

Wednesday Night Fellowship Discussion Guide
8/10/22

Titus 2:2-3

² Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. ³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,

Passage Summary

Paul calls Titus to teach what is fitting with sound doctrine in Titus 2:1 and Titus 2:2-10 puts forward what godliness looks like on a practical level. He considers the mature in vv.2-3 and then those who are younger in vv.4-6. He addresses what godliness should look like for teachers in vv.7-8 and then address those within the household's of Paul's day who were the most disadvantaged, the slaves or bondservants of vv.9-10. Paul's goal in all of this is to help Titus realize the need to teach not just doctrine but also what practical actions ought to accompany the teaching of Jesus the Christ. Both healthy doctrine and godly living must have as its basis the grace of God and what God has done through Jesus His Son. Therefore Paul reminds Titus of the basis for godly living in vv.11-14.

For our discussion tonight, we will focus on Titus 2:2-3, specifically mature men and mature women within the church.

Discussion Questions

Mature Godly Men

Titus 2:2

² Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.

If mature men are to be sober-minded, then they would live in a manner which demonstrated wise moderation in all matters that people might pursue to excess. What might tempt a mature man to resist being sober-minded? *Mature men have had a lifetime to build bad habits (and good ones of course as well), therefore any of those bad habits would constitute temptations. Essentially these habits will reflect an unhealthy dependence / love for something or someone. The key is to love people and things to the degree and in the manner that our God does. Sometimes though, a person might believe that they cannot survive without something – they have put their faith in it. They perhaps have depended upon it. Likewise, they might not have actually tried at all or very long to live in a way that our God calls us to embrace. They might be fearful to actually live full out for our God.*

What is the basis of dignity? *The basis of dignity out to be God's view of us. We should find our dignity and value based upon what God has determined to be true. The Gospel helps us here to a great degree.*

How does someone develop self-control? *Self-control could be properly understood as Spirit-controlled. That is, surrendering to that which the Spirit of God wills brings a person into a place of discipline and control. The question really centers upon who gets to call the shots – our sinful nature or the Spirit of God? Therefore developing self-control is a willingness to recognize our sinful desires, resist them, and actively surrender to the Spirit instead.*

Does age help or hinder the Biblical call to be self-controlled? *A good discussion question – in some ways age could do either.*

What are old areas of life in which mature men need to continue to be self-controlled? What are some new areas? *Old areas – lust / emotion / work ethic / entertainment / etc. New areas – anything which might be a new avenue of temptation – perhaps entertainment in retirement / selfishness / reliance upon self rather than God / new emotions which might rise up because of age – helplessness; frustration; feelings of loneliness or uselessness; etc.*

Paul tells Titus to teach mature men to be healthy in their faith. How might a mature man live by faith? What might be some temptations unique to them to live in a different manner? *Continuing in the Word of God even though it might no longer be new or fresh; using their time in a way that elevates the priorities of God and not earthly priorities; approaching the end of life in a manner that trusts God's view of this life and eternity; use of resources in a way that embraces the values of God in contrast to the values of this world.*

What are some practical ways that mature men can demonstrate love for others? *Making time for younger generations; leading by example; etc.*

How can someone keep their love for God and others genuine and vibrant? *Continuing to prioritize and build their relationship with God through time with Him in the Word and in prayer; regularly and relentlessly putting on compassion for others; recognizing the nature of humans and the nature our Redeemer and not letting the disappointments of life turn them bitter or frustrated.*

In what ways might a mature man be tempted to abandon endurance? *Refusing to engage in spiritual work because of the challenges and pain of it all; Seeking to avoid conflict at all costs; etc.*

Discuss a portrait of a godly mature man. Think of someone who exhibits these qualities and consider ways to encourage him.

Mature Godly Women

Titus 2:3

3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,

Paul tells Titus to teach mature women to be reverent in behavior. Is Paul telling Titus to teach women to be fake and put up a façade? Why is Paul so concerned about behavior? Should behavior matter to us? *Not at all – our behavior demonstrates our beliefs. Behavior should matter to us because it reveals what we believe. The goal is not to shape our behavior to please people but rather to shape our beliefs in such a manner that the behavior that comes out reflects our God. Sometimes, proper behavior affirms and ratifies that which we believe.*

What constitutes slander? *Anything that is malicious – intent is crucial here, but it is not just intent, it is also how it is received.*

What is the cure to slander? *Ephesians 4:29 – using our speech to provide and promote grace.*

What are some unhealthy tendencies which might tempt mature women? *Some of the same things as for the men*

Discuss ways in which mature godly women might engage in discipleship.

Discuss a portrait of a godly mature women. Think of someone who exhibits these qualities and consider ways to encourage her.