

A Study in the Book of Titus

LESSON THREE

Teaching Sound Doctrine

(Titus 2:1-8)

Prayerfully read through Titus, chapter two, verses 1 through 8.

In the last half of Chapter one, Paul had just been warning Titus of the false teachers who had crept into the church and how Titus was to handle them. As we move to chapter two, Paul shifts the focus from what Titus needs to watch out for, to what he needs to be doing.

1. Looking at **verse one**, what does Paul tell Titus he must do?
2. The New Living Translation reads: “**As for you, Titus, promote the kind of living that reflects wholesome teaching.**” David Guzik states: “**The Bible is a book that tells us how to *live*. It is the height of hypocrisy to say that we believe its truth if we ignore how it tells us to live our lives.**” What instructions did Jesus give in **Matthew 28:19 & 20**?
3. This command of Jesus is what we call **The Great Commission**. It is a call to all of us as believers, and certainly the job of every pastor to his congregation. After the Gospel has been preached and received, we are to **make disciples**. We do this, not only through sound teaching, but by observation of the way we live. As Paul continues his instructions to Titus, he focuses on various groups of people in the church, giving Titus instructions on what must be taught and the example he and the elders should be setting. What instruction does he give Titus for **older men** in **Titus 2:2**?

4. The “older men” group should include, not just those older in age, but in **spiritual maturity**. Paul instructs men in this group to display certain characteristics. The first is **sober**. The Greek word is **nephaleos** and it defines someone who is **vigilant** or **circumspect**; someone who is **aware**, not oblivious to what’s going on around them. Look up in a dictionary the words **vigilant** and **circumspect**.

Vigilant -

Circumspect -

5. Look up these other verses that talk about being sober.

1 Thessalonians 5:6 -

1 Thessalonians 5:7 & 8 -

1 Peter 1:13 -

1 Peter 5:8 -

6. The second characteristic the older men are to display is a **reverence** in their **behavior**. Some translations use the word **reverent** and some use the word **dignified**. The Greek word is **semnos** and it actually means **honorable**. The **Bible Knowledge Commentary** also describes it as **serious-minded**. This isn’t speaking of someone who goes around with a sour expression or doesn’t like to have fun, but rather, someone who is **serious in their relationship with Christ** and in their desire to live a life that honors His name. The NIV and NLT translate it as living in a manner “**worthy of respect**.” Look up the following Scriptures that speak of this.

1 Thessalonians 2:12 -

Hebrews 13:18 -

1 Peter 2:12 –

7. The next word Paul uses is the word **temperate**. Some translations use the word **self-controlled**. The Greek word is **sophron**. Warren Wiersbe states that it “**describes an attitude of mind that leads to prudence and self-control in life. It is the opposite of frivolity and carelessness that are based on ignorance.**” What does Paul say in **1 Corinthians 9:25-27** about being **temperate**?

8. Next, Paul says the mature man needs to be **sound**. The Greek word is **hugiaino**. It actually means to be **well, healthy, whole**. Write down the three things Paul states the mature man is to be **sound** in.

9. He is to be sound in his **faith**. The Greek word is **pistis**. It means **assurance, belief, moral conviction**. How does **Hebrews 11:1** define **faith**?

10. He is to be sound in **love**. The Greek word is the familiar word **agape**. This is the love of God that comes through His Spirit. The words of the Apostle John in **1 John 4:7-12** give us a beautiful description of this love and how we are to express it to others. Write down this passage.

11. He is to be sound in **patience**. The Greek word is **hupomone**. It means **perseverance, hopeful endurance**. We usually think of the trio of words being **faith, hope and love**, but this Greek word for **patience** is closely related to the Greek word for **hope**. The Greek word for hope is **elpis** and it means a **confident expectation; to anticipate with pleasure**. It is the confident expectation we have in Christ that gives us the ability to “**keep on keeping on**” with **hopeful endurance**. Write down the following Scriptures that speak to us about possessing the kind of **patience** that helps us to **hopefully endure**.

Colossians 1:10 & 11 -

1 Thessalonians 1:3 -

2 Thessalonians 1:3 & 4 -

12. Moving on to **verse 3**, Paul continues his instructions stating that the **older women do likewise**. In the same way as he instructed the spiritually mature men, Paul instructs the spiritually mature women to behave and live in a way that honors Christ. Write down what Paul says the older (mature in the faith) women are to do in this verse.

13. At the end of **verse 3** Paul states that the older women are to be **teachers** to the younger, and that they are to teach them **good things**. Some of those good things are, no doubt, what Paul gave the older women instructions of at the beginning of **verse 3**. What are some of the other **good things** Paul tells them to teach the younger women in **verse 4**?

14. “..... to love their husbands.....” The Greek word used here is not **agape**, but **philandros**. The word is only used here and found nowhere else in Scripture. The word **Philandros** is “**affectionate love**.” It is closely related to **phillia**, which refers to “**brotherly love**.” It is different from the word **eros**, which is **sexual**, or **romantic love** (and is actually never used in the Bible). It is the affectionate love a woman has for her spouse. It is a **friendship** love, beyond just a **romantic** kind of love. The older woman was to teach the younger woman to have genuine **affection** for her husband. To be his **friend** and **companion**, not just his lover. The following passage paints a good picture of this kind of love. Look it up and write it down below.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 –

Most scholars agree that the “**third strand**” mentioned of the “**three strand cord**” in **verse 12**, is none other than Christ, Himself.

15. The last part of **Titus 2:4** says the other thing the older woman is to teach the younger is to “**love their children**.” The Greek word is **philoteknos** and it is **maternal love**. It is a natural maternal instinct that God has placed within a mother’s heart, but there is still much that does not necessarily **come naturally** and must be **taught**. Especially the aspect of that love that calls for **self-sacrifice**. This is something we often see missing in the “**me first**” culture of today.

Do you see any instances in today's culture that reveal an increasing lack of maternal, self-sacrificing love being exhibited today? Can you share some examples of your observations?

- 16.** Finishing off the list for what the younger women are to be taught, Paul adds five additional instructions in **verse 5**. What are they? (Remember, I am using the NKJV unless otherwise noted).

To be **discreet** is the same Greek word **sophron**, that Paul used in **verse two** to instruct the older men in, translated there as **temperate** or **self-controlled**. The word **chaste** is the Greek word **hagnos**, which means **clean, pure, modest, and innocent** of what all the opposite of those things are.

- 17.** Paul also tells Titus the older women need to teach the younger to be **keepers at home**. Many women embrace the home as 'their domain' and love the management of it. Other women, especially in today's culture, don't necessarily look at it as a blessing and privilege to be the "domestic manager" of the home. I believe that God meant it to be a position of honor and dignity, not looked upon as something to be despised. However, it doesn't come naturally to every woman and Paul states here that it must be **taught**. This doesn't, however, mean that women are to have no other interests. Women, then and now, are not all married, or mothers, or naturally domestically inclined. Read over some of the descriptions of the woman of **Proverbs 31** and share **some of your thoughts** about **her priorities, skills and abilities**.

18. Paul then adds **goodness** to the list, The word **good** is **agathos**. One of its meanings is **beneficial**. In the context of this verse, Paul is stating we are to be a **good gift**, a **blessing**, a **benefit** to those around them. The final instruction of this verse is to be **obedient** or **submissive** to one's **own husband**. Paul is careful to distinguish that our submission in marriage is to our **own husband**, not to all men. This is something we may have a difficult time with, but submission is something we are **all called to** in various forms. In marriage, wives are to submit to the position of authority the Lord has placed the husband in. What other areas of submission are we called to in the following verses?

James 4:7a -

1 Peter 2:13 & 14 -

1 Peter 5:5 -

19. At the end of **Titus 2:5**, Paul gives **the reason** that the **teaching** and **observation** of these things are so important. Write down his reason below.

David Guzik states: "According to Paul's instruction, Titus was not to make it his ministry to teach the **young women** directly. Instead, he was to equip and encourage the *older women* to teach **the younger women**."

20. Women's Ministry is a **vital ministry** in the church and in the life of the mature Christian woman. There are things that need to be taught that cannot be done efficiently by the pastor. They are things that need to be taught by the mature to the younger, woman to woman,. How has the ministry of other women affected your life and relationship with Christ? Has being a part of a women's Bible study group taught you things that helped you to mature into the godly woman Christ has called you to be?

Share some of the benefits you have gleaned from women's ministry.

21. In **verse 6**, we see Paul's instructions for this last group of people that we'll look at in this lesson. From this verse, write down Paul's instruction to Titus of what must be taught to the **young men**.

22. This is the same instruction Paul gave to the older men and older women. In **verse 7**, Paul states that these things are not only to be **taught**, but to be **exampled** in the lives of Titus and all the elders and church leadership. Looking at **verses 7 & 8**, write down all the things Paul tells Titus he needs to be an example of.

23. Paul again gives a **reason** at the end of **verse 8** for why the teaching of these things and being an example of these things is so important. What does he say?

24. What was your greatest take-away from Lesson Three in our study of Titus?

This study was written and prepared by Shawn Van Hook, 2025