

Titus 1:10-2:10

Chapter 1

Verses 10-11: *For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.*

--(10) *For there are many.* . . Godly elders were needed because there were plenty of false teachers around. There still are in our day and age too! Every age of church history has its own fashion and forms of false teachings.

--How was Titus supposed to spot these false teachers?

1) **Insubordinate:** They are unruly and disobedient to Jesus' authority. His name is on their lips, but His commands do not direct their life.

2) **Idle-talkers:** The idea there is *mere-talkers*. They are vendors of words. Nothing they say is meaningful regarding Jesus' truth. *What am I getting? What is the point?*

3) **Deceivers:** Their actions, words, and lives are aimed at deceiving. Their preaching has ulterior motives: money, sex, power, prestige, etc.

--They get you to look at God's truth in a new—false—way. You are led astray from the simplicity of the Bible and the gospel.

--***Especially those of the circumcision.*** . . There was a Jewish segment that made up a dangerous portion of these false teachers. Their false teaching hounded Paul through the book of Acts and was directly addressed in many of his epistles—Galatians & Romans. *They are still around in our day and age as the Hebrew Roots Movement!*

--(11) What does Paul want Titus to do when he comes into contact with these false teachers? Ignore them? Befriend them? Tolerate them? No! He is called to stop their mouths—muzzle or bridle them. ***Whose mouths must be stopped.*** . .

--Why? Because the fate of entire households depends on it! ***Who subvert whole households.*** This was likely a reference to both homes and house churches. *It is so sad to watch entire families disappear from the fellowship because of false doctrine!*

--Their deceptive ideas were not to be tolerated for an instant. Defending sheep is an important part of a godly shepherd's job. *Some of you may very well save your whole household by your choice of spiritual leaders!*

--***Teaching things which they ought not.*** . . We may live in America, but there is no freedom of speech in God's house! Elders must stop false teachers. Bad doctrine cannot be tolerated—

3:10. (Gal. 1:8; 1 Tim. 1:3-4+20; 4:7; 2 Tim. 2:16, 21, 23; 4:2.)

--(Side note: It is important to make a distinction between "different" biblical theology and bad/false doctrine. Good versions of Calvinism and Arminianism are different forms of biblical theology. Denying the resurrection, claiming circumcision is needed for salvation, or espousing another path to salvation outside of Jesus Christ are false doctrines.)

--What is the purpose of their deception? ***For the sake of dishonest gain.*** . . . To make money! Personal profit. Isn't it crazy to think this was a problem even when the apostles were around?
My listening experiment with area churches.

Verses 12-14: *One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.*

--Paul quotes from one of their own so-called prophets to make the point that even Cretans were sick of their own culture! They were liars, savage like beasts, and lazy gluttons. *Every age has its own controlling evils.*

--***Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith.*** . . . Sometimes a cutting rebuke is an act of love! Even Jesus sharply rebuke His disciples on occasion. A godly rebuke restores soundness, or health. It is the scalpel that cuts away the cancerous tumor.

--When is Paul imagining Titus giving this type of rebuke? When people are promoting or beginning to believe ***Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.***

--1) ***Jewish fables:*** Are simply extra-biblical stories. Things that cannot be biblically substantiated. *Think of the Apocrypha. . . or our modern discussions around missing books of the Bible.*

*Calvin (Titus): *"The Gentiles realized that they had spent all their lives being deceived, so it was easier for them to forsake their way of life, but the Jews who had been brought up in true religion stubbornly defended the ceremonies they were used to and could not be persuaded that the law had been abrogated. In this way they were upsetting all the churches."**

--2) ***Commandments of men who turn from the truth:*** Unbiblical demands or commands. These are all over our world today. Whether they are defended by religious traditions (**Mk. 7:7**), so-called science (**1 Tim. 6:20-21**), human scholarship, or experience, doesn't matter. Our question should always be the same: *Show me where in the Bible I am commanded by Jesus Christ and His apostles to do that?*

Verses 15-16: *To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.*

--(15) Paul does not mean that we can do, read, watch, and listen to whatever we want without being defiled. *If good music has a good influence on us, then bad music must have a bad influence! So too with books, movies, friends, doctrine, etc.*

--I believe Paul is making the point that the impurity of these false teachers, whose ***mind and conscience are defiled***, will defile all their teaching related to everything: God, the Word of God, Jesus Christ, the law, marriage, sex, food, etc. (**Lk. 11:41; Rom. 14:14**).

1 Tim. 4:3: forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

--Only the truth of Jesus Christ can set a person free, sanctify them through truth, and cleanse their defiled minds and consciences. Those made pure in Christ need to have more than profession. We need to talk the talk and walk the walk.

--(16) **They profess to know God but in works they deny Him.** . . Beware of good sounding spiritual profession with bad practice. *Not just weird televangelists. Think actors, musicians, and sports stars!*

--1) **Abominable:** Is a unique Greek word (*bdelyktos*) used only here in the NT. It describes something detestable—particularly in an idolatrous context.

--2) **Disobedient:** In direct conflict with the commandments of Christ.

--3) **Disqualified:** Is most often translated *reprobate*, as well as *rejected* or *castaway*. It describes something that doesn't pass the test and is therefore unfit.

--These false teachers, false professors, are the very opposite of blameless.

Chapter 2

Verse 1: But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:

--**But as for you.** . . is in direct contrast to *them*. Paul was disturbed by ungodly teachers and false teaching, but he was not despondent. He had hope in the power of God's Word and the Holy Spirit. So should we!

--Paul emphatically exhorts Titus to be different than these false teachers. Paul uses this same emphasis five times in the pastoral epistles. (1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 3:10, 14, 4:5; Here).

--**Speak.** . . is the word for everyday informal conversation. Titus is to sharply rebuke the false teachers but speak to the people—old and young. That would be done publicly and privately.

--Paul's idea of Titus' speech doesn't exclude rebuke (2:15), but it also doesn't demand it as false teaching did. What is Titus to speak?

--**The things which are proper for sound doctrine:** Everything the Bible teaches that is worthy of, logical to, and in harmony with healthy doctrine.

--(Side note: It is evident that Paul imagines congregations naturally having a healthy mix of older and younger people. It is dangerous for fellowships to aim to be, or become, too lopsided one way or another.)

Verse 2: that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;

--Paul begins by telling him how to address the **older men**.

1) **Sober:** Which means unmixed with wine. They should have full control and full use of all their faculties. *Noah & Drugs*

2) **Reverent:** Dignified or venerable.

3) **Temperate:** Means moderate and well-balanced. It describes someone who is sensible, or mature in judgment. Older men shouldn't be tossed about with emotion like a teenage youth.

4) **Sound in faith, in love, in patience:** They are to be healthy in all three of these virtues. Older men shouldn't be doubting, mean, or despondent.

--Patience carries the idea of endurance. *Polycarp: *"Eighty and six years have I served Christ, nor has He ever done me any harm. How, then, could I blaspheme my King who saved me?"**

Verse 3: the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—

--Here Paul begins to teach Titus how to address the **older women**.

1) **Reverent in behavior:** The Greek word for **reverent** here is not the normal one and is only used once in the NT. It literally means *like a priestess*. The older women were to live and act like a priestess in every aspect.

--Their behavior is an external manifestation of an inner life set apart to God. That being so, their speech, dress, work, and life testify of a heart in worshipful service to God. *We know this is the testimony of so many single mothers and grandmothers!*

2) **Not slanderers:** Not *diabolos*—devils. They are not to be bitter old women, sitting around and making evil accusations or spreading personal and domestic scandals. *Nobody likes an older person with racist, hateful, and unfiltered speech!*

3) **Not given to much wine:** Not enslaved to wine. Too many people are tempted to turn to wine to "spice up" life or escape life. *Women secretly drinking outside of public eye.*

4) **Teachers of good things:** Things that are virtuous, honorable, and good. Teaching in both their example and speech. *They will be teaching with their lives and speech one way or another—good or bad!*

--A faithful and truly good older women should multiply herself in the homes of her daughters and the other younger women she teaches. *Many Christians had splintered families due to persecution and were without moms or dads—Still are!*

--The church needs older men and women, but we need them *as older men and women!* Don't be ashamed of your gray hair or age. Embrace where God has you.

Verses 4-5: that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

--Paul now instructs Titus what sound doctrine should teach the **younger women**. Paul encourages Titus to enlist the help of the older women to be **teachers of good things & admonish** the younger women—not because it would be improper for Titus to teach women biblical truth (clearly that is what both Paul and Titus are doing!), but because though Titus can teach women, he could never be an example *of a woman*.

1) **To love their husbands and to love their children:** A Christianity that makes us less loving to those closest to us is a distorted version of what God wants.

--Also, remember that true Biblical love is more than just an emotional feeling, but a willed life and behavior. ***If you love Me, keep my commandments.***

--Beware if you find yourself loving other husbands and children more than your own!

2) ***To be discreet and chaste:*** Discreet has the idea of discerning, or self-restrained. Chaste has the idea of pure as opposed to carnal or desire-driven.

--The younger women are to be thoughtful in judgment and purity of life: dress, action, speech, etc. A wife and mother who loves their husband and children will not live flirty or sexy for other men in public or online. *Presenting yourself as respectable Vs. Sexual. Those are two very different things!*

3) ***Home-makers:*** Means *home-workers*. This doesn't exclude all working moms or women in professions—think Lydia. Paul is simply affirming that if a woman decides to step into a marriage covenant she will not neglect her husband and children at home, but also busily love them there. *Taking care of the home is hard, honorable work!*

--To be focused on their own home is the opposite of professional neglect, idleness, or busily going from house to house and forgetting about one's own home. **(Titus 1:11 + 1 Tim. 5:13)**

4) ***Good:*** Carries the idea of kind and hospitable. *It is easy for a woman to begin to feel unloved or appreciated in the process of faithfully taking care of the home.*

--I will just also add, that the Holy Spirit is not afraid of a woman's period.

5) ***Obedient to their own husbands:*** The Bible consistently recognizes the equality of person along with God-given differences in function. Not other husbands, just your own husband. If you don't like him, you picked him! Godly obedience includes godly submissiveness.

--Don't forget God has commands for the husbands as well.

--The real issue here with marital submission is that bad examples of what God desires have ruined His commands for many. You cannot tell how good something is by measuring against a bad example of it.

--Why is this important? ***That the Word of God may not be blasphemed:*** The glory of God is at stake here. Remember that most of these early believers would be married to an unbeliever. There were not many Christians out there!

--What if women who professed to be saved were: Less loving to their husbands and kids; Disrespected their husband's authority; Slandered his character; Became more publicly indulgent and sensual; Complained about family responsibilities; And grew lazy and less loving? Then the Word of God would be blasphemed.

--Peter makes it clear what should happen instead.

****1 Peter 3:1-2: Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.****

--I would just like to add that some women may never be a wife, or a mother, but they are still called to teach younger women what is good and honorable and how to live discreet and pure in this day and age! *Pleasing and glorifying God gives meaning in life beyond marriage & kids.*

Verses 6-8: Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

--Paul exhorts Titus not only what to teach the young men but to be a pattern for them.

Thereby including Titus himself in the “young man” category.

--The singular exhortation to young men is to be **sober-minded**. This seems to let them off the hook, but the idea is *self-mastery*. Disciplined maturity of temper, tongue, sexuality, home-life, work-life, and spiritual-life.

--It summarizes a life willfully submitted to the will of God. *The lives of young men should not be governed by drinking with their buddies, wasting time with incessant video games, or making a priority of child sports leagues!*

--**In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works.** . . Titus was to be a true impressionable example of good works **in all things**. *Just think of how Jesus did so with His disciples. They were with Him (Mk. 3:14). The apostles followed that example (Phil. 3:17).*

--Titus must not only preach, he must also embody. That is how we fulfill the Great Commission by teaching others to *observe* all Jesus’ commandments—by observing a life that does so.

1 Timothy 4:12: Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

--What else is Titus called to embody as a pattern?

--**In doctrine showing integrity:** Sincerity of belief. They were not supposed to hold biblical teaching “just because” or for alternative reasons. People should have no doubt that we believe what we say we believe.

--**Reverence:** Speaks of seriousness. Christianity is not a game. *Do your family and friends know that your relationship with and service to Jesus Christ is *the priority* in your life? Or is it just somewhere down on the list?*

--**Incorruptibility:** Describes something that isn’t infected or impure. *Rust on metal. Impurities in silver or gold.*

--**Sound speech that cannot be condemned:** Truth is not enough. We are to speak the truth in love. The aim of all our biblical speech should bring health—even if it is a sharp rebuke! *What about our social media history?*

--**That one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you:** Clearly, anyone can lie about us as they did with Jesus. Paul is speaking about our outward life. People may hate our message, but they should have nothing blatantly sinful to condemn in our lives.

--Even when we do fail, we should repent! If we don't, they have something to accuse us of.

Verses 9-10: Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, not pilfering but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

--Paul teaches Titus how to exhort slaves. The Bible does not approve of slavery, it simply acknowledges it and speaks into it.

--**Obedient:** Honor what can be honored before the Lord.

--**Well pleasing in all things:** Means to have a helpful disposition. Sincerely willing to please.

--**Not answering back:** Contemptuous speech. Being mouthy. Not all slaves were so low that they couldn't express displeasure.

--**Not pilfering but showing all good fidelity:** Not stealing, but trustworthy. *Even today, it is easy to feel like we are "owed" something that we do not actually have a right to.*

--Jesus came lower than any earthly slave was ever called. *Only Christianity has both an answer and a remedy for slavery!*

--All Christians, men and women, old and young, slave or free, are called to **adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things!** In every area of life—wherever we currently are—our life should be a testimony to the work of Jesus Christ in us.

--We are to **adorn**—wear like a precious stone—the jewel of the gospel. The teaching of God is the most precious thing that we have been given, the most precious possession we own, and worth our very dignity, comfort, and lives.

--Outsiders who see us should see the effect of the Holy Spirit in us. God's reputation is more important than our own. *Brian in Zambia*

--Even so, Christ never asks us to go anywhere He has not first made a way.

Philippians 2:5-8: Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.