

## Titus 2:1-9

### Sound Doctrine = Sound Behavior Part 1

We left off in our study last time, where Paul was exhorting Titus to raise up elders who are sound in doctrine.

A) Men who hold fast to the Word of God -

B) Sound doctrine is essential for combating false teachers - being able to recognize false teachers

C) But Sound doctrine is also essential for helping believers lead sound lives!

But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: 2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; 3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. 6 Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, 7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, 8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you. 9 Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, 10 not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

Notice the phrase: , speak the things which are proper (fitting) for sound doctrine 2 So that the older men .... Older women.. young men and the young women - Slaves and masters or today employees and employers know how to live - how to behave

It is interesting to me that the word sound in the Greek comes from a word that gives us our word hygiene in English

A) The word sound actually means that which is wholesome and so that which gives health.

B) It refers to making sick people whole.

C) Which is such a great picture - because all of us come into the body of Christ broken -

1) because of sin - baggage because of sin.

D) But it is the pure teaching of the unadulterated word of God - that makes us whole.

E) So Teaching fitting for sound doctrine" is teaching that promotes spiritual health

Notice that Paul uses that word sound 3x in these verses

V.1 Sound doctrine or teaching

V.2 Sound in faith

V.8 Sound in speech

Pt. Sound doctrine results in Sound behavior.

A) Titus - give yourself and the other Elders to sound doctrine - that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; 3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things.

B) Tonight we are going to Consider the affect that sound teaching is to have on Older men -

C) In that culture men over 50 were considered to be older men.

1) Who here is over 50 - stand- bad news - according to the Bible - 50 is old

D) 50 is the new 30? Right

It is clear in this passage that Paul has more to say to the older men and the older women - because they are to be examples

A) So we could say the greater weight for the health of the church is going to be placed on those who are older.

B) Older men and women are to set the tone - they are to pave the way -

1) they are to be living in a way that the younger people will want to emulate

C) That is definitely the way it was when I came into the faith - Wonder mentors

Wonderful men in the church who poured into me - starting with my own dad.

A) But men who were sold out for Jesus - charging it - men who were all about living for Jesus - serving Jesus

B) We need more men like that today

So to the older men - all of us who are over 50 this is would sound doctrine is to produce in us - **that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;**

A) The word sober = Self-controlled - exercising sound judgment.

B) They were to be known as clearheaded men.

C) The opposite of Self-controlled is uncontrolled - undisciplined - the opposite of being led by impulses

**In my older years - I wouldn't say that I have become less adventurous or less of a risk taker**

A) But I have become much slower in my decision making. Much less prone to be led by impulses. Not given to extremes

Proverbs 29:11 ESV

A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back.

**B) That comes from having made plenty of mistakes - When I was younger in life and ministry.**

1) You can't see what the potential risk are - (that sounds good to me - lets go for it)

C) But now because I know a little more about what the risk are - because I have made mistakes - **much more controlled in how I function**

1) Self-control comes with experience

When life beats you up a bit - trials beat you up a bit - people beat you up a bit - become like tempered steel

A) Heat is used to make steel or iron tougher!

<sup>2</sup> My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. <sup>4</sup> But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. James 1:2-4

B) I have found that as I have gotten older my highs and lows - are less extreme. -

1) I don't get as excited about the highs - because I know they don't last

C) And I don't get as discouraged by the lows - they pass - but in both God is faithful

**God is just looking for me to keep steady - as a husband - as a parent**

A) My wife and kids - who can get very emotional - need me to remain steady

**B) The church needs me to remain steady -**

1) this is like a farmer - plowing and planting - harvest comes - Do it all over again.

C) More grounded you are in the word - more grounded you are in the Lord

1) Learn what it means to see things through the lens of scripture - learn to be led by the Holy Spirit

D) So sober or self-controlled

**Reverent = Worthy of respect.**

A) That is such a great description - men who are seasoned - men who are not frivolous - men who are tempered by life.

B) Worthy of respect - those are the kind of men you want to follow

**It was an add that appeared in a London Newspaper in about the year 1913 it simply read**

"Men wanted for hazardous journey, small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honor and recognition in case of success."

That advertisement appeared in a London newspaper and *thousands of men responded!*

**The Reason:** It was signed by the noted Arctic explorer, Sir Ernest Shackleton and that was what made the difference.

**If Jesus Christ had advertised for workers, the announcement might have read something like this:**

"Men and women wanted for difficult task of helping to build My church. You will often be misunderstood, even by those working with you. You will face constant attack from an invisible enemy. You may not see the results of your labor, and your full reward will not come till after all your work is completed. It may cost you your home, your ambitions, even your life."

**Who do you want to hear from in life or as a husband or the faith - the brand new Christian?**

A)The new dad - or the seasoned guy?

B)I had lunch a while back with a young guy in his mid 20's who had moved here from a large very popular church in LA area

C)The church is full of people in their 20's and early 30's

**D)As we were talking this young guy said to me: I really am enjoying CV and the variety of ages here - really a generational church.**

1)So many men here with great life experience that I can glean from

E)At my old church - my home group leader was 23 and I am 25 - neither of us had any life experience

**I remember when Denise and I were in our mid 20's with just our son Aaron -**

A) I asked Pastor Brian if I could start a home group for young couples (looking for friends)

B)He said no - Young couples need to be mixed with older couples who have life experience -  
1)so the younger ones can learn from the older.

C)Wisdom in that - that is exactly what Paul advocates here a little later in talking to the older women and the younger women.

**Now here is the thing for all of us Older men - if you are going to be a man who is worthy of respect.**

A)The kind of older man that others will want to glean from and learn from - you need to be a man of the word

B)A man who is committed to Jesus in his walk - a man who is self-controlled in his behavior - not given to extremes

C)Young men who are wanting to live godly will be drawn to you.

D)You can always tell who are leaders - who is following them!

**Next he mentions Temperate = Living wisely - a man of wisdom - what is wisdom?**

A)Wisdom is the application of knowledge

B)Wisdom is knowing how to rightly discern knowledge and use knowledge.

5 A wise man will hear and increase learning,  
And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel.  
Proverbs 1:5

C)Good leaders are learners

**Proverbs 12:15 ESV**

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.

**Older men worth following are to be:**

A)Sound in faith: = healthy in the faith - it speaks of a man who is "sincere and steadfast, constantly adhering to the truth of the Word of God.

B)It describes a man who is going to base his life around the word of GOD -

1)All his decisions seen through the lens of scripture

C)Sound in faith encompasses correct doctrine, correct relationships and correct living.

**So FAITH has an ACTION associated with it**

A)It is not just something you **tell** people you have, but is something you **show** people you possess by the way you live.

B)If this man is "healthy in the faith" it means he is always found trusting God, always willing to obey.

1)Does your life back up what you say?

C)It saddens me when I see men take advice and direction from so many different avenues - and neglect the word of God

D)I know Christian men **who are not sound in the faith - because they never study their Bibles**

E)The church today is becoming more and more Biblically illiterate - people are not students of scripture

1)I get excited when I meet men who want to dig in

**Older men worth following are to be:**

A) Sound in faith: = healthy in the faith

B) They are also to be sound in Love - or healthy in love

1) The word he uses here for love is Agape

C) The highest form of love - John 3:16 **For God so loved the world (agaped the world) that he gave...**

Being healthy in love means you are willing to put the needs of others above your own comfort and desires.

A) It is a love that is self-sacrificing -

B) Jesus left the comfort of heaven - put aside the desire to be worshipped and humbled himself - gave himself - to save others

C) Healthy in Love - describes that Kind of man -

1) Others centered and focused

2) Seeks the well-being of others

D) Love that serves others - serves their family - serves the church

**Older men worth following are to be:**

A) Sound in faith: = healthy in the faith

B) They are also to be sound in Love - or healthy in love

C) They are also to be healthy in patience = endurance: Sound in endurance.

Our view of endurance is so not Biblical

A) I barely made it - I endured a visit from my mother in law - I endured that meeting with my boss/ .... That root canal

B) That is how we so often view endurance - I barely made it - **another 20 minutes and I would have tapped out!!!**

C) That is not the Biblical view of endurance - the word endurance here is Hupomoneo in the Greek

D) Let me show you another place this word is used!

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every

weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2

So the writer of Hebrews is telling us that we are to run the race with endurance - looking unto Jesus who endured the cross....

A) Question: Did Jesus barely make it on the cross?

B) To the visible eye he looked beaten, humiliated and defeated.

C) But in the Spiritual realm - Jesus was claiming a victory - He was conquering sin

D) He was fulfilling the mission! - He came to save and to give his life a ransom for many!

His cry from the cross was not a cry of defeat - he wasn't tapping out

A) His cry was not - I'm done - I give up - I can't handle this any more

B) His cry was a victory cry! - IT IS FINISHED!!!!

C) Paid in Full!!!! - The deal is done!

1) Spiking the football - he was throwing down the gauntlet

And by linking our running with endurance to the endurance displayed by Jesus - this is the point the writer is making

A) We can be men of endurance because Jesus already endured for us

B) We can be men who conquer the difficulties of life and ministry because Jesus our conquering King is living in us!!!

C) Romans 8 - **we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.**

So when Paul says the older men are to be healthy in endurance

A) He is describing men who know how to bear up under life's trials with a buoyant hope in the promises of God.

**B)Not men who are tapping out when life gets hard - when the trials get tough**

**C)It breaks my heart that I see so many men - tapping out these days**

**Older men here - don't be those kind of men!**

**A)The young men - the young boys need to see in us men who are all in for Jesus**

**B)Not men of compromise - not guys who are caught up in porn**

**C)The young men in this church need to know that it can be done!**

**We need to give them something to aspire to**

**A)For you who are young - starts here -**

**V6 Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things.**

**B)More on that next week**