

Titus

[Part 2]

Titus 2:1-2 [NIV] *“You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.”*

The whole of this chapter deals with the active life of a Christian, whatever their age.

Senior Men –

Temperate – Greek word “*nēphalēōs*” meaning circumspect, not over-indulgent.

The point is that when a man has reached years of seniority, he should have learnt, what are and what are not, real and true pleasures.

At this age a man ought to have got his values right.

A senior man should have learnt that pleasures and self-indulgence cost far more than they are worth.

Worthy of respect – Greek word “*sēmnoōs*” describes the behaviour which is grave and serious in the right way. A man who lives in the light of eternity, who knows that before long he will leave this world and be awaiting the arrival of a new world, personally directed by the Creator God.

Self-controlled – Greek word “*sōphrōn*” meaning soundness of mind that governs every instinct and passion.

The three words when linked describe a man who has learned to live a stable lifestyle.

The instability and recklessness of youth are a thing of the past, due to learned Godly Wisdom.

A tragic sight is an elderly man who has learned nothing from years of experience.

There are three other qualities which a senior man must have to be healthy in mind and spirit.

Sound – Greek word “*hugiainō*” meaning wholesome, uncorrupted in mind and spirit.

Sound in faith – a man living really close to Jesus Christ through the active presence of the Holy Spirit directing his life. [**John 14:17-18; Romans 8:14; John 16:13**]

Galatians 5:22-25 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”*

Faith is one of the “*fruits*” of a life directed by the Holy Spirit.

Sound in love – the Greek word translated “*love*” is “*agapé*” a love that can only be known by the selfless actions that it prompts. **Not** an impulse from feelings or natural inclinations but a direct decision of the mind, heart and human spirit.

This soundness of love will avoid the greatest danger of age, to drift into censoriousness, criticism and fault-finding.

Years of life experience should bring with it increasing tolerance and sympathy for the views and with the mistakes of others.

Soundness in endurance – Greek word “*hupōmōnē*” remaining cheerful and hopeful under trials, patience and fortitude in mind.

As we grow weaker in physical body we should be growing stronger in our spiritual nature, so be able to endure the “*slings and arrows*” of life and not fail, but emerge a conqueror over life.

Senior Women –

Titus 2:3-5 [NIV] “*Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no-one will malign the word of God.*”

It is clear that in the early church a most honoured and responsible position was given to older women in the church.

Reverent – Greek word “*hiērōprēpēs*” meaning a life that reflects a sacred assembly. A life devoid of argument, touchiness and intolerance. A life set apart and experiencing fellowship with God.

Not slanders – Greek word “*diabōlōs*”, meaning a false accuser, a title given to Satan. [**Revelation 12:9-10**]

There is thoughtless cruelty in malicious gossip.

It is not a bad resolution to make up our minds to say nothing about people when we cannot find anything good to say about them.

Not addicted to much wine – the Greek word translated “*addicted*” is “*dōulōs*” referring to being a slave, complete subjection or subserviency to wine.

The sight of drunken women is particularly degrading and dishonouring to their Christian profession.

In this, as in all that they do as well as what they say, they are to set an example to younger women to follow.

Teach what is good –

The Greek word used is “*kalōdidaskalōs*” made up of the words “*kalos*” meaning “*beautiful*” and “*didaskalōs*” meaning instructor.

There are some older women who only pour cold water on schemes, plans and dreams of others.

All that such people have learnt from experience is the vast number of things that are impossible.

It is a Christian duty to always use experience to guide and encourage the young to seek what has been beautiful in their own past lives.

Don't overlook the small word “*then*” in this instruction given to older women.

Only if they have applied, what has just been commanded, can they practically teach younger women what is beautiful in life.

We have this same need today.

What is then listed as being beautiful in a younger woman is –

To be devoted to their husbands and children.

To be prudent and chaste.

To manage their households well.

To be kind to all they meet on a daily basis.

To be subject to their husbands' guidance.

The overall object of this lifestyle and conduct is that no-one will be able to speak evil of the Christian life as shown us in God's Word, the Christian Bible.

It is a simple fact, that there is no greater task, responsibility and privilege to make a home where the young children given to us on loan by the Creator God, can be given right direction for their future lives.

There is in fact nowhere else that a truly Christian life can be better lived than within the atmosphere of a home.

In the last analysis there can be **no** greater career than that of being a Christian home maker.

Home making is the consecration that makes drudgery divine.

The Younger Men –

Titus 2:6 [NIV] *“Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.”*

This is the duty of a younger man summed up in eight words.

Self-controlled – Greek word “*sōphrōn*” meaning soundness of mind that governs every instinct and passion.

In youth there are –

Temptations which are stronger.

The blood runs hotter.

The passions speak more commandingly.

Therefore more opportunities for going wrong.

Often young people have to study and work away from the influence of their parental home.

Thrown into company where temptation can speak with a most compelling voice.

A young person is much more of an individual person than an older person.

The young person has **not** yet taken upon himself the responsibility of a home or a family.

Does not have these anchors which hold an older person in the right way through a sheer sense of obligation.

In youth there is often a false confidence that comes from a lack of personal experience.

For this reason the first thing that any young person must aim for is self-mastery.

Titus 2:7-8 [NIV] *“In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.”*

If Titus’ teaching is to be effective, it must be backed up by the way he conducts his own life.

Integrity - Greek word “*adiaphthōria*” meaning without corruption, motives that are absolutely pure.

The Christian teacher and preacher is always faced with certain temptations.

There is the danger of self-display, to demonstrate their own cleverness, knowledge and wisdom, which detracts from the message being given from God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

There is a temptation to be a dictator instead of a leader.

People can never be driven into becoming Christians, they can only be led.

A teacher is always confronted with the temptation of turning their vocation into only a career.

Seriousness – Greek word “*sēmnotēs*” meaning dignity and gravity combined, consciousness of the terrible responsibility of being an ambassador of Jesus Christ.

A Christian teacher must not stoop to pettiness, have no bitterness. Must have humility in their position or prestige. Possess a serenity that cannot be provoked.

It should never descend to conduct that is unbecoming an envoy of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Soundness of speech –

Greek word “*hugiainō*” meaning healthy, sound or whole, true (in doctrine).

A Christian teacher and preacher must be certain to propagate the truths of the Gospel Message as preached by Jesus Christ and **not** his own ideas.

As soon as a teacher becomes a propagandist for his own ideas or side-issues, he ceases to be an effective preacher or teacher of the Word of God, the Christian Bible. The Christian Bible must be central to all teaching.

Only then can a minister of Jesus Christ be above any criticism and convince people of the truth.

Titus 2:9-10 [NIV] *“Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive.”*

Slavery is **not** the major problem today facing Christianity as it was when Paul wrote this letter to Titus.

How can we relate this part of Paul’s letter to Titus to our personal Christian life?

When we meditate on this part of the letter we will see that we can easily make this relate to our own life.

Paul considered himself a bond slave of Jesus Christ [**Titus 1:1**, Greek “*dōulōs*”] and we are expected to follow this example.

The other apostles took on the same title and position, **James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1; Jude 1:1; Revelation 1:1 [John plus all other Christians]**

Today the vast majority of people will never willingly darken a church door, infant baptism, weddings and funerals being the only exception.

A minister of Christ will seldom get a chance to even speak to such people, for they will **not** listen.

How then is Christianity to make contact with all these people?

The only possible way is for their fellow workers, who are Christians, to show them Christianity in action.

This is exactly what Paul was telling Titus to preach to the bond slaves whom he came in contact with.

This is what Paul is instructing us to do as bond slaves of Jesus Christ.

Paul lists the qualities that a bond slave of Jesus Christ should have to make Christianity attractive.

The Greek word used translated “*attractive*” is “*kōsmēō*” meaning to put in proper order, garnish to draw people’s attention to an object. [**Matthew 23:29; Luke 11:25; Revelation 21:19**]

Subject to – a Christian is never a person who thinks they are above taking and obeying orders.

Please them – Christianity teaches us how to serve others in a way that will be pleasing to them.

Ephesians 2:10 [NIV] *“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

We received salvation at this time for the Holy Spirit to make us fit to fulfil loving service to other humans.

Matthew 20:25-28 [NIV] *“Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave, just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

We follow the example of our Saviour when our lives are devoted to serving other human beings.

Respectful – Christianity does **not** give us a special right to answer back to our employer.

Christianity does **not** obliterate the necessary lines of authority in the world of industry and commerce.

Honest – others may stoop to the petty dishonesties of which today’s society is full, but a Christian worker’s hands are clean.

Faithful – any person employing a Christian worker must be shown that they can rely and depend upon their loyalty and service.

It may well be that a person taking their Christianity into their workplace will run into trouble from workmates.

But if they stick to it in the end they will gain the respect of others, and their employers will realise that a Christian is the only person worth employing.

Titus 2:11-14 [NIV] *“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”*

We have set out in these verses the effect that accepting Jesus Christ as our Saviour can have on our moral and physical lives.

Salvation from godlessness –

Worldly things are those that will **not** follow us into the Kingdom [created family] of God and eternal life.

Is it **not** short-sighted to set our hearts on things that we must leave behind when we die?

If a person has spent the whole of their lives amassing nothing but material things, then they have nothing to take into eternal life, if they are offered it as a gift from their Creator God.

Salvation from worldly desires –

Simply put worldly desires are things we could **not** proudly show our Creator God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It is only Jesus Christ who can make our inner life, our thoughts, desires and motivations, fit for God to see.

We will never be able to hide these thoughts, desires and motivations from our Creator God. [**Psalms 139:1-16**]

New dynamic vision and hope –

Our new life as a Christian is centred on the return of Jesus Christ and our resurrection or our change to a spirit being. [**1 Corinthians 15:50-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:11-18**]

The power in our lives to prepare us for this great event, along with the day we will be judged as to how we lived our physical lives [**2 Corinthians 5:10**] is the Holy Spirit.

[**John 14:15-18; John 16:13; Romans 8:14; John 14:26; Galatians 5:22-25**]

The moral power of the coming of Jesus Christ as our Saviour is a tremendous thought.

Liberates us from the power and penalty of past sin.

Enable us to live a sin-free life within this world of space and time.

Prepare us to become a special possession of the Creator God and receive the gift of eternal life.

Titus 2:15 [NIV] *“These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.”*

Paul succinctly tells Titus the threefold task of every Christian teacher or preacher.

Remember the teacher responsibility is for every Christian.

Proclamation –

We all have a message to proclaim that is for every human being who has ever lived.

John 3:16-21 [NIV] *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness*

instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

This is **not** a message to argue about, it is a proclamation of what is true, for people who hear it to accept or reject.

Encouragement –

Any person whose life and teaching reduces others to despair has failed in their task of bringing to them the good news of the Gospel Message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

All must be led to realise that the Grace of God is greater than any sin they may have committed.

Conviction –

The eyes of every human being must be opened to enormity of their sins.

The Christian message is **no** comfortable assurance that everything may continue as it is and it will be alright for them in the future.

The Christian message is a blinding light that reveals to humans what they really are and how their Creator God sees them.

John 16:7-8 [NIV] *“But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.”*

The power to accomplish this conversion is the Holy Spirit, but He will be working through the lives of those who are already Christians. [**John 7:38-39**]

A three-fold task of conviction –

Convict people that they are sinners.

Show people where acceptable righteousness come from.

Reminds people that there will be a day of judgement.