

THE TRANSFORMATIVE GOSPEL: YOUNGER MEN

Sunday, July 8, 2018 -- Titus series -- Msg 20 -- Pastor Ben Nistor

TITUS Chapter 2

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. 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, 4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. **6 Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.** 7 Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, 8 and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. 9 Slaves are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, 10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior. 11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. 15 Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

CONTEXT/BACKGROUND:

In Chapter 2, the focus shifts from the LEADERS to the CONGREGATION, with specific instructions for various groups in the Church.

OLDER MEN ARE TO BE:

- 1) **Sober-minded** = Their discipline of life brings a clarity of mind.
- 2) **Dignified** = They are honorable and respectable with clear godly values.
- 3) **Self-controlled** = Their inside values control their outside behavior.
- 4) **Sound in faith, in love and in steadfastness** = They are spiritually healthy and stable.
- 5) *Older men in the body of Christ are to be a model of what it means to faithfully walk in God's grace with God's people in a fallen world.*

OLDER WOMEN ARE TO BE:

- 6) **Reverent in behavior** = Their holy living is appropriate for someone set apart as God's servant.
- 7) **Not slanderers** = Their speech is characterized by grace and humility.
- 8) **Not slaves to much wine** = They are not overpowered by something that numbs their life in God.
- 9) **Good-teaching people** = They model God's grace to God's people in a fallen world.
- 10) **Trainers of young women** = They are committed to passing on their wisdom to younger women.
- 11) *Older women in the body of Christ have a strategic role in helping younger women to navigate the challenges of personal and family life in a fallen world.*

YOUNGER WOMEN ARE TO BE:

- 12) **Faithful to their own husbands and children** = They care and show fondness for their families.
- 13) **Self-controlled** = Their inside values control their outside behavior.
- 14) **Pure** = They have discernment to not get mixed up what is harmful to their spiritual health.
- 15) **Working at home** = They put in the hard work of maintaining a healthy home and family.
- 16) **Kind** = They are not harsh.
- 17) **Submissive to their own husbands** = Their marriage union is based on love, humility, and service.
- 18) *Younger women in the body of Christ have a unique opportunity to gain from the wisdom of older women in order to navigate the challenges of personal and family life in a fallen world.*

6 Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.

ONE MAJOR OBSERVATION:

Younger men are given one task: to be self-controlled.

'*self-control*' and its derivatives are used 6 times in the book of Titus and 10 times in the Pastoral Epistles.

Titus 1:8, 2:2, 4, 5, 6, 12

1 Timothy 2:9, 15, 3:2

2 Timothy 1:7

The repetition of 'self-control' in the letter of Titus is compounded by the time it reaches young men. Apparently, self-control is more than enough for a young man to handle.

'*self-control*' is the ability to be self-mastered, self-controlled, sober-minded, and balanced.

'*self-control*' is the ability to choose the important thing—love of God and neighbor—over the urgent thing—pleasing yourself. - Timothy Keller

'*self-control*' is a gift from the Holy Spirit that causes us to live in protective, strategic boundaries and helps us passionately pursue and rightly think of the fight against sinful lusts, in the power of the Holy Spirit, through faith in Jesus Christ. - Ed Welch

REASONS FOR THE SINGLE-TASK OF SELF-CONTROL:

1) Self-control is essential for many of the problems young men face.

Galatians 5:16-26

2) Self-control, when formed early, can produce habits that bring about godliness later in life.

2 Peter 1:5-11

3) Self-control helps young men slow down to think.

Romans 12:3

4) Self-control equips young men with the stamina it takes to pursue Christ in faith.

1 Corinthians 9:24-25

5) Self-control depends heavily on an "Other."

Titus 2:12

WAYS FOR YOUNG MEN TO CULTIVATE SELF-CONTROL:

1) Resolve to know and cherish God indefinitely—find joy!

2) Resolve to find every occasion to work diligently—avoid laziness!

3) Resolve to cut off every sin or opportunity for sin—be radical!

4) Resolve to think deeply and meditate on the word of God—pray!

5) Resolve to meet the needs of others instead of your own—serve!

6) Resolve to not let a day pass until you have looked at Scripture—read!

7) Resolve to befriend only godly and wise people—be wise!

8) Resolve to succeed in everything you do—accomplish!

9) Resolve to be part of a church family for as long as you live—commit!

10) Resolve to pursue holiness with all your might—be holy!