

But As For You; Titus 2:1-8

I. Teaching

- A. Paul's letter to Titus outlines a number of things for him to do
- B. Titus 1:5 (ESV); This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—
- C. Paul goes on to list the characteristics that God desires in Elders
- D. Then He talks about people who are “insubordinate,” “empty talkers,” and “deceivers”
- E. Then the contrast begins

II. Older Men

- A. Titus 2:1–2 (ESV); ¹ But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. ² Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.
- B. Sound doctrine
 - 1. To be free from error in your teaching and instruction
 - 2. Titus 1:9 (ESV); ⁹ He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.
 - 3. Titus 1:12–13 (ESV); ¹² One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” ¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,
 - 4. Paul encourages Titus to teach without error, then he lays out some of those teachings
- C. Older
 - 1. The meaning of the word is an aged man (in contrast to an Elder or Shepherd)
 - 2. However, I think that Paul might also be referring to Christian maturity
- D. Sober Minded
 - 1. Being very moderate in the drinking of an alcoholic beverage, temperate, sober ¹
 - 2. Complete clarity of mind and its resulting good judgment ²
 - 3. Paul uses the same phrase in 1 Timothy 3:2 in regards to Shepherds (Elders)
 - 4. Paul uses the same idea in Titus 1:7, “He must not be... a drunkard”
- E. Dignified - worthy of respect
- F. Self-controlled - careful consideration for responsible action
- G. Sound
 - 1. In faith - teaching faith (Christianity) that is free from error
 - 2. In Love - self-sacrificing love (how God wants us to show love, not how we want to show love)
 - 3. In Steadfastness - to hold out, to bear up in the face of difficulty in a Godly way
- H. Older men must set the example for others to follow

III. Older Women

¹ William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 672.

² Thomas D. Lea and Hayne P. Griffin, 1, 2 Timothy, Titus, vol. 34, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 297.

- A. Titus 2:3–4 (ESV); ³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children,
 - B. Reverent in Behavior
 - 1. Reverent is a compound word; the first word meaning temple and the second meaning appropriate or fitting
 - 2. appropriate or fitting to serving in God’s temple
 - 3. This is the only place in the New Testament where this word is used
 - C. Not slanderers -
 - 1. The Greek term for devil comes from the root word meaning slanderer
 - 2. “Those persons who cannot control their tongues in speaking lies, false accusations, and spreading malicious gossip (whether true or untrue) do the work of Satan himself.” ³
 - 3. Slaves to much wine - this seems to be a teaching for all people
 - D. Teachers of young women
 - E. “Paul suggested in this passage that older women should possess personal godliness, be worthy of respect, and play an essential role in the lives of the young women in the church. The concept of spiritual mentoring is evident in this passage.” ⁴
- IV. Young Women
- A. Titus 2:4–5 (ESV); ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.
 - B. Love their Husband and children
 - 1. At first glance, it may not seem necessary to teach young women to love their husbands and children
 - 2. 2 Timothy 3:1–6 (ESV); ¹ But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. ⁶ For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions,
 - 3. It would seem that these false teachers were disrupting complete families to include the ability for young women to keep their passions and love for their husbands and children
 - 4. The family unit (in my opinion) is the most important in Christianity
 - a) It is where the majority of the teaching takes place
 - b) Either by word or by actions
 - c) It is this teaching that directs young children on their path (either in righteousness or wickedness)
 - d) The importance we place on teaching biblical principles in the family unit has a direct impact on the amount of importance the child gives these teachings
 - C. Self-controlled - careful consideration for responsible action

³ Thomas D. Lea and Hayne P. Griffin, 1, 2 Timothy, Titus, vol. 34, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 299

⁴ Ibid

- D. Pure - innocent, chaste
- E. Working at home
 1. The idea behind the ancient Greek manuscripts is a household manager
 2. The proverb 31 woman was a real estate agent, a vendor, a trader of goods among many other things
 3. This is not a restriction on where a woman can work — it is a mandate for a woman's responsibility to manage her household
- F. Kind — meeting a high standard of worth and merit; useful, beneficial
 1. Out of 101 times in the New Testament this word is translated “kind” twice
 2. The majority of the time it is translated good
 3. It refers to good works in 2 Corinthians 9:8
- G. Submissive
 1. We must recognize the ordered structure that God put in place
 2. This is not a value placed on a person, but a responsibility given to a person
- H. A Way of living that brings Glory to God
- V. Young Men
 - A. Titus 2:6 (ESV); Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.
 - B. “Likewise” is used as a marker of similarity between the commands given to the older men and women to the commands given to the younger women and men
 - C. Self-controlled is therefore to be understood as standing for the entire list of applicable. ⁵
- VI. Show Yourself
 - A. Titus 2:7–8 (ESV); ⁷ Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, ⁸ and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.
 - B. This sums up our behavior as Christians
 - C. We all fit into one of these four categories; older men, older women, young men, or young women
 - D. This is what accords to “sound doctrine;” teaching without error
 - E. Is this how you are (I am) living?

⁵ Carl Spain, Commentary on 1,2Timothy and Titus (Austin, Texas: The R. B. Sweet Company, 1970), p. 179.