

## Instructions for Older Men

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Titus 2:1-2

Pastor Gary Hollinger

**Senior saints should set an excellent example of spiritual maturity.**

### **I. Titus' responsibility (and all church elders) is to provide proper instruction that promotes proper living. (v. 1)**

I have hidden your word in my heart  
that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2)

### **II. Paul instructs the instructors what should be taught to various groups in the church beginning with those who should be leading the church. (v. 2)**

In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil. (Hebrews 5:12-14)

#### **A. Level-headed.**

Gr: nephalios (nay-fal'-ee-os) (3x: 2x 1 Tim. / 1x Tit. 2)  
Separated from wine, sober (KJV: vigilant in 1 Timothy)

#### **Temperate:**

marked by moderation: such as

a: keeping or held within limits : not extreme or excessive : mild

b: moderate in indulgence of appetite or desire

c: moderate in the use of alcoholic beverages

#### **B. Respectable**

Gr. Semnos (4x): august, venerable, reverend

Dignified, men of dignity, respectable, grave (KJV), serious, honorable, noble, admirable, honest

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Philippians 4:8)

### **C. Of a sound mind or sensible.**

Gr: sophron (so'-frone) (4x)  
of a sound mind, sane, in one's senses  
curbing one's desires and impulses, self-controlled  
Prudent, sober; sensible, restrained, disciplined or wise.

### **D. To have strong and correct belief and trust in God and His Word**

Gr. Hugiaino (*hoog-ee-ah'-ee-no*) (12x)  
to be well, to be in good health, thus metaphorically:  
of Christians whose opinions are free from any mixture of error  
of one who keeps the graces and is strong

Hold to the standard of sound words that you heard from me and do so with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 1:13)

For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. (2 Timothy 4:3)

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. (Romans 3:21-28)

### **E. Selfless in caring for others**

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit

that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other. (John 15:12-17)

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. (1 John 3:14-18)

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister. (1 John 4:16-21)

## **F. Endurance / perseverance**

Endurance (Gr. *Hupomone*, *hoop-om-on-ay'*) 1) steadfastness, constancy

In the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings.

For you need endurance in order to do God's will and so receive what is promised. (Hebrews 10:36)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance (endurance) the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:2-4)

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame,

because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (Romans 5:3-5)

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3)

...being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance (perseverance) and patience... (Colossians 1:11)

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)