

Titus 2:1-8

Verse 1—Some argue that the behavior commanded here is not universally required but is culturally bound to the first century. However, v1 roots this behavior not in cultural ideas but in sound doctrine itself. Just look at verse 1, “*But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.*”

Doctrine affects belief and belief affects behavior. It affects the behavior of...

I. The Older Men v2

Older men are to be temperate

1. A temperate person avoids extravagance and over-indulgence.
2. He, as a steward, is getting closer to standing before his master
3. He is not throwing away his time, money, or energy on an American dream or the popular idea of what retirement is supposed to look like.
4. He is kingdom minded and kingdom focused

Older men are to be temperate, dignified

1. The word dignified does not imply high class but rather reverence.
2. His mind has been taken off of the sinful, the ungodly, and the crude and is focused on the holy
3. Col 3:2 *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible

1. This could be translated self-control
2. Older men should have the discernment, discretion, and judgment that comes from walking with God for many years.

Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.

1. He is to be sound in Faith: For a Christian, old age should bring greater faith in God and in His Word
2. In Love: Old age should bring a greater love for God and for the people of God.
3. In Perseverance: It should produce a greater steadfastness, settledness, and endurance.

II. Older Women v3-4a

Paul does not specify the age a woman would have to be to qualify as older.

1. He is a very smart man, isn't he?
2. The age at which one is considered an older woman would probably be the age attained at the time children are raised and establishing their own homes.

Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior

1. The word has the root meaning of being priest-like; characterized by conduct appropriate to a temple.
2. The simple meaning is that we must take seriously the fact that we belong to God. How?

not malicious gossips

1. Malicious gossips translates slanderer and false accuser.
2. The term is used 34 times in the NT as a title for Satan.
3. While we all have a tendency to talk too much, the Holy Spirit specifically applies this to older women, which indicates this is a particular challenge for many older ladies
4. Older women, you must refuse to listen to, much less propagate, slanderous or demeaning words about others.

Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine

1. Addiction has obviously always been an issue...in the first century it apparently was alcohol
2. 1 Timothy 3:8 *Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain*
3. We should not be addicted to anything as believers!
4. 2 Peter 2:19 *by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.*

Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good

1. A key function of older women was to teach and train the young women.
 - a. This is not talking about older youth teaching or mentoring the younger youth.
 - b. This is not even really talking about young adults mentoring youth.
 - c. It is talking about older women (empty nesters and older) teaching the young women (teenage girls, newly married girls, new mothers).
2. Context shows that this refers to informal, one on one encouragement...coming alongside the young women and mentoring them in being a godly wife, a godly mother, a godly woman.
3. They are not just teaching them anything, but teaching what is good

4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

III. The Young Women v4-5

The older women are to train the young women to do some very specific things.

4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands

1. Paul is speaking of a committed love that godly wives choose to have for their husbands.
 - a. It refers to willing, determined love that is not based on a husband's worthiness but on God's command.
 - b. So he instructs the older women to teach the younger women how to choose to love their husbands, even when they are unlovable.
2. Paul says, teach these young women to make the commitment to choose to love their husbands.

so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children

1. Think about this
 - a. The average child spends their youngest years in daycare 8 hours a day
 - b. The average child spends 14,000 hours in the classroom between K and 12th.
 - c. When you add to that the extra-curricular activities, very very little time is actually spent raising our children.
2. Kevin Swanson said, The average American has half the number of children, twice the square footage, and 7 times the debt as they did 100 years ago. It appears we love drywall more than children.
3. We need a revival of love for our children: relationships.

so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be sensible

Again this refers to being self controlled...holding oneself in.

5 to be sensible, pure

1. Pure refers primarily to moral purity and marital faithfulness.
2. When someone looks at you do they see a picture of purity?
3. 1 Peter 3:3-4 *Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair, the wearing of gold, or the putting on of clothing—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.*

5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home

1. Prov 14:1 *The wisest of women builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down.*
2. *The home is where a wife can provide the best expressions of love for her husband. It is where she teaches and guides and sets a godly example for her children. It is where she is protected from abusive and immoral relationships with other men and where, especially in our day, she still has greater protection from worldly influences—despite the many lurid TV programs, magazines, and other ungodly intrusions. The home is where she has special opportunity to show hospitality and devote herself to other good works. The home is where she can find authentic and satisfying fulfillment, as a Christian and as a woman. MacArthur.*

5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind

They are to be gentle, considerate, and sympathetic.

5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands

1. Col 3:18 *Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord*
2. I find it ironic that often the same women that puff up at the thought of submitting to their husbands have no problem submitting themselves to their employer, who usually is someone else's husband.

5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

1. The gospel of Jesus Christ is at stake in the actions of these younger women
2. *“As a woman, your priority is to God and that means you obey Him. And then your priority is to your husband, and that means you love him and you submit to him. Your priority is then to your children, you teach them, you instruct them, you raise them in godliness and express your love to them. Then your sphere is your home which is your haven, a place of hospitality. And then your ministry in the life of the church. Anything apart from those priorities brings dishonor on God's Word. It's that simple. And if we're going to have an impact in the world, that's the way we need to live.”* John MacArthur

I want to remind you that these things are the affects of sound doctrine v1

1. If these things are not becoming evident in lives and families and our church it is because we have failed to be taught, understand, believe, and receive sound doctrine.
2. Older men...Older women....young women...as you look at your life next to these Scriptures does it say “sound doctrine?”

IV. Young Men v6

6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible

1. Urge (strongly request) the younger men to be sensible
2. Have good judgment and be self-controlled.
 - a. This keeps coming up...self control, holding oneself in.
 - b. But think about it...what would this not correct? Take control and just do it
 1. Read the Bible
 2. Pray
 3. Witness
 4. Put to death your sin
 5. Tithe
 6. Get up and come to church
 7. Just do what you know God would have you do, because He said so.
3. Let down your nets
 - a. Peter had been fishing all night and Jesus asked him to let his nets down
 - b. Ridiculous, but at your word, I will let them down.
 - c. Just let your nets down at his word...take control by giving Him control.

7 in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, 8 sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

1. Exemplify for them good deeds v7a
2. Exemplify Pure Doctrine v7b-8
3. Exemplify Dignity
4. Exemplify Sound Speech

Let's put the opponent, the adversary to shame because he cannot find anything bad to say about us.

Conclusion: Sound doctrine begins with a Solid Gospel—understanding, belief, reception, and application of the gospel.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did you learn about God in this sermon and in the biblical texts used? About Christ? About the Holy Spirit?
2. What did you learn about yourself in this sermon and in the texts used?
3. Were there any clear promises or commands in the biblical texts used?
4. What is the hardest truth that stands out to you from this message or the verses referenced?
5. What is the most impactful point or statement from the sermon?
6. How can you respond to this message?