fitting. And the idea is fitting for the, fit for the temple, right?

53:17

It's how we would, you have your Sunday best on, right? That's kind of the idea. You are who you are, whether you're in the temple or in the church, right? And you're that person all the time. You're reverent in your behavior.

53:34

It's a shortened way. What Paul tells in 1 Timothy chapter 2, what is fitting for a woman who claims to be godly. One commentator said it this way. The simple meaning is that we must take seriously the fact that we belong to God.

53:49

I like that. Older women. Do you take seriously the fact that you belong to God? It's living before God and not before men. Older women who have their vision and their focus fixed upon heaven, fixed upon the glories of God, not distracted by the trivial, not distracted by the temporal, reverent in your behavior, not slanders.

54:18

There must not be slanders. Diabolos (διάβολος), right? We recognize that Greek word, devils, right? It's a requirement for deacons. Same word that's used there. In 1 Timothy, the characteristics of those Ephesian women who are going from house to house, slandering, right?

54:38

That's what the same idea that Paul uses in 1 Timothy. Watch your tongue, women. You're not to be slanders. You're not to be gossips. You're not to be going from house to house to house and you're to be reverent in your behavior, not slandering.

54:57

Your speech is to be wholesome and good and God glorifying and honoring. That's the exhortation. Not given to much wine. Alcoholism must have been a severe problem since it is an issue in the appointment of church leaders in all the lists.

55:18

Now, while it's true of every culture, church history reports that Cretans actually viewed heavy drinking as a virtue. So, pastor at church, when you have that problem, right? Like, that's the idea. Now, the heartbeat behind that: not enslaved to much wine, that you are a woman reverent in behavior, not slanders, and you're not controlled by anything.

55:47

You're not an alcoholic. You're not... that doesn't dictate your actions and behaviors. Your thoughts aren't to just, oh, it's a busy day. I need to go throw down a glass of wine. No, it's a busy day, I need to go get in my prayer closet and fall on my face with my Bible open and meet with my God. That, that is what the church needs from our older women. It'll produce a healthy church. When our older men and our older women are doing this, when our pastors are telling them to do this and holding them accountable.

56:31

Then he goes, they must teach what is good. Teach what is good. I don't think this is referring to an official teaching position in the church, but rather probably a more organic one -on -one discipleship.

56:45

You see it pictures older women, those who were more experienced in life, in marriage, in child rearing, to take younger women in the congregation under their care and to help disciple them in their responsibilities.

57:00

This is a needed ministry and one that men and pastors can't do. I love the wisdom of Paul here, right? He goes, Titus, this young pastor, teach older men this, teach older women this, and then have them teach the younger women, because that's not your, that's not your role.

57:24

There's safety there. There's security there. There's accountability. Then he goes to young men, now Titus, now you teach them, you go after them. He's the word he's urged them, right? He's going to, older women, he says this, they are to teach what is good and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, verse five, to be self - controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands that the word of God may not be reviled.

57:58

There's a summary that the word of God may not be reviled. Let me start here, kind of a sidebar, if you will. A mark of a healthy church is one that breaks down the generational gaps. We need our various ministries in this church to strive to cross generational gaps. We need older women to be ministering to younger women. We need older men to be ministering to younger men.

58:30

We need men's ministry. When men's ministry gets together, there should be a conviction and a motivation to say, how do we get our kids there? How do we get our young little kids, they could run around in diapers, how do we get them in front of our men and have our men say, this is what being a man is about?

58:50

Our women's ministry, we need that. Let me say, as a youth pastor, I need your help. We have a bunch of amazing teenage girls in our youth ministry, and I need older women to go and disciple them. I'm not taking them out to coffee.

59:13

It's not my job. I wouldn't do that. That's not safe. That's not accountable. That's not right. That's why Paul says to Titus, older women, you go get them. You don't need... You got the biblical mandate.

59:28

Just do it, right? That's a healthy church, right? But yeah, we often think, and we judge a church, do they have a good youth group? And I'm saying this as the youth pastor, by the way, do they have a good youth group?

59:45

Let me say that's not how we're to judge a church, because in our culture has dictated to us that we think the best people for teenagers to be influenced by are other teenagers. We all kind of understand, well, no, that's not the best people for...

01:00:07

They're in the same walk of life, right? How does a teenager tell another teenager what marriage is like? How to prepare for that? How to adorn yourself in godliness, right? No, we need older women to come alongside the younger women and do that.

01:00:28

And our culture in America, we've created these silo ministries that never cross. It's why we're striving to bring kids into our sanctuary. To have our teens, they're here with us today, they're in our midst.

01:00:44

We want our ministries to incorporate them because that's what a healthy church is to do and it's to look like. And if we only are ever thinking age -specific in groups, those are good, those are important.

01:00:56

I'm not seeking to say cancel those, no, we need those too. But those should be secondary and not primary. Primary, we're the body of Christ coming together and the older are discipling the younger. That's what we need.

01:01:13

As a youth pastor, I'm here to say, we have a bunch of teenagers that need discipleship and I cannot meet with all of them. We need the body of Christ to be the body of Christ and to get them. We need older men and women to sit down with their Bibles open in front of younger men and women and say, this is what life is about.

01:01:36

Of all those qualifications, qualities, and a motivating reason for the older women to teach the younger women. You want to talk about a counter-cultural offensive list of teaching points that go against our American culture.

01:01:53

Let me say this good, let it go against our American culture. Let the word of God stand and not our culture. They all have to do primarily with the women's attitude and conduct towards her household.

01:02:07

The first two qualities are to love their husbands and to love their children. So older women, this is your teaching points to younger women, love their husbands. Now in a culture where a range of marriages was the norm, there's times where you met your husband the day of your wedding, and the older women coming alongside the younger women and teaching them how to love their husbands.

01:02:32

Guys, we're not that easy to love. Amen, ladies? All right, my wife's like, amen, preach it, right? We're not that easy to love. You have these young married couples and she has to lose, oh, he's my best friend, and we finish each other's sentences and we're never going to fight, and we need the older woman to say, okay, sit down, right?

01:02:55

Just sit right here. Let me tell you, he's not like you. He's a man. He thinks different. He communicates different, right? Erin and I laugh because I am really bad at folding towels, like horrible. And she has a very particular way.

01:03:14

She likes the towels folded so that they fit in the cupboard. And you know, I love my wife and I try. I'm just no good at it. And it was a scuffle early on in our marriage, right? And an older woman said, hey, love your husband.

01:03:34

He's not good at that. Be his strength in his weakness, right? That's what Paul's talking about here to Timothy. Older women teach the younger women how to love their husbands. You've learned a lot of the lessons.

01:03:47

You've had a lot of the fights. You've slammed the cupboards. Come alongside the younger ladies and help them. Be the support system for them. Love their children. The same idea. Love their children.

01:04:06

Verse 5, to be self -controlled, pure, working at home and submissive to their own husbands that the word of God may not be reviled. So we have our term self -controlled here again. Same idea, right?

01:04:21

This is not... None of us get a pass on being out of control, right? No, self -control. That's where we... That's the direction of our life, pure. I'm so grateful that Paul put this word in here under the inspiration of the Spirit, pure.

01:04:41

Now, it refers primarily to moral purity, especially in this context of sexual purity and marital faithfulness. And may I add that this doesn't start the day somebody gets married. We need older women to come alongside our younger women and teach them about purity.

01:05:01

Teach them how to be faithful to their husbands years before they even meet him. To dress appropriately, to act appropriately, to not give themselves away at all, to be faithful to their husbands even though they don't know his name.

01:05:19

This doesn't just start the day they say, I do, right? We need our older women to come alongside our younger women and teach them purity. Working at home. This is that one in our culture, it's like, oh, skip it, right?

01:05:32

Now, the idea of Proverbs 31, right? It's not that women can't have jobs, right? That's not what this is saying, right? There's a contrast here with the Ephesian widows who are busybodies going house to house, gossiping, all those things.

01:05:50

Paul's saying, no, no, no, no, no. What we need the older women to instruct the younger women is to cultivate a home, to make a home that is a sanctuary and a retreat for her husband and kids. That is a place filled with prayer and worship that is safe, that produces life and joy.

01:06:14

I think that's the heartbeat behind it. Working at home, you might have your job, but that is not your priority. It's not. Our culture wants to attack the family and it's attacking it greatly. It's trying to emasculate men. It's destroying all the identities that the Bible establishes. We need our women to work hard at creating an atmosphere at home that promotes godliness and growth in a sanctuary. I think that's what Paul's talking about.

01:07:01

Older women teach the younger women how to do that, teach them how to make a place where their husband is longing just to get home. Words of joy. He runs through that door and he can just, he can just rest.

01:07:17

I think, what a beautiful, beautiful picture that is. Kind. I love that word too. Benevolent. And the context is referring to a woman's kind treatment of their house, in their household. But they're not brash.

01:07:31

They're not harsh. They're defined by kindness. Their words are kind. Not cutting. Submissive to their own husbands. The final quality is that she is submissive to her own husband. It's a common instruction in Paul's writings.

01:07:49

Now I want to point out "own husbands." Right? Ladies, you're not in submission to men. Your own husbands. Right? This isn't some degrading thing. This is godly order. For the purpose, this closing, in order that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

01:08:09

In order that the word of God may not be blasphemed. It's a purpose statement. That God's word would be held high. So young women, are you willing to receive this kind of discipleship? Are you open to that?

01:08:25

Do you recognize that you need this in your life? It'll do good for you. Were these topics that might be hard for you to hear, you need to hear. Older women, are you pursuing the younger women in our church and saying, sit down. Let's talk.

01:08:51

That's what we need you to do. That's what Paul instructs us to do. Likewise, verse 6. Urge. Here's another imperative. It's stronger than the first one when he says, as for you Titus, teach.

01:09:09

Now he says, now Titus, urge. These young men, here's what I want them to be focused on. Self-control. That's it. Right? Like, get that. And it's not like he's excluding.

01:09:27

But in an age and a sex that is usually more defined by out-of-controlness, he's saying what should define young men is self-control. Right? Is you're exercising and you're walking out that fruit of the spirit.

01:09:51

Verse 7. Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works. Now, this is to Titus. And in your teaching, show integrity, dignity, there's that word again he used in the older men, and sound speech that cannot be condemned so that an opponent may be put to shame having nothing evil to say about us.

01:10:16

So Paul, he's talking to younger men and he goes, Titus is a young man. Here's what I need. Titus, this is for you. Here's what I need you to show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works.

01:10:27

Work hard for the Lord. And in your teaching, again, I want to point out that's what Paul says, Titus, you're primarily, in your teaching, have integrity, have dignity, have sound speech that cannot be condemned.

01:10:46

Pastors should not be flippant with words, should be dignified with integrity, sound and speech that cannot be condemned so that the opponent may be put to shame. Now I want to point out there are opponents.

01:11:00

It's not like Christians are supposed to be liked by everybody and when a pastor stands up at a pulpit and proclaims the truth of the Word of God, everybody's going to like it. That's not what he's talking about, but what he's saying is when opponents rise up and they hurl accusations, it's not going to stick because you're doing what you're supposed to be doing.

01:11:22

Dignified in your teaching. Now verses 9 and 10, like I said at the beginning, we're just going to brush over these because Pastor Drew covered them a few weeks ago. Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters and everything.

01:11:38

They are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, stealing, right, mismanaging money, but showing all good faith so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior. Right, Pastor Drew talked about this a few weeks ago.

01:11:57

If we were to put this in modern-day language, it would be, hey, employees, here's how you're to act, right? You're to be submissive to your employers and everything. They are to be well-pleased, not argumentative, not mismanaging pilfering, but showing good faith so that everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

01:12:22

I love that we're put on, right? Look at sporting events. Fans are adorning their team. They're putting on the jerseys, painting their face. That's the idea. You're at a sporting event. You're like, oh, they're going for that team.

01:12:34

They're going for that, right? You can identify them. We should be able to identify each other likewise because we're adorning ourselves with the Word of God. So in closing, do you adorn yourself with healthy doctrine that produces healthy living that represents God accurately?

01:12:58

Does that define who you are? Your life. The trajectory of your life. Now let me say this, none of us are perfect. I'm not perfect. Not perfect. But are you committed to walking down that path of growth?

01:13:20

That yeah, all of us, if we're to list our failures, they're probably more than our successes. And the more we age, the more we realize how true that is, right? We don't sit down and give up. We move forward.

01:13:35

We press on. We become more zealous for good works. Does that define our life? Church, this is what marks a healthy church. This is what marks healthy discipleship. This is what Paul says in a culture that is going crazy, where alcoholism is a virtue.

01:13:55

Here's what you do. Teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. Instruct the old men. Instruct the older women. Have them instruct the younger women. You teach the young men and bondservants to do this.

01:14:10

That's what we need the church to do. Let's pray. Lord, we thank You for these words. And as we brushed over so many things here, I ask that we would not be so easily forgetful that all of us, we would go out these doors and we would think through Titus chapter two verses one through 10 all week, that we would plan our life accordingly.

01:14:46

We would plan our days accordingly. We would get up and we would do what your Bible tells us to do. And I pray that our church will be filled with godly men and women who are doing this, with young women who are pursuing discipleship from our old women, from our older women who are pursuing to disciple and pour godliness into our young women, older men who are pillars fixed in our church, sound and judgment, dignified.

01:15:13

Young men who are self -controlled, workers who are filled with integrity, help us to establish the right doctrine that produces the right living. It's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.