

Titus 2:1-4



Titus #3

Older men and women

Titus 2:1-4

Eric Cepin
1-18-2026

Titus is a letter by Paul in the New Testament to Titus to deal with some issues in Crete. Paul would go on missionary journeys to establish elders and moral foundations but he didn't get to do this in Crete so he sent Titus back to do these things. If you read this in one sitting, you will see that this letter is filled with principles to build communities that will last. Today we will talk about older people and what they should be doing in these communities. "Elder" is a representative who leads and guides communities, even if they are not "old" by cultural standards.

Titus 2 You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine (*Health Living*). 2 Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. 3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. 4 Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children,

The thing about age: you just live and get older. The other beauty about getting old: when you are 5, a 25-year-old seems ancient. I am talking today to those who have gray hair but I want to point out that everyone is older to someone. The beauty of this is that this becomes a pipeline of people who look back and care for those younger than then they are.



Here are 4 people who were my pipeline:

1. John Burkholder is now a judge in Buckeye but I met him when I was a freshman in high school. He invited me to memorize scripture and took us backpacking twice/month. He was an older man at 23!
2. The next people are Mark and Jennifer Brians. Mark disciplined me in college: he spent 4-5 hours/week with me and taught me about church history and how to care for people and tons of different authors. Jennifer invited us into their home of four sons and I watched them as parents. I was 23 but he was in his 30s.
3. The lady is Cynthia Heald, a relatively well known author with the Navigators who disciplined my parents. I spent time in her home as a young person; in fact, she may have given me my first spanking in fact! Another memory of her is that I was left at her house and she let me use a BB gun with a few instructions.

We are all older people to someone!

**"So"
Why?**

so that no one will **malign** the word of God. (v.5b)

so that those who oppose you may be **ashamed** because they have **nothing bad to say** about us. (v.8b)

so that in every way they will make the **teaching** about God our Savior **attractive**. (v.10b)

Why would we consider the younger people in our midst? Paul gives us reasons that have to do with older men and women leading communities

and offering stability. Notice these three reasons to the left. This is what we desire as a community: When you have gray hair, you have a responsibility to care for the people in your community.

Health Living

Titus 2:1 You, however, must **teach** what is appropriate to **sound doctrine** (*Health Living*).

Healthy Living in Older Men

2 Teach the older men to be **temperate**, **worthy of respect**, **self-controlled**, and **sound in faith**, in **love** and in **endurance**.

Sound doctrine could be overwhelming but realize that the people in Crete didn't know very much at all! This means telling what you know about Jesus and how it leads to healthy living.

In older men, it looks like these things:

- Temperance is how you deal with addictions. You must be aware of the things you are addicted to and the process it takes to NOT be addicted. We are struggling with addictions.
- They should also be worthy of respect: to be weighted and virtuous, who understands right and wrong. It means to have substance.
- They should be self-controlled, sound minded. If you are pulled right and left, then self control is not a part of your life.
- In addition, probably the most important thing is to have sound faith.

In Mark 4, there is a storm and the disciples are afraid but Jesus is sleeping. Jesus rebukes them for the lack of faith and calms them. People who have sound faith realize that sleeping Jesus has everything under control, even if it seems he is asleep in the middle of the storms you want him to settle.

Older men should teach people to love unloveable people in kindness and long suffering.

Healthy Living in Older Women

3 Likewise, teach the older women to be **reverent** in the way they live, not to be **slanderers** or **addicted** to much wine, but to **teach** what is **good**.

Healthy Living in Community

4 Then they can **urge** the younger women to **love** their husbands and children,

- Revenant means holy with the idea of someone people look at and want to be like: they understand who they are and who God is in a different way. Their life stands out from the culture and is set apart.
- This looks like the way she uses her language: she doesn't use it to destroy. These are the ones who train children and therefore could destroy them.
- These women are not addicted to much wine. In the first century, life was hard and little wine was good but Paul is saying too much will be destructive. You cannot be an escapist.
- They must teach what is good, what is virtuous. They build this into children and young people around them.
- Loving husbands and children: Older men also do this as well. This is the pipeline: this means to encourage them and walk with them as they are moving along. This is not taught in a series of courses: it's all wrapped up in the Gospel.

11 For the **grace of God** has **appeared** that offers salvation to all people. 12 **It teaches** us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the 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 wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Vs. 11-14 are foundational for everyone and we will keep coming back to these.

The Gospel will move us forward if we will be people who are different and stable.

At the Village, we have talked about the Gospel as **story, identity,** and **kingdom** here at the Village.



Story: (Grace Appears)

Titus 2:11 **For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.**

Titus 2:14 **who gave himself for us** to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

The **story** of the Gospel is the grace (Jesus) appears to provide salvation. The invitation is not to run past the story: this is THE most profound part of the Gospel. God has redeemed you with all your limitations and anxieties. It has all been redeemed: we are invited to wash over us all the time. My state is transformed because of the Gospel. At any age, the most powerful thing is to sit with someone and help them realize the Gospel in our lives.



Identity: (Grace Creates)

Titus 2:14 **who gave himself for us to redeem** us from all wickedness and **to purify for himself a people** that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

In addition, we are given an **identity**. We are REDEEMED, PURIFIED, and GOD's just according to this one verse! The beauty of identity is that it drives behavior. If you are an athlete, you have an identity as playing a certain sport. If you are an addict and you understand this is who you are, you will act like an addict. Your identity drives behavior. People should look around in their communities and have people remind them of who they are.



Kingdom: (Grace Trains)

Titus 2:12 **It teaches us to say "No"** to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to **live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,** 13 while **we wait for the blessed hope** – the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

There is an ushering in of the **kingdom** of God, the kingdom of heaven. When you have an identity in God's kingdom, you begin to understand who is ruling and who is not ruling. As a follower of Jesus, you want to do what is godly and you want to find out what this means so you can do it! The Scriptures become the space of proclamation of who God is.

This is beautiful but I want to break it further down to specific applications so an older person is able to step into a younger person's life.

How to Make the Gospel Real to Younger People

Story

1. Name the ache
2. Talk about the Gospel as rescue and repair
3. Make Lordship Tangible
4. Keep it embodied

For context, remember if you are 70, a 90 year old is an older person. So this is all relative!

- Things are broken and it's hard: we need to be vulnerable.
- We also need to talk about the Gospel as rescue and repair: we all need this continually. When you put a lot of redeemed people together who are repaired, they can say painful and dumb things. The Gospel says there is always an opportunity to repair.

- We also need to make Lordship tangible. We all spend a lot of time centered around things that are not God. We all have our idols, which could even be our spouses! Or Netflix, or even the outdoors.
- Finally we need to keep the rubber on the road: be understanding of humanity of others and don't talk down to them.

How to Make the Gospel Real to Younger People

Identity

1. Model Confession
2. Return to Scripture's Proclamations
3. Let the Community speak into your life
4. Choose to Rest

- Confessing people admit their sins. We model how to say this is what I've done and this is how it impacted another person. We need to be comfortable with this.

- We need to know where the identities are in Scripture. What does it mean to be a priest? How does this work itself out?

- Let people speak into my life and don't correct them. Young people need to know they CAN say things to us. Let it be OK to be understood.

- If your identity is in Christ, show them how to rest.

Rest is not watching 5 hours of netflix or reading for 5 hours. Rest is what Mary was doing at the feet of Jesus instead of Marthy. If you hike, make it about Jesus. When you sit at a desk, your rest is probably physical activity. If your job is physician, you probably need to sit.

How to Make the Gospel Real to Younger People

Kingdom

1. Put hope on person not an emotion
2. Invite people to pray future minded prayers
3. Collect stories of Grace and retell them
4. Do good works on purpose

- Put hope on a person, not on an emotion. Most of the time, hope is put on our circumstances. The Israelites didn't put their hope in God but in what they were feeling. So often, our hope is in the wrong place: emotions instead of Jesus. Where is your hope? What happens when you are discouraged?

- Future-minded prayers instead of ego-centered prayers.

- Collect stories of grace that can be told and retold over

and over. We need to tell stories that aren't just funny or cool but stories that are centered on grace. We need to constantly tell the big stories of grace in other people's lives too. We need to get good at collecting these!

- We need to do good work with intention.

I want to ask you today simply to do me a favor. Find a person whom you can help, maybe not permanently, but just today. Share what has been going on in your life, find out what is going on in their life.

