

Young Men Must Be Self-Controlled (Titus 2:6)

“Likewise,” as a conjunction, connects verse 6 with the previous verses (v.2 and following). Paul is continuing his authoritative unction to encourage belonging and discipleship.

Paul is encouraging and commanding older men and older women to be the role models in both speech and conduct.

The “urging” means to comfort or to encourage; to be persuaded with authority. Younger men must be humbly exhorted to have self-control.

The elders of the church must not be the only ones who are doing the encouraging and the exhortation; a healthy church will have intergenerational belonging.

The young men refers to men who are fervent in their vitality; possibly around the age of 13 to 50’s. It refers to a time of life when there are strong impulses, flaring biological hormones, passionate inclinations, volatile ambitions and even arrogance.

The word “sensible” is translated as self-control. It means to keep one’s mind safe and sound; have a proper estimation, think of one’s self soberly, or to have mastery over passions, and as a result, to think sensibly.

Self-control is required for all Christians of all ages (1:8, 2:2,3,4,5,6).

1. Solomon’s “Success”

Solomon had experienced and accomplished what many young men seek; he was popular and rich. He enjoyed every luxury this world had to offer. He had 1,000 wives and concubines; he withheld nothing from his eyes. His problem, like many young men, is that he was not self-controlled. He did not walk in wisdom and suffered the consequences of it.

2. Solomon’s Struggle against Sin

While justification is monergistic, sanctification is synergistic. Christians must work out what God has wrought in us (Philippians 12-13).

Every king was commanded to read the Torah regularly, Solomon included. (Deuteronomy 17:14-20). The King must not have many horses, wives, or acquire excess gold or silver.

Even though Solomon regularly read the Torah, he did not exercise self-control in submitting to it.

What happened to the heart of Solomon? (1 Kings 11:1-10)

Conviction of sin is not the end of the battle; it is the beginning. Conviction brings a sinner to a crossroad, where he must make a choice: either slavery to sin, or obedience to righteousness.

Solomon lived in unrepentant sin. If you live without self-control, you will expedite trouble and regret.

One aspect of self-control is the yielding of passions and inclinations to wisdom. This comes at the expense of self-denial (Proverbs 1:20-22)

3. Solomon's Solution

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come (Proverbs 12:1). Fear God and keep his commandments, for God will bring every deed into judgment along with every secret thing, whether good or evil (Proverbs 12:13).

If you take heed to Solomon's advice, as a young man, you can do whatever you want.

Points of Application

- Weaving the Word of God into every fabric of your mind and heart will help keep you from sin and on the path of righteousness (Psalm 119:11)
- Consider the consequences of your actions (Proverbs 14:15)
- Flee youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace (2 Timothy 2:22)
- God will never allow you to be tempted beyond your ability to resist with His help (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- You must surround yourself with godly people (Proverbs 13:20)
- You must have a humble heart when being disciplined by God (Psalm 119:71)
- Pray for God's help (Luke 22:33)