

Titus 2:7-8

The example Titus must set as a leader in a godless culture

Introduction:

1) Titus is to be doing something while he is teaching others—2:7-8a

- Compare with the false teachers in 1:10-16
- a) Generally—⁷ *while showing/exhibiting yourself in all things* (emphatic) *as an example* [tu,poj] of good works; (good works in Titus: 1:6; 2:7, 14; 3:1, 8, 14)
 - i) Every aspect of Titus' life is to be presented as a pattern/model of how young men are to live their lives.
 - ii) Paul is not asking Titus to do something he himself has not already done (Philippians 3:17; 2nd Thessalonians 3:9).
 - iii) Probably few things are more important than how he handles his own sins and failures. (Adams)
- b) Specifically (two key areas of life) (compare with the older men in 2:2)
 - i) Theological teaching—2:7 *in the doctrine*
 - (1) Inward purity—*integrity* [avdiafqori,a],—incorruptible, sincerity, soundness in character, purity of motive
 - (a) His teaching must be done in boldness and truth, out of a heart anxious for God's glory. (Bookman)
 - (2) Outward respectability—*dignity* [semno,tei],—displaying seriousness, respectable, honorable or venerable, excludes eccentricity and peculiarity, not frivolous; demonstrates a mind focused on the things of high moral worth; we are dealing with the eternal welfare of those around us
 - (3) [Majority text adds] *incorruptibility* [avfqarsi,a],—no decay or diminishment, soundness over time
 - ii) Communication with content—2:8a *and ... speech* [lo,goj]...
 - (1) *sound* [u`gih,i]—speech that is characterized by wholeness and sound spiritual health.
 - (2) *that cannot be criticized/uncondemnable* [avkata,gnwstoj]—innocent/acquitted in court, unbelievers and false teachers may criticize Titus' speech, but the criticisms are not legitimate because his speech is consistently above reproach (i.e. the charges won't "stick" because no flaws are knowable).
 - (a) Remember a similar concept in 2:4-5.
 - (3) Be prepared to be accused of all sorts of things you never did. (Adams)

2) Why is Titus to set himself as an example?—2:8b *so that ...*

- a) *the opponent may be put to shame,*
 - i) *having nothing bad/worthless* [fau/loj] *to say about us.*

- ii) Titus's mastery of himself and success in these matters would reflect upon the whole Christian community, and perhaps especially upon its leaders.
(Kitchen)
- b) False teachers should be embarrassed and lose respect in the community because of their false accusations against Titus and the other believers on Crete.

3) Things we need to remember:

- a) There is no argument as effective as a holy life. (MacDonald)