

## Teaching Sound Doctrine and What It Looks Like

Titus 2:1-7

5/7/25

A quick recap and context overview:

Audience: Paul is speaking to Titus after he was left behind to continue missions work on the island of Crete by Paul. (1:5)

Context: Paul ended chapter 1 explaining the importance of having strong and biblically sound leadership in the church. He went into detail on how knowledge of the truth can bring security and stability to the new believers. He also issued a strong warning against the false teachers and bad teaching.

Today we will be discussing what the outworking of sound doctrine looks like in each member of the church body - older men, older women, younger men, and younger women.

### Read Titus 2:1-7

(vs. 1) Paul's opening line plays off of the closing verse from chapter 1. Talking about the false teachers, he says they deny him by their works, they are detestable, disobedient and unfit for good work. Now he says, "But as for YOU..."

As I've mentioned in every study, self-reflection is key. When it comes to refining yourself and applying God's word to your life in a way that honors him and brings sanctification - we must once again point our finger back to ourselves and own that word "you".

Don't forget that how we live directly impacts the reputation of God's Word. This is seen in vs. 5, as we'll see today and will be seen in our next study from vs. 10 which says, "...so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior." Also, in **Romans 2:24** "For "the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you," just as it is written."

James 1: 22, 25

“But become doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves... But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the *law* of freedom, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this man will be blessed in what he does.”

Romans 12: 2

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may approve what the will of God is, that which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

Key phrase to define - “sound doctrine”

Paul uses this word “sound” which could also be translated as “healthy” or “whole”. He uses the same word in chapter 1:9 when he says, “holding fast the faithful word..., so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict it.”

(vs. 2) Older Men

Starting in vs. 2, Paul begins his specific instruction for godly living, dividing people into these first four groupings - older men, younger men, older women, and younger women. This specific break down is so convicting because we are reminded that no one is exempt from teaching and godly living within the church. We each have a role in God’s house and are all a working part of the body.

1 Corinthians 12: 12-18

“For just as the body is one and yet has many parts...For the body is not one part, but many. If the foot says, “Because I am not a hand, I am not a *part* of the body,” it is not for this reason any less a *part* of the body. And if the ear says, “Because I am not an eye, I am not a *part* of the body,” it is not for this reason any less a *part* of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole *body* were hearing, where

would the sense of smell be? But now God has arranged the parts, each one of them in the body, just as He desired.”

This first group is older men. Older men are to be:

1. Temperate
2. Dignified
3. Sensible
4. Sound in faith
5. Sound in love
6. Sound in perseverance (NASB)/steadfastness (ESV)

Dignified or reverent is also seen as an instruction given to the older women and young men. To be these things is to be worthy of respect, to be someone who's life exhibits purity and thoughtfulness. These people were to exercise a type of self-control that proved “with age comes wisdom.”

Notice that in these six instructions three of them are not just instructions to have or be a certain way, but to be sound in that way. Again, it is important to see the significance of this and know what it means to be “sound” in something.

Older men (and believers in general as taught to us in other parts of scripture) are not to just have faith in anything, are not to be loving as the world views love and are not called to persevere by any other definition than how it is prescribed by God. The way they live out these attributes is to be healthy, complete and true.

In light of biblical truths, how can we, as women and “helpers” encourage the men in our lives and our church to live these attributes?

What are some examples of ways we may be unsound in our faith, love or perseverance?

(vs. 3-5) Older Women & Younger Women

I placed together here because the set of the instructions given to the younger women is to be “taught” by the older woman which tells us the older women are also to have these qualities.

1. Reverent in behavior
2. Not slanderers
3. Not slaves to much wine
4. Teach what is good - training young women to love their husbands and children
5. Be self-controlled
6. Be pure
7. Be working at home
8. Be kind
9. Be submissive to their husbands

An important note to make is that even though the first few instructions are only given to older women and the rest are to be taught by older women, this is not an excuse for younger women to dismiss them or not strive for maturity in all of these areas. Older women can be an amazing resource when it comes to living out godly lives, thanks to their years of experience and possible spiritual maturity. However, we of all ages are called to pursue lives that honor the Lord fully. We are not off the hook if we happen to never be taught by someone older than us.

### 1 Timothy 4:12

“Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.”

At the top we see reverent as we spoke about already. Older women in particular are called to a standard of respectfulness. We should never have the idea that people should respect me because I’m their senior but that they could respect me because I’ve shown them I can be worthy of their respect.

A big way older women prove themselves respectable or not, is by their speech. Specifically, Paul reminds them to not be slanderers. Of course, actions and decisions play a huge role as well, but for a younger women who may not be as close to you, what you say either in a small conversation or in a group setting, can really impact whether or not you show “reverent behavior” and verbal building up of others. In fact, almost all of the instructions Paul gives here can be expressed by how we use our tongues.

Psalm 19:14

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.”

Matthew 12:36

“I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak,”

Proverbs 12:18

“There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”

Proverbs 21:23

“Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.”

Ephesians 4:29

“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”

James 3:6

“And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.”

**James 1:26**

**“If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.”**

This list made for women also highlights God's loving roles He has given to men and women. Our attitude towards our families as loving nurturers of the home is what is in question. What we do not see in these following verses, is a step by step “how to” telling us exactly how we are to play out each of these things. We are given freedom in many of these areas when it comes to actively living out each one. Through humble prayer, dedicated time in God's word, and listening to what serves our husbands/family, we as women can deeply honor the Lord in many different choices. This is also a brief reminder that as long as a choice is not explicitly sin, we are not the judge of others and are not called to insist others spend their days exactly how we do. We will discuss this more in detail soon.

However, we are called to be a loving encouragement and we will now breakdown the rest of Paul's instructions to us.

Women are to be defined by a few things laid out in Paul's list: She is to have a heart for her husband, loving him and willingly subjecting herself to him.

A Russian pastor, Mark Zhakevich, explains that the Greek word for love here is “philandros” which is also seen as “affectionate” or “in friendship with”. Our relationship with our husband should be a sweet friendship, characterized by loving affection. This heart attitude of tender love, if practiced, will be a motivator for our submission.

To be in subjection to your husband and submissive to him is an instruction only ever given to the women. As we even see in Ephesians, men are not directed to make their wives subject to them or force them to be submissive, but wives, we are to willingly be submissive and happily place ourselves under our husbands leadership because it is pleasing and honoring to the Lord.

Married women submit to their husbands in an act of worship to our God. We do not submit because our husbands are perfect, or are acting extra sweet to us, or are always agreeing with us. We submit because God in His word has required us to and there is blessing in our obedience to God.

### Ephesians 5: 22-23

“Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.”

Christian relationships are to look different than the world's. If you are single, this topic should also have an effect on how you view relationships as well. The idea of deep meaningful and self-sacrificial relationships is strong here. Women are uniquely designed to be care takers and nurturers and this does not only become visible within a marriage or in motherhood. We even can see that women are generally more social than men (with exceptions of course) and find healing in fellowship with other women. I'm sure we can all attest to the rejuvenating feeling we receive after even a short time spent with a tender loving friend.

Single women can take these instructions and live them out just as diligently as married women. The single woman can be self-controlled, pure (including not having close or inappropriate relationships with men), working in their home (being a loving host, providing meals for those in need), and they can even be submissive to the authority God has given them (elders within their church).

What does it mean to be a worker in the home? In the context, what do we know it means? What do we know it might not mean?

To be a worker in the home, we know definitively, thanks to Paul's list, means to be respectable with how you keep your home, it means to be pure in how you use it, it's to be used for teaching what is good, it means to not use it as a meeting place gossip or drunken parties, it means

we are kind and generous with our homes, and if married, we submit to our husband and love our children within our homes.

We as women, as I've mentioned before, are uniquely gifted by God. Paul gives us the instructions to be workers in the home because we tend to be good at it! Or at least better than our husbands at times. In general, who tends to be better decorator? Who tends to be more meticulous with organization and cleaning? Who is more aware of household needs? Yes! We are! And more importantly, who is the "thermostat" of the household? Yes! Us! Our attitude when home with our families so easily can determine the attitude of the rest of the home. When we are speaking kindly and gently our husbands feel more loved and our children can be more calm. When we are stressed out and anxious, our families can so quickly feed off of that.

In general, as women our main ministry is within our homes. If married with children, we pour into them best. If single, we host and serve our church body more thoughtfully with what comes out of our homes. Women have been blessed by God to have a heart uniquely geared towards investing in the home.

Now notice, what hasn't been mentioned? How do we answer the question of what we don't know working in the home to mean? Are you prepared to love the sister next to you when she chooses to live out this instruction differently than you do? Guard your hearts against condemning a women's choice to work, to stay home, to send her children to public school, to home school, to make homemade meals every day, to order take out every day, the list goes on. In these areas where the Bible has not given direct instructions, we as women have the freedom to make a choice. Of course, all choices should be prayed over, considered wisely and decided under the leadership of our husbands.

End this section by reading [Psalm 31: 10-31](#). This Psalm is a sweet description for us of what a hard-working and fruit of the spirit bearing woman looks like.

As an at home exercise, try writing out Psalm 31: 10-31 and then highlight every word or adjective that indicates a fruit of the Spirit or an instruction given by Paul in our Titus study. Then write what fruit/attribute it shows. For example: Vs. 12, “She **does him good** and not harm all the days of her life.” Kindness, goodness, gentleness, loving

Slanderers:

James 4:11

“Do not speak against one another, brothers and sisters. The one who speaks against a brother or sister, or judges his brother or sister, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it.”

Slaves to much wine:

Ephesians 5:18

“And do not get drunk with wine, in which there is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,”

Self-control:

2 Peter 1:5-8

“For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Pure:

2 Corinthians 7:11

“For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.”

**Proverbs 15:26**

“The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord, but gracious words are pure.”

**Matthew 5:8**

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

**Hebrews 13:4**

“Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.”

List some examples of ways you personally can live out these instructions in your own life. Pick one to pray over and put into action this week.

**(vs. 6-8) Young Men**

“Likewise” or along with the other groups mentioned by Paul, the young men were to also be self-controlled and set a good example for those around them. They were to show godly integrity, dignity, and once again, have sound speech, meaning that what came out of their mouth was to be true, healthy, and whole.

Paul again knows and attacks our weaknesses. Matthew Henry, (an English minister in the 1600s) when talking about young men says this, “Young men are over eager, thoughtless, inconsiderate, and headstrong...” With these tendencies in young men, Paul once again is urging maturity. Just because you are young doesn’t mean a young man needs to be defined by these immature characteristics. Young men, as we all do, have an opportunity to combat our natural states with the truth of God’s word and live a life that honors God and serves those around us.

Titus, himself, was also a young man when receiving this letter from Paul. These instructions were directed to him as well. Titus couldn’t just be a teacher or a leader, he had to be a good example and personifying truth and self-control. Verse 7 makes this more clear as it says “in your

teaching”. As Titus taught and trained other young men to teach the true word of God, he was to ensure its integrity and accuracy.

How do we ensure the life we live and the gospel we believe and teach hold integrity?

2 Timothy 3:16

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,”

Matthew 22:29

“But Jesus answered them, “You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God.”

2 Timothy 2:15

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.”

John 8:31-32

“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

(vs. 8) Paul restates what he mentions in verse 5. The purpose of godly living for the believer is to silence and put to shame the attacks of the opponent.

Just as Jesus was found innocent when Pilate had him on trial, we aim to give our enemies no opportunity to condemn us and therefore rejecting Christ because of us.

Luke 23:4

“Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no guilt in this man.”

For some of us as mothers to daughters, is there any area we need to grow in so we may be a better example them in what is good? Do we view our daughters and young girls as future loving wives, mothers, and home caregivers? If so, are we taking advantage of the opportunities given to train them accordingly?

For mothers of sons, does this view of young men we learned about today and their potential to wise and godly even in their youth encourage the way you teach them and pray for them? With the Lord's help do you view them as capable and teachable?

For women with grown children or no children, how are you pouring into the lives of the young people at your church? Do young people have reason to look up to you and are they encouraged to live godly lives through your example?