

Titus 2:6
Sound teaching for ... (group # 4) younger men

Introduction:

1) What is Titus to do and with whom?—2:6a

- a) ⁶ *Likewise*
 - i) in addition to the young women (see similar use in 2:3)
- b) *urge* [parakale,w]
 - i) Titus is to come alongside and say what needs to be said to these young men.
- c) *the young men* [ne,oj]
 - i) While Titus was not to deal directly with the young women (2:4-5), he could do so with the young men.

2) What are young men to be like in a godless culture?—2:6b

- a) *to be sober-minded* [swfrone,w]—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
- b) These young men had been spiritually rescued from a self-indulgent lifestyle that characterized the Cretan culture.

3) So what exactly is sobermindedness?

- a) What is it?
 - i) Godward sobermindedness is the God-given (either directly from Him or indirectly through others), God-honoring mental discipline of the genuine believer to control and order his thoughts, emotions, and passions, so that he can view his **actions** (habits of doing), **attitude** (habits of thinking), **appetite** (habits of desiring), and situation in a Godward manner. It is learning to take one's thoughts seriously, viewing one's life from God's perspective, making the appropriate Godward decisions, and living one's life within specific limits for the glory of God.
- b) Why is it so important?
 - i) Because it glorifies God
 - (1) By imitating Christ—1st John 2:6
 - (2) By obeying God's Word—1st Pet. 5:8
 - ii) Because of the spiritual situation we are in
 - (1) The flesh tempts us to think the way we want to think (independently of God, focusing only on SELF).
 - (2) The world tempts us to think the way it thinks (temporarily, focusing only on the present, assuming SATISFACTION comes from possessing, doing, etc.).
 - (3) The devil tempts us to think the way he thinks (SUBJECTIVELY, without any absolute standard of right and wrong).

- iii) Because without sobermindedness we will dishonor the Father and His Word—Titus 2:5, 10
- c) What does it look like in real life?
 - i) **MENTALLY**—my mental passions must be controlled for God’s glory; what I think about, who I think about, how I think, where I think, what I set my desires on, etc.
 - ii) **PHYSICALLY**—my physical passions must be controlled for God’s glory; what I eat/drink, why I eat/drink, where I eat/drink, how I express my body’s desires, etc.
 - iii) **EMOTIONALLY**—my emotional passions must be controlled for God’s glory; do my emotions control me or do I control them by God’s grace?
 - iv) **FINANCIALLY**—my financial passions must be controlled for God’s glory; what I do to make money, what I do with the money I make, what my financial goals are, etc.
 - v) **SOCIALLY**—my social passions must be controlled for God’s glory; who I spend time with, why I spend time with them, when I spend time with them, where I spend time with them, etc.
 - vi) **SPIRITUALLY**—my spiritual passions must be controlled for God’s glory; am I growing spiritually?, am I hungering and thirsting for righteousness?, etc.
- d) How do I see it develop in my life?
 - i) Prayer
 - ii) Read the Word
 - (1) Read Proverbs regularly—Prov. 1:1-7
 - (2) Read Romans regularly
 - iii) Memorize the Word
 - iv) Study
 - (1) Greek or Latin-based languages—God’s patterns in speech and written languages
 - (2) History—God’s patterns over time
 - (3) Mathematics—God’s patterns and laws within numbers
 - (4) Logic—God’s patterns of thought and reasoning
 - v) Decision-making only after careful deliberation
 - vi) Spend time with those who demonstrate sobermindedness—Prov. 13:20

4) Things we need to remember:

- a) All Christian young men need to be sober-minded
 - i) Pray for them
 - ii) Set an example for them
 - iii) Encourage them