

## ***Handbook for Christian Living***

### **Titus 2:1-5**

Titus chapter two can be called the handbook on Christian living. When God gave Moses the ten Commandments the first tablet contained four laws dealing w/ mans relationship w/ God.

The second tablet included six more commandments dealing w/ mans relationship /w man. We will never live rightly before God if we live wrongly before one another. And the only way we can live right before each other is if we live rightly before God.

A rule of thumb to know how I am doing w/ God is to examine my relationships w/ others *1 Jn 4:20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. Rom 13:10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of the law.*

A recent study was conducted by the Barna group to determine the difference in lifestyles between those professing to know Christ as savior & those who didn't. Remarkably the report stated that there was no marked difference in the behavior of those who claimed to be Christians and those who were non-Christians.

And yet the bible tells us *2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.* Salvation always affects how we live. It is a sad condition in the church to have those who profess to be believers, yet live no differently than non-believers **or worse**. Every conversion in the Bible is marked by a radical change in lifestyle. Whether the **not so dramatic** conversions of **Lydia**, God opened her heart & she opened her home. To the **spectacular conversion** of the **demoniac** of Gadara-sitting clothed in his right mind.

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Paul lists character qualities Titus is to expect to see in the believers young & old, men and women. He is to teach these biblical attributes to the church on the Island of Crete.

**Titus 2:1 But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.**

Important to note the contrast between Titus ministry & the false teachers of Crete in previous chapter, who were detestable, disobedient & worthless for any good thing, teaching myths, legends & legalism. *Spiritual Mumbo Jumbo*

*Speak* - articulate w/ your voice health giving doctrine. *Not just bible learning but bible living*. NLT 'Promote the kind of living that reflects wholesome teaching'.

We must have a passion to live differently than how we were living before salvation. We must be willing to count the cost and pay the price for a biblical lifestyle, leaving our old worldly lifestyle. The spirit must dominate over the flesh or no progress will be made.

Jesus said '**He who loves....anything more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. Matt 10:37,38** He is talking about a lifestyle that is lived on a higher plane than the ordinary, one that denies old habits & patterns of living, old affections & gratifications so that we might please God & live for Him. Seen in daily living.

**2 Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.**

The Church is made up of young & old. How we deal w/ people is important. A young man like Pastor Titus is to approach an older man w/ humility & honor of the man's age. Not recklessly, w/o consideration that it may be hard, even offensive for an older man to be corrected by a younger man. So he's to do it w/ much wisdom and gentleness.

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A man reaches a point where he must see himself as older, because he is. Where he crosses that threshold, bible doesn't say specifically. When you do you realize you have **influence** you didn't have when you were younger. Same w/ older women. *Joshua- 40 –50 & God called him a young man. Ex 33:11*

Also w/ age comes the likelihood that a man gets set in his ways. Maybe set in the wrong ways. Here are the right ways to be set in.

**Temperate** – sober in a sense of being free from wine—years can create meloncoly & an attitude of giving up. Easy to hit the bottle to dull the senses. He is at a time in his life where he is wise to what self-indulgence can do to a person-it costs a lot more than it delivers. Now, older w/ time on hands instead of dulling the senses he is able to warn & win younger men away from self indulging sin & point to the ways of the Lord.

**Dignified** – used of those others venerate or honor for their character quality. A person of respect, not a fuddy-duddy but one who laughs at the right things & not at the wrong. I love to be around those who command respect & at the same time can joke around w/ and have a good time.

**Balanced character.**

**Sensible** – healthy mind, not weird or have extreme opinions. Sane, self-controlled as far as passions & carnal instincts. Able to curb fleshly appetites & impulses. *Not holy kiss on lips-full body embrace*

**Sound in faith, love, perseverance** – all go together – years have taught the older person how important it is to know what believe, doctrinal positions, conviction of truth.

But also **love**. Knowledge is no excuse for not loving. And **perseverance** patient endurance, under trials. Seasoned veteran of the faith has been there & endured. Sound faith produces heartfelt love & steadfastness under trials. We might think because a person is older they should know these things but not necessarily the case so Paul commands Titus to teach them.

**3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,**

In the early church, older women held high & honorable positions. They brought a serenity & stability, a warmth & wisdom into church life.

*Likewise* includes all that older men were to be plus these additions

*Reverent in behavior* – demeanor, disposition at all times reflects

Godliness, **holy behavior**. Includes her dress & how she holds herself.

Inappropriate **miniskirt grandmother w/ halter top-midriff showing**. Sees her life, position & influence as a sacred thing. A woman who is reverent will not do the negatives

*Not malicious gossips* – **diabolos** devil--prone to slander, opposes God lives to make intercessions & takes the side of the devil who is an accuser.

*Not enslaved to wine* – problem in Greek & Roman society & problem today in churches. The word used is **doulo** indicating **bondage** to wine. The danger for older woman & is disillusioned w/ life is prone to drown her sorrows w/ drink. **Prov 31:6 Give strong drink to him who is perishing, & wine to him whose life is bitter.** Important that she know it's most strategic places in life to affect younger women.

*Teaching what is good* – A great asset is mature church w/ older women's influence on younger women--hearing from these sages of the faith in their teaching but encouraging the right attitude of godly women.

High road influencing others vs low road of slander & drinking. **Older ladies experience & wisdom**

**4 that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,**

Ladies are to do personal discipleship, prayer, counseling one on one guidance in the things of the Lord not men.

Don't give the devil opportunity **Eph 4:27** & shun the appearance of evil. Mixed meetings are ok but older women are to teach woman's bible study, not a man. Older women should disciple, pray w/ & counsel young females.

Not teaching career or even mission work or travel but keeping home fires burning. The greatest position of influence & support for a woman is in the home w/ her husband & children. Her sacrificial offering to God is her family. The fruit is God's work thru those she has nurtured. **Illus great men**

**Abraham Lincoln:** *"All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."* **Martin**

**Luther King Jr.** taught him the importance of dignity, self-worth, and resisting systemic injustice. **Chuck**

Love & tenderness atmosphere of home. Paul says needs to be taught-admonish hold her to this duty. Natural affection is there but self-sacrificing love that Jesus showed & she needs to learn. Christian home totally new to saved pagan women

**5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.**

**Sensible** - Vs 2 **men**- healthy mind, not weird or extreme. In control of fleshly desires & impulses. If she doesn't think right she'll not act right-

**Karen-privileged person who demands to "speak to the manager," flaunts entitlement, weaponizes her privilege to police or harasses people**

As you are so will your children be--if no self control don't expect children to be any different

**Pure** – *to the pure all things are pure*. Having a mind & heart unpolluted by worldliness. Not fill minds w/ soap opera's, Globe, Star, Celeb gossip- Whatever poisons purity. **Matt 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.**

**Workers at home** – Not a prisoner in the home but more a manager. One who guides & directs the activities & temperature of home. Husband the head wife the heart of the home.

**Subject to own husband** – Military term rank under--He as head, she positionally to rank under--better but greater responsibility & blame for home. Demeaning for a husband to feel like he has to fight for the right to be head of home. The woman's management of the home is not an excuse to ignore God's instruction to be subject to her husband. **Yes husband love wife as Christ loved...gave life**

**Eph 5:22 Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. Col 3:18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.**

Christian church & home should have world say—I want what they have—better life, better marriage, better behaved kids, a happier life.

**Word not dishonored** – after declaring ourselves Christians, then having a breakdown in the home w/ shouting matches, threats of divorce, unruly children, & neighbors & co-workers look on, is a mockery of the faith & dishonor to God

<p>If the observed effect of the Gospel were to make women worse wives, it would not commend it to the heathen.” (White)</p>
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## **COMMUNION**