

TITUS: Godly Leadership for the Church

(Titus 2:1-8; Proverbs 31:10-31)

Context of Titus: Titus sent to Crete to bring leadership order to local churches: [Office & Lay](#)

Just as God created and gifted the earth with order (purpose), so He wants order in His church:

- God-called leaders within the local church are lead **SERVANTS** to bless, disciple, encourage flock
- The **ELDERS** are the God-called appointed leaders in the local church to LEAD, FEED, CARE FOR (Nurture), PROTECT God's people in a local, biblical community.
- God's calling to those leaders is also deal w/division, dissention, corruption, &heresy in church
- The WELL is an Elder-led, Congregationally-affirmed church. = Autonomous & self governing.

The Lord has prescribed leadership in His church.

A. We are to lead our own hearts

B. We are to lead by example – that others could follow our lives as we imitate Jesus

C. We are to spiritually invest in each other – lead each other spiritually. **HOW??**

Main Point: The Lord has charged men and women to lead out both in their homes and within His Church; our spiritual investment in others in NOT optional.

READ Titus 2:1-8

But *as for you*, proclaim the things which are fitting for sound doctrine. ² Older men are to be ^[a]temperate, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, in ^[b]perseverance.

³ Older women likewise *are to be* reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, ⁴ so that they may ^[c]encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵ *to be* sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

⁶ Likewise urge the young men to be ^[d]sensible; ⁷ in all things show yourself *to be an example* of good deeds, *with* ^[e]purity in doctrine, dignified, ⁸ sound *in* speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

Paul gets very practical in this passage. He is encouraging Titus to lead the local church not only to raise up and appoint leaders (Elders in ch. 1), but also to encourage Christ-honoring leadership both within the Home and within the Church body.

-Spiritual Leadership is primarily intentional relationships of godly encouragement

Vs.1: But *as for you* (Titus – by extension, all the Elders of the local church), **proclaim** =/preach/teach/disciple **the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.**

- **Everything we teach; how we model; how we lead is based upon the WORD of God as our foundation for orthodoxy (right beliefs) & our orthopraxy (right actions)**
- **The WORD of God is sufficient to lead us in all aspects of our life and faith.**

MEN: (Paul begins with men. They are called to lead their own lives; their wives, family, Church

Vs.2: Older men [30 yrs old & up] **are to be temperate** [level-headed, measured, self-controlled] ...why? = b/c you have life-experience and hopefully wisdom by this point.

- **dignified** (honorable, distinguished by your actions & leadership)
- **self-controlled** (in their temper, how you discipline, how you moderate food, alcohol, work)
- **sound in faith** (you should know what you believe, why, and be able to share it & defend it)
- **in love** (less natural, a spiritual quality that reflects the character of God's heart, divine love)
- **in perseverance** (steadfastness, diligence, commitment, steady=**yes be yes, no be no**) dependable

LADIES:

³ Older women **likewise** (in same way) =holding to the same standards and qualities as the men. *are to be* reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, **teaching** what is good, ⁴ so that they may encourage [train] the young women.

-Ladies, there is a biblical expectation that the older women **disciple** the younger women

-To disciple another is to teach and model Jesus' life, His Word, His mandate to make disciples...

Ladies, who are you investing in? Who are you mentoring? **Discipling?** Ladies, the Lord has called you to invest your life, your wisdom, your pain, your mistakes, your hurts, your triumphs, your experience into the lives of younger women. To spiritually disciple, encourage, lead & bless other = Ladies, you are called to lead!! To Lead yourself, family, and other ladies in the church.

*Maybe, you yourself need discipleship – maybe as an older lady no one ever poured into you.

-Ladies, if you need to be discipled: please email Cathy@thewellargyle.com -let us serve you

YOUNG WOMEN: Practical application in your life: **Spiritual leadership** 1. Your Heart 2. Family

Vs. 4: so that they (older women) may encourage [train] the young women ... to do what??

-to love their husbands (older women are to model how to love & serve husbands, esp. when diff.)

-to love their children (to love, serve their children when exhausted, discouraged, overwhelmed)

-to be sensible (reasonable, level-headed, not being given to emotion or easily off balance)

-to be pure (holy, pursuing Christ's image)

-to be workers at home kind, and being subject [submissive/respectful] to their own husbands,

(the older ladies were to model and exemplify faithfulness of leading within the home:

- To be a homemaker is a great privilege. To love and nurture your husband/children/family

=To make a home a place of peace, warmth, love, encouragement, learning, correction, & hope

-In 2022, not every woman is afforded the opportunity to only work inside in the home:

*(What this text is **not** saying is that women cannot work outside of the home -bib. Examples:

A. The Proverbs 31 woman ran a few side hustles to earn money for her family;

B. Lydia (Acts 16:14) seller of fine linen & Priscilla (Acts 18:2-3) was a tent maker w/husband

=godly women who worked at other jobs while managing the affairs of their own household

**My wife* works outside the home; She is an excellent entrepreneur, boss, & leader to her team

- Some women are called to work in a job/career; many have to in order to survive in this economy

- Others work outside the home to use their natural giftings, education, and experience

READ Proverbs 31:10ff

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.

¹¹ Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.

¹² She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

¹³ She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands.

¹⁴ She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar.

¹⁵ She gets up while it is still night; she provides food for her family and portions for her female servants. (she is clearly managing her household)

Notice what's next: She is smart, capable, & wise: she does business w/ what is entrusted to her:

¹⁶ She considers a field and buys it; **out of her earnings** she plants a vineyard.

¹⁷ She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. Hard worker/not lazy

¹⁸ She sees that **her trading is profitable**, and her lamp does not go out at night.

¹⁹ In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers.

²⁰ She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. (she's gracious, generous)

²¹ When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet.

²² She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple.

²³ Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land.

She honors her husband in all she does; her grace, attitude, dignity, her class, **how she dresses** = all these things honor her husband – her reputation for not complaining, gossiping, or dishonoring, shaming, disgracing, humiliating, or debasing her husband w/ her words/actions

²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. This lady is industrious, intelligent, focused, and works hard to provide for her family

²⁵ She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.

²⁶ She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.

²⁷ She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

²⁸ Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

²⁹ “Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.”

³⁰ Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

³¹ Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.

What the Bible is saying that the condition of the heart is primary. Women cannot neglect the needs of their husbands and family in order to put themselves first. They are to joyfully serve!

The point is that whether you are a homemaker, or work outside the home, or both . . . **ladies are not neglect their God-given roles, or biblical responsibilities to those that need them.**

-We can never delegate away our role to love, nurture, or raise our children to Christ.

-Ladies, the Bible is clear that your first responsibility is to your husband, to honor, support encourage and respect him as the leader of your heart and home.

-Men, the Bible is clear that your first responsibility is to faithfully lead your wife’s heart through gentleness, kindness, love, and as a servant-leader to her heart at all times.

-Men, you are charged with leading your home, to represent Jesus Christ to your family

Why??? **Vs. 5: “so that the word of God will not be dishonored.”**

-Our actions reflect our beliefs. If we only give lip service to serving, loving, & respecting each other = we dishonor God, His Word & the watching world will scoff & continue to turn away from faith & trusting in Christ. Our witness is critical. How you act. How you lead your life, how you lead your home, it matters to God! It matters to a watching world. Your family/neighbor

YOUNG MEN/TEENS:

⁶ Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; ⁷ in all things show yourself *to be an example of good deeds, with* [purity in doctrine [uncorruptness = soundness/solid in your faith], dignified, ⁸ sound *in speech which is beyond reproach* [dirty mouth, foul jokes, cussing, mean] = so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

- **Our testimony, our daily actions matter to God. Matters to a lost world!**

APPLICATION:

1. As you consider the biblical calling to spiritual leadership and spiritual investment, what is your next step of action? What is calling you to do in response? **To disciple?** Be disciplined?
2. As you consider the calling to be holy, to be conformed to the image of Christ as an older man, older woman, or as a younger woman, or a young man – what would Christ begin to change in your life? What areas do you need to grow in? Who will you tell? Accountability?
3. Who will you begin to encourage? Those you see pursuing this truth? Tell ‘em, bless ‘em!!

Community Group Discussion Questions:

1. Reading through this passage in Titus 2, what did you find most challenging? Why?
2. Do you think the world today would agree with Paul's biblical admonition in Titus 2? Why? Or Why not?
3. Do you think most people in the modern church agree with Paul's biblical instruction to women and men? Do you think those within the WELL do? Your community group?
4. What areas specifically did the Holy Spirit challenge you on to become a spiritual leader in someone else's life? What is God saying to you about discipleship? Has anyone every poured into you intentionally to help you grow spiritually, biblically, as a godly leader?
5. Who do you see in our church who is modeling Titus 2 well? Generational discipleship?