

“Duties for Older Men”
Titus 2:2
(Preached at Trinity, March 5, 2023)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Last time we began this section with what I called the theology of gender. Paul frames it in the category of sound doctrine.
Titus 2:1 NAU - "But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine."
 - A. As Paul pressed Titus to focus on the matter of sound doctrine, we might expect the subject matter to focus on the Gospel and the person and work of Christ. And indeed, it does in **Verses 13-14**. But it might seem surprising to see Paul focusing on gender roles as he stresses the importance of sound doctrine.
 - B. One of the distinctives of our church is "Sound Doctrine." We need to be careful not to limit what we think about doctrine. All of the Word of God displays the authority of God. This includes the Bible's teaching on gender. Richard Phillips presses this: "The clear and insistent teaching of the New Testament on gender identity, marital relations, and sexual conduct carries the same divine authority as its teaching on justification."¹
 - C. The chapter concludes with:
Titus 2:15-3:1 NAU - "These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you. "
Right doctrine always includes right living.
2. To disregard the Bible's teaching regarding men and women is to disregard obedience to God. Paul is charging Titus:
"These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority."
3. Paul first directs our attention to the duties of older men. Paul directs his attention upon older men in contrast to younger men and in contrast to older women. Men and women are distinct. The word refers to aged men—those advanced in years. An older man would have been at least fifty years old.
Paul has his eye upon Christian older men. Men who were mature in the faith. Old age doesn't guarantee spiritual maturity. Spiritual maturity comes from a life spent in the presence of Christ, a life filled with the Holy Spirit.

¹ Daniel M. Doriani and Richard D. Phillips, *2 Timothy & Titus*, ed. Richard D. Phillips, Philip Graham Ryken, and Daniel M. Doriani, Reformed Expository Commentary (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2020), 181.

4. These qualities are similar to the qualifications for pastor. The point is, with maturity comes responsibility. Older men have a high duty to demonstrate the maturity of their Christian faith. We need to understand Christians are of a different sort. It is sad to see the typical man entering old age today is not like the ones Paul is describing here. MacArthur reminds us of the struggles of old age: “Increased age typically brings decreased energy, diminished vision and hearing, more aches and pains, and often more depression, hopelessness, and cynicism.”²
- I. Paul first directs our attention to the demeanor of the mind – right thinking.
- A. “Temperate”
1. It literally means sober as it would apply to moderation with regard to alcoholic beverages. This would be consistent with **Verse 3** – “nor enslaved to much wine”
Of course, drunkenness is never allowed for Christians so we cannot limit this temperance to alcohol. We already have our instruction regarding alcohol.
Ephesians 5:18 NAU - "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,"
1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NAU - "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God."
 2. This has a focus upon being sober minded—clear-headed.
Free from rash behavior or excesses. Paul wrote to Timothy about youthful lusts.
2 Timothy 2:22 NAU - "Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."
The sober minded man, the mature Christian has learned the importance of fleeing youthful lusts.
- B. “dignified”
1. Older men should have a mature view of life. Too often older men want to act more like boys. The expression, “act your age” is good counsel. They need to be serious, not superficial or frivolous.
 2. The older men should garner the respect of age – but it should be an earned respect—they should be worthy of respect. Worthy of following.
Leviticus 19:32 KJV - "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I *am* the LORD."
Proverbs 16:31 KJV - "The hoary head *is* a crown of glory, *if* it be found in the way of righteousness."

² John F. MacArthur Jr., *Titus*, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1996), 72.

- C. “Sensible” – It means self-controlled.
1. They should have the wisdom of experience.
 2. The mature man has learned to set proper priorities. He has his eye upon Christ, upon the proper course of life.
Paul spoke of fighting the good fight and keeping the course.
Sadly, in our culture men set their priorities upon spending their latter days in frivolous living. They call it retirement.
 3. Richard Phillips – “The Christian does not see his senior years as one last chance for fun before dying. Rather, he knows that eternity draws near in the joyful rest of heaven with Jesus Christ. While he lives, the godly older man wants to leverage his experience and relationships to make as big an impact for the kingdom as possible.”³
- II. Paul then turns to further exposition of soundness
- A. Paul uses the word ὑγιαίνω
1. It literally refers to health – we get our word hygiene.
 2. It’s the word used in **verse 1** – “sound” doctrine
 3. Now Paul applies it to how older men should carry themselves:
Remember, sound doctrine always displays itself practically.
Soundness in faith, love, and perseverance.
There is a definite article before each of these:
The faith, The love, The perseverance.
- B. Soundness in faith
1. Mature Christians are sound in Christian truth. They have doctrinal discernment. They are not easily tossed to and fro by every new idea.
 2. Older men should possess a mature faith. He should possess an established steadfast faith.
Colossians 1:22-23 NAU - "He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach-- ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel "
 3. Faith is the substance of our union with Christ
By faith we rest upon His righteousness
By faith we trust in His death as our substitute
By faith we find Him all sufficient
 4. It is by faith that justification is applied to us
Romans 3:23-25 NAU - "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith."
 5. Our faith grows and is strengthened as we mature as Christians.
Titus 2:2 NAU - "Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance." - a healthy faith

³ Daniel M. Doriani and Richard D. Phillips, *2 Timothy & Titus*, ed. Richard D. Phillips, Philip Graham Ryken, and Daniel M. Doriani, Reformed Expository Commentary (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2020), 183.

6. It is our steadfast faith that enables us to stand firm against the dangers of the Christian life.

C. Soundness in love

1. Love is the chief of Christian fruits. It is first fruit of the Spirit. It is the measure of our spiritual life.
2. He demonstrates love to Christ supremely, first and foremost. He also loves his family; he loves his church.
3. Older men should be able to serve as models of love. This is demonstrated by sacrificial service, forbearance and patience. 1 Corinthians 13 provides our model for Christian love.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NAU - "Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

D. Soundness in perseverance

1. We've seen too often the tendency to slow down in old age. To become morally lax, critical of others, less forgiving and patient. To be far less active in service than previously.
2. Paul speaks of a healthy perseverance. The word is ὑπομονή - It refers to endurance, steadfastness. It carries the idea of hope and confidence. This means Paul is once again speaking of the trinity of Christian graces – faith, hope, and love. Older Christian men should be rich in these graces.
3. Caleb serves as an example for us all. He was one of the twelve spies Moses sent into Canaan. Only Joshua and Caleb encouraged Israel to seize the land, trusting in God's promise. Forty-five years later, at the age of 85 Caleb was still ready to go to war to seize the land. When it was time to receive his inheritance he asked for the more difficult assignment. That's perseverance. **Joshua 14:10-13 NAU** - "Now behold, the LORD has let me live, just as He spoke, these forty-five years, from the time that the LORD spoke this word to Moses, when Israel walked in the wilderness; and now behold, I am eighty-five years old today. ¹¹ "I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and coming in. ¹² "Now then, give me this hill country about which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the LORD will be with me, and I will drive them out as the LORD has spoken." ¹³ So Joshua blessed him and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for an inheritance."
4. And we shouldn't forget that Moses was 80 years old when God called him as Israel's deliverer.

Conclusion:

1. The older men and women in our church should be looked upon, not as old folk who don't know the ways of youth, but as those who should be sought out for their wisdom. As those who have experience in Christian warfare, Christian faithfulness. This is the Biblical model. The older men should be prepared to encourage and lead the younger men.
2. This puts a heavy burden upon older people, the ones who are called senior adults today. They need to see their lives as opportunities to serve Christ, opportunities to draw nearer to Him. They need to have an eye on the kind of example they are demonstrating towards younger Christians. Mature men need to invest themselves in the life of the church, invest themselves in the lives of younger men.