

“...THAT THE WORD OF GOD MAY NOT BE DISHONORED” Titus 2:3-5

OVERVIEW

I. Written by Paul to Titus as instructions for the new church in Crete.

Chapter 1 is instructions concerning the appointment of church leadership.

Chapter 2 is instructions to regular people in the church, not full-time workers, given according to their age and season in life.

II. Purpose

Titus is instructed in Titus 2:1 to “speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.”

“...teach what is fitting and becoming to sound (wholesome) doctrine (the character and right living that identify true Christians).” Titus 2:1 Amplified Bible

A. Receiving sound teaching and understanding what the Bible says are critical to our spiritual health. They make possible character development and lifestyle choices which identify us as true Christians according the scriptural definition.



“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing in gratitude.” Col 2:6,7

B. When we put these things into practice we are being “*built up in Him and established in (our) faith*”—we grow in goodness and holiness—able and prepared to serve God.

C. We do not want to dishonor the Word of God, but to honor it



“...you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following. But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.” I Timothy 4:6-8

We do not want to be women who have based their lives on worldly fables, caught up in superstition and false teaching.



Neither do we want to be women who are weak, “*weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*” II Timothy 3:6,7

2

Titus 2 teaches that older women are first to be godly in their own character and then to train the younger women in their home situations with their husbands and children and in areas of character. The term “older” used here means just that—they are older women in the church. The Greek word means “aged,” or “older in years.” In the masculine form it is also used to describe elders in the church—or those older men who have positions of responsibility in leadership. Here the older women are given the responsibility of training—role-modeling and teaching-- the younger women in the church. They are to reproduce themselves in the younger women. The term “young” used here literally means “new” or “recent.” These “younger” women are just that—young—either newly married or preparing for marriage or even teenagers. This teaching is not just reacting to problems in the church but pro-actively preparing young women for their future roles.

Titus 2:5 says that we do this so “*that the word of God may not be dishonored.*” The Greek word used here is “blasphemeo,” which means “to blaspheme.” The idea is of something being defamed, reviled or spoken evil of. How can our lives and our teaching (or lack of it) result in God’s Word being dishonored in such a way?

Because the world watches. We are God’s representatives—the Bible says we are His ambassadors- “*Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*” II Cor 5:20
God has chosen us to be His communicators through life and word in a dark world.

We are His fragrance in a lost world—“*For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.*” II 2:15
The fragrance of dinner always precedes the meal—inviting all those who smell it to come to the table. The Holy Spirit in us gives out an invitation to others to come closer and see what God offers.

The family is a picture of Christ’s relationship to His church. The church is referred to as His bride in the book of Revelations. The husband and wife’s relationship is used as an example of Christ’s relationship to His church in Ephesians 5:22-33. Satan opposes this picture being accurately presented through use of deception and lies. This enemy would love to cause God’s Word to be perceived as untrue because it is not borne out in our lives.

We represent Christ to the world as His ambassadors, as His fragrance which precedes the knowledge of Him. Our families illustrate His relationship to the church.

We as women must ask ourselves:

What true difference has knowing Christ made in our own lives?

What difference has knowing Christ made in our family life?

Can others see this difference?

Am I sharing what Christ has done in my life with younger women in my church?

Am I seeking to learn from an older woman to be the kind of woman, wife and mother which will be an honor to God’s Word?