

Titus 2:4-8 Young Men and Women

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We are in a series through the book of Titus. Last week we talked about older men and women; Eric said while this applies mostly to people with gray hair, no matter what age you are, there is someone following you. If you don't have gray hair, this week is about you, but notice that this week is really a continuation of the instructions to older men and women.

Titus 2:4 Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, **5** to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

6 Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. **7** In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness **8** and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

Purposeful Discipleship

v.5 – ...so that no one will malign the word of God.

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

v.10 – ...so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.

I like to think of this topic as purposeful discipleship: it's not just about learning to be good so you can lead a good life. There is purpose in the kingdom related to putting forth the Gospel in the world where we live..



Here are some people in my life who have discipled me: Pastor Rod (right) has met with me weekly for the past 10 years. Eric (middle) helped me when I came here and I was burned out from leading worship all the time. Eric told me I was not going to lead worship here...eventually, I stepped back into it when the time was right. On the left is Juan Carlos, my pastor from Mexico. He also met with me weekly and gave me rides and he is a big reason why I am

who I am today. Last week, Eric talked about the ways older people can make the Gospel real for younger people. I want to add something that all of these men for me: they FED ME: Feed the people you meet with, both spiritually and physically.

Paul's basic assumption is that younger women in the first century are married, will be married, and have or will have children. Their role was to be married at home while the husband went out from the home and worked.

He tells the older women to be self-controlled from the addictions that control us, including social media, food, and ways to escape in today's culture. He tells them to be pure relationally in the ways they interact with the people around you. He asks younger women to be busy at

Young Women

Titus 2:4-5

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home, cooking and cleaning and making clothes. In the first century, these were the daily tasks. In fact, when they excavated Pompeii, they found 70 wine bars, places of escape at that time.

Paul invites young women to be present at home and to be kind in caring for their families, to be **subject** to their husbands. We don't like this! "**Subject**" is the same word as "**Submit** one to another" and "wives **submit** to your husbands."

Luke says 12-year-old Jesus was teaching in the temple but **obeyed** (submitted) his parents and went home with them. **Subject/Submit/Obey** is a good thing that has been corrupted by sinful humans and abused, thus has become a negative word.

This entire passage is in relation to the entire community. This is not about a marriage where one person is submitted to a community and one is not. This is discipleship that is happening together.

To be subject is a military term referring to order, honor, and respect in the way you interact with others and in the way you talk with others about them. We must deal with our conflicts privately in ways that honor and respect each other.

Paul is speaking to women who are escaping the home and family and their husbands to go out into the culture to speak and slander. When we talk about the ways young women should be, it is to orient themselves around their families in honor and respect for their husband.

Young Women

Lives oriented around family,
Distinct from the culture of slander and addiction,
Intentionally displaying the gospel.

1. Orient them around family: of course, we aren't in first-century Crete. But that doesn't mean we throw out this input. The reality is that some of you deeply long to be married or have children. For these women especially, this passage is hard; yet, we need to look at this as a community and live lives around the family of God as we care for people.

2. Because of the economic realities of our culture, we don't always have wives who stay at home while the husband goes off to work. Although I think this is the best way to work out our lives, it isn't our reality and is often out of our control. When we think of being busy at home, if both women and men work, it's not fair that one sits on the couch and one does the work. You have to work this out for what is best in your family. What does it mean to mutually submit to one another?

Live a life distinct from slander and addiction and disconnecting from family and going off to do other things apart from the family. Sometimes this feels disingenuous: What I display is different from reality. But the gospel is to admit brokenness and living in discipleship that is moving forward.

Young Men

Titus 2:6-8

Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

Young men also need to be self-controlled. Paul asks Titus to be an example: **Plan that good that you intend to do!** On your way to church, turn off media and consider how you might serve the church today: today, I'm going to take the trash out and help the person who is cleaning the kitchen.

Your teaching is based in truth with seriousness: being straight-forward and honest. It doesn't mean never to tell jokes. When you say you will be somewhere or do something, be there and do it. Speak slowly and with thought.

Young Men

Living out intentional good work,
Distinct from the culture of duplicity,
Speaking the gospel with care and courage.

Living out intentional good work free from duplicity: I am the same here at church as I am at home as at work. I tell the same stories in all these places; the way I interact at church is the same as work and at home. I was convicted about that this week: I live really close to the Village. As I pulled my car out of my house, the person in front of me wasn't going and I was very frustrated. Then another person came and turned in front of me and saw my frustration: it was my neighbor. The Holy Spirit asked me

how I would feel if that person came to our church on Sunday? I need to speak the Gospel with care and courage no matter where I am.

Here is a summary:

Young Men and Women

Lives oriented around family,
Distinct from the culture of slander and addiction,
Intentionally displaying the gospel.
Living out intentional good work,
Distinct from the culture of duplicity,
Speaking the gospel with care and courage.

These are all good things that all men and women should live out, not just younger people. These are things, though, that younger women and men should **prioritize**. Don't despair if you are single; instead, go find a family to care for: How can I help you take care of your kids, fix your car, make dinner? Being a mom at home can be a lonely place.

Pursue Discipleship

2 Kings 2:9

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied.

Likewise, young people should pursue discipleship and **MAKE TIME FOR IT!** (I didn't say find time: you might have to cancel something to make room for discipleship!) If someone asks you to spend time with them, **DO IT!**

This reminds me of a II Kings prophesy where God sends Elijah anoints Elisha and he follows him for a time. But at the end of Elijah's life, he strikes the water with his cloak and they walk through on dry land.

We should all want a double portion of those whom we follow.

II Kings 2:7 Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. **8** Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?"

"Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied.

10 "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not."

11 As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. **12** Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

13 Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. **14** He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. "Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.

Practice the Gospel

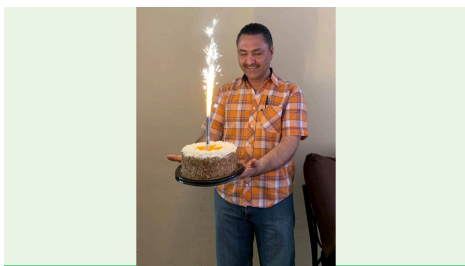
Remember when I...(STORY)

Remember that you are...(IDENTITY)

Go and...(KINGDOM)

These things are all about practicing the Gospel in story, identity, and kingdom: Jesus says "Remember when I..." (story) and he also says "Remember you ARE" (identity)...and he talks about the kingdom "Go and..."

This works like this: I want you think about this in the context of being discipled.



When my pastor Juan Carlos was 17 in a Mexican gang, he was stopped by a rival gang who took him to a house and shot him four times. Then they put the gun to his head and he moved and the bullet hit his shoulder. Then they took the gun to his head and pulled the trigger and it jammed. So they put him in a taxi to bleed out. In the taxi, bleeding, he hears a street preacher outside the car. Was it real? He doesn't know but he remembers saying, "Jesus if you get me out of this, I will serve you." Someone took him to the hospital, he recovered, and became a pastor. Then

several years later, he put his arm around me and said “Mark is going to lead worship” and then later he told me over tacos that I should be a pastor.

Practice the Gospel

Remember when I...(STORY)

Remember that you are...(IDENTITY)

Go and...(KINGDOM)

This looks like for me, “*Remember when I saved Juan Carlos so he could be a pastor?*” “*Remember you are called to be a worship leader and pastor?*” “*Go and teach others to sing praises to Jesus.*” This is **purposeful discipleship** not just to be better or say the right things or conquer an addiction or be a good parent: it’s so the Gospel can go forth in the kingdom. So as you meet with someone, practice the Gospel telling the stories in the lives before you, in yours, and those following you.

Comments:

It might be helpful to think of different ways to say ‘be SUBJECT’ to your husband: Could we say DON’T UNDERMINE, YIELD TO, or GIVE IN to your husband?