

Titus 2:2 — “Older Men! We Desperately Need You In the Church!”

“Call your children and your grandchildren together and tell them what a good God you have served; or, if you have no such dear ones, speak to your neighbours and your friends, or write it down that other eyes may read it when yours are glazed in death. Reach out your hand to the ages yet to come, and present them with the pearl of great price. Pray God to enable you to set your mark upon the coming generation, and then set about winning youth to Jesus by a cheerful, bold, unhesitating witness to his love and power...

Oh, my honoured brethren, reverend for your years, show us your metal. Let the young ones see how victories are won. Quit yourselves like men, and let us see how he who is washed in the blood of Jesus would not hesitate to shed his own blood in the Redeemer's cause. Your zeal will stimulate us, your courage nerve us, and we, too, will be valiant for the Lord God of Israel.” (Charles Spurgeon)

We beg & plead with all older men that we need you *NOW* more than ever!

Titus 1	Titus 2
Leaders	Congregation
Shepherds	Sheep
Pastors	Members

In chapter 2, there are 5 groups that Paul will give specific exhortations to (older men/women; young women/men; slaves)

THESIS — From TITUS 2.2, I want to show 4 reasons why we DESPERATELY NEED Older Men in this Local Church — serving, discipling, modeling, and exhorting...

1. The **importance** of older men
2. The **temperance** of older men
3. The **perseverance** of older men
4. The **guidance** of older men

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF OLDER MEN

Denny Burk writes: “The church desperately needs her older men to be like this (Titus 2.2). We need an army of laymen who believe well, love well, and suffer well. And we need them because they are the pace-setters for the rest of the church. It's not an accident that Paul begins this list with the older men. He begins with them because he intends for the old guys to be leading out in these things in the church and in their homes.”

- Moses was 80 when God called him to lead Israel out of Egypt.
- Hudson Taylor was 70 when he was vigorously pushing into new areas in Inland China.
- George Mueller was 90 still expanding his orphanage work housing 1,500 orphans and sending missionaries out to 12 mission fields!
- Caleb was 85 years old when he went up to the fortified cities of the pagans & defeated them because he followed the Lord fully!

II. THE TEMPERANCE OF OLDER MEN (2a)

3 character qualities:

1. Temperate —

2. Dignified —**3. Sensible —****III. THE PERSEVERANCE OF OLDER MEN (2b)**

He must be sound -- healthy, whole -- in a “triad” of exemplary qualities:

1. Sound in faith —**2. Sound in love —****3. Sound in perseverance —**

“It is important for men not to miss what Paul is saying here (in Titus 2.2). He’s describing a man who doesn’t panic in the face of a challenge. He doesn’t get angry when provoked. He doesn’t fear in the face of a threat. This man is as solid as an oak. He’s the kind of guy people look to when something is broken and no one knows how to fix it. He is the kind of man who is sought out for his wisdom and ability to speak truth into very difficult situations. He’s exemplary in his faith and in his love for his wife and kids and church and neighbor. He faces trials with perseverance and courage. He’s the guy you want your son to grow up to be like.” (Denny Burk)

IV. THE GUIDANCE OF OLDER MEN

- We need older men to LEAD THE CHURCH.
- We need older men to LIVE FOR CHRIST.
- We need older men to SUFFER WITH ENDURANCE.
- We need older men to DISCIPLE THE YOUTH.
- We need older men to PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.

“The latter years of life, especially for men, can be filled with regrets, a sense of uselessness or worthlessness, feelings of despair, self absorption, or even a tendency to relax moral standards because of old age. However, Paul desires for the older men what he desired for himself as he approached the end of life: ‘FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, FINISH THE RACE, AND KEEP THE FAITH’ (2 Tim 4.7)” (Thomas Lea Griffen).

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What About You? Older men, consider the following ways you can *actively & beneficially* serve...

Some suggestions:

- Consider *one* man in your church that you’ll pursue, meet with, pray with, study with & hold accountable.
- Consider praying thru the CFBC membership list *weekly* -- by name, specifically.
- Consider taking a young man with you to go get a haircut with you (ride together & ask him about his heart).
- Consider taking a younger man with you on a Sunday morning walk and praying for the upcoming worship together & for souls to be matured in Christ.
- Consider praying every Wednesday night at the corporate prayer meeting. Let the young men hear godly men pray and call upon the Lord.
- Consider reaching out to a different man in the church each month (including young dads and teens and youth) and ask for *one* specific way to pray that week. Then, pray daily for that request. And follow up specifically.
- Consider asking another man to ride with you to visit another member in the church (a widow, an elderly person, another family) and briefly visit together with the family: pray with them, read with them, and then leave.

By Faith

By faith we see the hand of God
 In the light of creation’s grand design
 In the lives of those who prove His faithfulness
 Who walk by faith and not by sight
 By faith our fathers roamed the earth
 With the power of His promise in their hearts
 Of a holy city built by God’s own hand
 A place where peace and justice reign

We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on Him our soul’s reward
Till the race is finished and the work is done
We’ll walk by faith and not by sight

By faith the prophets saw a day
 When the longed-for Messiah would appear
 With the power to break the chains of sin and death
 And rise triumphant from the grave
 By faith the church was called to go
 In the power of the Spirit to the lost
 To deliver captives and to preach good news
 In every corner of the earth

By faith this mountain shall be moved
 And the power of the gospel shall prevail
 For we know in Christ all things are possible
 For all who call upon His name

Older Men, We Younger Men Need You!

Geoffrey R. Kirkland | Christ Fellowship Bible Church

Pity the church that has droves of young, hip, trendy dudes and few gray-haired men of wisdom who have been around for a handful of decades. Young men desperately need older men. Just say it: being old isn’t bad. Older people have wisdom from experience. Older men who have walked with God for longer than most young men have even been alive know what God’s faithfulness is all about and how God’s faithfulness really, actively, gloriously proves itself even in the toughest of trials. Some old men have lost their wives of 50+ years. And they know God is faithful. Others have lost children, grandchildren, even great-grandchildren. And the indomitable confidence in the good sovereignty of God gladdens their souls. Far from being grumpy old men and crusty old complainers, they are strong, gentle, humble, and courageous men who stand on Christ and His Word. With that, older men, we younger men need you!

1. Your Wisdom

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A gray head is a crown of glory (Prov 16.31). Those who have stood the test of time have wisdom from God, wisdom from the Word, wisdom from meditating on the Truth, wisdom from hearing years and years of sermons, and wisdom from practical life application and experience. The honor of old men is their gray hair (Prov 20.29). Those who are older are to be temperate and respectable and should invest sacrificially and intentionally into the younger men (Titus 2.2, 6-8). Those who have walked with God and have seen God answer prayers after decades of faithfully and believingly calling upon God can impart wisdom that a textbook just can't merely provide. Older men who have walked with God, impart your wisdom to the younger men.

2. Your Testimony

The Scriptures speak of the old and gray-headed people who long to declare God's strength to the next generation and God's power to all who will come (Ps 71.18). The next generation must hear the older folks testify to God's power, His faithfulness, His provisions, and His unswerving love for His own. Younger people must hear the older men and women verbally pronounce that the God of ancient Israel is the same God of the present day and that He has proven Himself to be faithful to them every day, without fail.

3. Your Prayers

Nothing can so move mountains as much as fervent, relentless, believing prayer. What is it that God uses to work out His sovereignly decreed will but the prayers of His own! Pray for the next generation. Tirelessly travail for the integrity and purity of the next generation. Bend to your knees and beg God to save, sanctify, fortify, and strengthen the coming generations of Christ-followers. Pray for the purity of the young people. Pray for the integrity of their hearts. Pray for the resoluteness of their affections. Pray for the selflessness of their desires. Pray for the godliness of their conduct. Pray for them to shake the dark world with the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray for them and pray with them. Encourage them by telling them you have spent time bringing them before the Throne of God. And grab them and pray *with* them. Teach them to pray in and through your praying.

4. Your Faithfulness

Endurance. Everyone needs it. God requires it. Scripture calls believers to it. Persevere! Be faithful! Remain steadfast! Cling to Christ! Older folks drawing nearer and nearer to heaven each day, you must show and model to the next generation of younger people what it looks like for men and women of God to live faithful lives. Faithfulness proves to be a mark that God looks for today and yet it remains a mark at which the world balks. O gray-headed people who have experienced God's faithfulness, manifest your faithfulness each day as you continue to walk with Christ through pain, through persecutions, through loss, through tragedy, and through deterioration. Live faithfully to the Lord. Live faithfully toward Christ's church. Live faithfully in prayer. Show us what it is to be a faithful man or woman of God!

5. Your Example

Much can be taught, of course! But more is caught than taught. Let the young people see you walk with Christ. Let the teenagers see you focus resolutely on Christ, delight supremely in the gospel, meditate daily on the cross, repent passionately of sin, pray fervently with zeal, endure triumphantly through suffering. Let the young marrieds behold you love your spouse with exclusive love and communicate with your spouse with Christlike tenderness. Let the parents observe you relate to your grandchildren (and great-grandchildren) with a preeminent desire to see them repent of their sin and come to Christ at a young age. Model evangelism to the young children. Show what it looks like to live as a Christfollower through all seasons of life as the day draws ever so nearer when you will behold the face of God in glory!

6. Your God

Young people need to observe aging men and women growing closer to the body of Christ, not distancing themselves from it. Rather than feeling neglected, unwanted, useless and impotent, gray-headed Christians must increasingly involve themselves in the work of the Lord and travail in service for Christ, for His body, and for the young people. Older men and women, show us your God! Christ endured relentlessly to the end in prayer, in love, in sacrifice, in service, and in piety, so the coming generations must behold you modeling for us this character of God! Show us your God! Tell us your God! Boast in your God! Bless your God! Older saints must remember that far from being useless in the Body of Christ, you play an integral role in serving, praying, helping, laboring, testifying, and modeling before all believers — especially before the younger, moldable, next generation. Paint a portrait of the unspeakable beauty of the Triune God so that He captivates their minds, wins their hearts, and delights their lives.