

Titus 2:1 ¶ But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

This chapter begins by giving instruction to Titus to teach how to live in accordance with the truth of scripture in direct contrast to that of false teachers.

Titus 2:2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

Paul's first instruction is regarding the older men in the church, those who should serve as examples to the younger men.

- They should be sober—This is a reference to being self-controlled and taking life seriously.
- They should be grave—This is a reference to acting honorably with integrity.
- They should be temperate—This is another reference to self-control with more emphasis regarding not being hotheaded.
- They should be sound in faith—A sound faith is one that is spiritually healthy. It is based on belief in and commitment to the truth of God's word.
- They should be sound in charity—To be sound in charity is to give evidence of genuine love for the body of believers in light of the example of the Lord Jesus and the importance He accorded this characteristic in identifying one as belonging to Him.

John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

- They should be sound in patience—To be sound in patience is to be patient and give evidence of "cheerful (or hopeful) endurance" [from the Greek] during hard times.

Titus 2:3 The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

Titus 2:4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

Titus 2:5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

Paul now turns his attention to how to instruct the older women in the body of believers. They are also to act in accordance with spiritual maturity.

- They are not to be false accusers—Personally, I think this is directed to the propensity of women to gossip. It is definitely an instruction to always speak with integrity.
- They are not to be "given to much wine"—In other words, they are not to be drunkards; they should always maintain self-control.

I can only surmise that Paul's wording is reflective of the cultural problems of that day. Evidently gossip and drinking were commonplace for women of that day. He now instructs Titus to tell the older women that they should teach good things to the younger women and then goes on to list those things.

- They are to be sober—Just as with the men, this is a reference to being self-controlled and taking life seriously.
- They are to love their husbands and children—I am reminded that the church usually includes women of faith who are married to men with no faith. Husbands and children (Christian or not) aren't always lovable, but they should always be loved. The Lord was very clear in teaching us that love is a choice. He would never command us to do something that He would not empower us to do. (See the verses from John 13 above.)
- They are to be discreet—Another reference to self-control according to the Greek, this time with an emphasis on controlling one's tongue and temper.
- They are to be chaste—This is a reference to being modest and of innocent character.
- They are to be "keepers at home"—In other words, good housekeepers.
- They are to be good—The Greek made reference to being of benefit; Webster defines it as possessing desirable qualities, promoting success and happiness, possessing moral excellence, and being kind and friendly.
- They are to be obedient to their husbands—This is not a popular teaching today in particular. The Greek for obedience is basically a reference to submission to his authority. This instruction was given by God for the benefit of the wife—not to belittle her or cause her grief. When married to a godly husband, this should not be an issue because his instructions are to love her "as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it" (Ephesians 5:25). By being submissive to our husbands, we are showing submission first and foremost to God. The choice of a husband should be subject to very serious and prayerful consideration.

Women who possess these character traits will only bring honor to the Lord and serve to further the effectiveness of the gospel message.

Titus 2:6 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

Titus was also instructed to encourage the younger men to be sober minded and show self-control in all aspects of their lives.

Titus 2:7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine *shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,*

Titus 2:8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

Since Titus was also a young man, Paul reminds him of the importance of his example before the other young men as well as all others in the church. In other

words, his walk should match his talk. It is important for him to maintain the teaching of sound doctrine that aligns with the truth of God's words in every aspect. He is to exhibit honesty and sincerity through his actions. His speech was to reflect truth and promote healthy relationships, and his speech was to be such that those who opposed him could only respect him.

Titus 2:9 Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again;
Titus 2:10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

Paul now gives Titus specific instructions for servants and/or slaves. I think these instructions are just as applicable to employees in the work place. They are to be obedient and try to please their masters with everything they do to serve them. They should not talk back nor should they steal from them. They should serve with integrity and be known for trustworthiness. This is the type of service that brings honor to God and furthers the effectiveness of the gospel message.

Obviously, they should never go against the teaching of God's word in fulfilling their duties to their masters.

Acts 5:29 "...We ought to obey God rather than men."

Titus 2:11 ¶ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,
Titus 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

"appeared" = shine upon, become visible or known, give light

It is important to note that salvation is available to all men. Paul is clear in stating that salvation is a result of the grace of God. The grace of God is a reference to God's direct influence upon one's heart that is reflected in one's life (from the Greek). I believe that influence is a reference to the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit that comes alongside us to convict us of our sin. When we choose to yield to His influence and accept His provision for us in faith through the sacrifice of Jesus, the Holy Spirit then indwells us and seals us to preserve us until we receive the inheritance that is to be ours for eternity.

It is the working of the Holy Spirit that teaches us through the word of God and the example and instruction of godly people that we are to refuse to participate in wickedness and yield to fleshly lusts incited by the things of the world. It is through the ministry of the Spirit that we are empowered to live with self-control according to the truth of God's word in this present world.

This quote from JFB resonated with me: "Men will write, fight, and even die for their religion; but how few *live* for it!"

“This present world” implies a future world or age, and that is affirmed by the next verse.

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

It is the grace of God through the teaching of the Holy Spirit that gives us the confident expectation that the Lord Jesus Christ is going to return and establish Himself as “the great God” and prove Himself as our Savior.

Scripture is full of the truth of the willing sacrifice of Jesus to redeem man from sin. The purpose of that sacrifice was to purify and set apart a people for Himself—people with a passion for the good works that mirror His own passion. That is what should characterize our lives as Christians—actions and desires that mirror the actions and desires of God toward Him and one another. I am reminded of this verse from the psalms.

Psalms 17:15 “As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.”

Titus 2:15 ¶ These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

I like the wording of the NLT for this verse: “You must teach these things and encourage your people to do them, correcting them when necessary. You have the authority to do this, so don’t let anyone ignore you or disregard what you say.”

We should never be afraid to share the truth of God’s word. When we speak the words of God, we are speaking with His authority. The key is to be sure that you are speaking God’s word, and not your version of His word.

This seems to be one of the biggest issues in the church today. There are so many who claim the name Christian, yet who are determined to pervert the plain meaning of God’s word. It grieves me to see it, but scripture is clear that this will become more and more prevalent as the time for the Lord’s return approaches. I just know that I wouldn’t want to be in the shoes of those who choose to pervert His word when they stand before the Lord in judgment.