

Titus 2:1-10 – Sound Living Fitting Sound Doctrine

Paul left Titus to complete unfinished business. Two main problems he had to confront were bad teaching and bad morals. Titus was to appoint elders who were able teachers who could teach good morals and correct doctrine. Until the elders were in place, Titus was left with the task of teaching believers sound living that was in keeping with sound doctrine. He was also in Crete to confront false teaching. Doctrine is important. Right doctrine leads to right living. Bad doctrine leads to bad living. Bad living done in the name of Christ gives Christ's church a black eye.

Read Titus 2:1-10.

Given that Cretans were "liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons", what did Paul tell Titus to do? What does "sound doctrine" refer to? We could ask "what are the things which are in accord with sound doctrine" but that will be explained in verses 2 through 10. (2:1)

What conduct was appropriate for older men? ESV has "sober-minded" but it could simply be "sober" as in "not drunk". "Self-controlled" or NKJV "sober-minded" was one of the qualifications for an elder. (2:2)

How should older women conduct themselves? What does it mean to be "reverent in behavior"? If you put "the" in front of "slanderer" in the New Testament it refers to the devil since he is the number one slanderer. (2:3)

Can women teach? In Titus 2:3-4, whom should the older women train? What were they supposed to teach?

In verse 5, what should characterize the young women? The word "self-controlled" or "sober-minded" appears yet again. What does it mean to be "working at home"? Why was this not a requirement for older women? In the context of 60 something AD, what would a woman be doing if she was not "working at home"?

What was the result of women submitting to their husbands? Is this characteristic restricted to the culture and time of Titus and the Cretans or is it still applicable to today? Why or why not? (2:5)

Does submission mean that the person who submits is inferior to the one to whom they submit? If you work for a boss, does that mean that your boss is a better person than you or is smarter than you?

What did Paul tell Titus to urge the young men to do? This is a form of the word that keeps popping up. Elders, older men, younger women and younger men were all to have the quality of being “self-controlled” or “sober-minded”. (2:6)

In verse 7, Paul had instructions for how Titus was to conduct himself. What was Titus urged to do? What was to characterize Titus’ teaching? In verse 8, what was to characterize Titus’ speaking? What would happen if Titus conducted himself as Paul had directed him? (2:7-8)

Slaves were instructed to submit to their own masters. Does the Bible teach that slavery is acceptable?

How are Christian slaves expected to behave?

Do the principles for slaves also apply to work relationships where a person works for a boss? These qualities remind me of what was called a good work ethic. Does this work ethic characterize our current culture?

What was the intended result of slaves conducting themselves in the way Paul laid out? (2:10) How can our good character and deeds adorn the Gospel? How can our bad behavior cause non-Christians to bad mouth Christ and Christianity? See Romans 2:24.

What is the relationship between sound doctrine and sound, godly living?