

Titus 2:1-2
Sound teaching for ... (group # 1) older men

Introduction: This begins a section on the what's and why's of character traits and actions that God says are consistent with sound doctrine. In the face of falsehood and false teachers the pastor's primary strategy is to teach the truth. (Kitchen) We will begin with the older men in a congregation.

1) There are practical aspects of God's Word for living in contrast to a godless culture—2:1

- a) ¹ *But you* (emphatic, in contrast to the false teachers of 1:10-16), speak/communicate the things that are fitting for sound/healthy/wholesome teaching: (cf. 1:9)
 - i) In light of the command, it would be sinful not to teach on these things.
- b) This refers to Biblical teaching that leads to spiritual health and growth, in contrast to the Judaistic myths and human commandments of the false teachers (1:14) that upsets whole households (1:11).

2) There are specific gender and age groups Titus is to address—2:2a

- a) Their age and gender—² *older men*
 - i) What we would tend to call middle-aged and senior men
 - ii) See Paul in Philemon 1:9 (probably in his 50-60's)
- b) The necessity—are to be
 - i) This may prove to be a challenge because some older men won't allow anyone to teach them anything, especially a younger man. (Adams)
 - ii) Few things are more tragic than to see an older person still tenaciously holding to opinions, most of which have been proven faulty over and over through the years. (Adams)
- c) Cretan men had a reputation for: indecent public behavior, excessive drinking, and sexual immorality, as well as being liars, undisciplined, and lazy gluttons (1:12).

3) There are six specific traits that must characterize God's older men in a godless culture—2:2b

- a) *Temperate* [nhfa,leoj]—restrained in indulging ones desires (often used in relationship to alcohol), clearheaded, level-headed, sober thinking
 - i) This is to be true of pastors and deaconesses (1 Tim. 3:2, 11)
- b) *Dignified* [semno,j]—displaying seriousness or gravitas, respectable, honorable or venerable, excludes eccentricity and peculiarity, not frivolous; demonstrates a mind focused on the things of high moral worth
 - i) This is to be true of all Christians (Phil. 4:8), pastors (1 Tim. 3:4), deacons (1 Tim. 3:8), and deaconesses (1 Tim. 3:11).
 - ii) This is also to be true of Titus himself (2:7).

- c) *Sober-minded* [sw,frwn]—balanced in judgment, free from rash decisions or behavior, curbs his desires and impulses, possesses stability of mind and purpose, level-headed, knowing what to do and what to avoid, a serious awareness of one's responsibilities
 - i) This is to be true of pastors (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8), as well as all believers (Titus 2:12), regardless of their age group or gender (Titus 2:4-6)
- d) *While being sound/healthy/wholesome* [pres. act. ptc. u`giai,nw] ...
 - i) *in the faith* [pi,stij]—possessing and practicing accurate trust/confidence in his relationship with God and His Word
 - (1) Sometimes older men are cynical, bitter, and callous.
 - ii) *in the love* [avga,ph]—possessing and practicing healthy selflessness in his relationship with people
 - iii) *in the endurance* [u`pomoh,]—possessing and practicing healthy perseverance and steadfastness in relationship to events/circumstances
 - (1) Especially needed for the infirmities and disabilities often associated with aging.
 - (2) Through the loss of friends, health, hearing, sight, property, work, independence, driver's license, etc.

4) **Things for us to remember:**

- a) The influence of older men within a congregation should be dependent upon sound godly character marked by a freedom from overindulgence rather than just their age.
 - i) Blessed is the church that has among its members such older men who can serve as models of dignity, respectability, and wisdom. (Kostenberger)
- b) The example of older Christian men **inside** the congregation should provide no cause for others to stumble.
- c) The example of older Christian men **outside** the congregation should be in stark contrast to the rest of their culture.