

*1But as for you, proclaim the things which are fitting for sound doctrine. 2Older men are to be temperate, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance. 3Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, 4so that they may [c]encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored. Titus 2:1-5*

We are picking up where we left off in Titus and proceeding on our study. Remember Paul left Titus in Crete to *set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city. Titus 1:5* The newly planted churches needed structure thus Titus was to appoint elders, leaders able to continue on the work that had been begun. Among these early believers there were *many rebellious people, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision. Titus 1:10* Think of this here are these new fellowships and not everyone was a super Christian. Many were *insubordinate, lawless and rebellious rascals*. They were *empty talkers who utter empty, senseless things*. And in addition they are *deceivers, mind-misleaders, seducers*. They present the danger of *leading others into their delusions*. The danger here, especially to the young Gentile converts, was these wanna be teachers, *especially those of the circumcision*, had more knowledge of OT scriptures. But it sounds like they suffered from spiritual immaturity. Hebrews talks of those that *ought to be teachers*.

*12For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Heb 5:12-14*

Paul finished the first chapter by stating these false teachers, who are *teaching things they should not teach*, are worthless and their teaching is false.

*15To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. 16They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed. Titus 1:15-16*

So in contrast Paul begins chapter 2 instructing Titus to *proclaim the things which are fitting for sound doctrine*. And then instead of plowing into what is sound doctrine he begins stating what proper behavior is to be in the church. It seems this is in contrast to those who *profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him*. He begins older men, they are to be *to be temperate, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance*. This seems rather short and concise. The instruction to the Older women is longer and more detailed. They *are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, 4so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored. Titus 2:3-5* It seems the quality of their behavior and reverence is to give them authority, th at they will be able to teach the younger woman. Their behavior needs to pure and not like the false teachers who Paul wants silenced. They *must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach*. These Christians woman are teach younger women to *love their husbands, to love their children, 5to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored. Titus 2:4,5*

I think we need to consider how we are living up to Paul's teaching in our lives today. Do we have strong men who are sound *in faith, in love, in perseverance*? Do we find women who are *reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine*? And moreover do we have older women today who see their mission in life is to *encourage the young women to love their husbands*. Do we have younger women who desire to be taught what is good?

The purpose of godly behavior by believers is *so that the word of God will not be dishonored*. (*blasphemed, maligned, discredited*) The word here is blasphemy from the Greek word *blasphēméo*

*blasphēméo*(from *blax*, "sluggish, slow" and 5345 */phēmē*, "reputation, fame") – properly, refusing to acknowledge good (worthy of respect, veneration); hence, to blaspheme which reverses moral values.

The purpose of a believer's behavior is to bring glory to God. We are not to vilify the character of God or His Word by which we become new creations, ones that are born of God. Vilify—1 : to utter slanderous and abusive statements against : defame. 2 : to lower in estimation or importance. The behavior of the believer is so very important because it is a reflection of the character and power of God Himself and Jesus. God puts His Holy Spirit on the believer and we are to be a reflection of Him. In Exodus 20:7, we have the third of the ten commandments. It reads: "*Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*" This is a person taking, using, the name of the Lord as *empty, false, a vanity, devoid worth*.

The rulers of the Jews broke this command in the case of Jesus, They claimed He was possessed by the Devil. By doing this they were defaming the character of Jesus.

*The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebub," and "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons." 28"Truly I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons and daughters of men, and whatever blasphemies they commit; 29but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin" — 30because they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit." Mark 3:27-29*

*Blaspheme against the Holy Spirit*, Jesus says this can't be forgiven. Another time Jesus that He was God, He used the name *I am*.

*56Your father Abraham was overjoyed that he would see My day, and he saw it and rejoiced." 57So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and You have seen Abraham?" 58Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." 59Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and left the temple grounds. John 8:56-59*

The Jewish leader were dishonoring Jesus by denying who He was and what was the source of His authority. The commandment state, *the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain*. The Jewish leaders were not guiltless before God. If we go back to our passage we find the importance of believers living godly lives, *so that the word of God will not be dishonored*, we are to live in a way that reflects good on our God and Savior.

Do we consider this as we live out our lives or are we *professing to know God, but by our deeds denying Him*? *Titus 1:16* This pattern of behavior continues as Paul gives instruction for young men.

*6Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; 7in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, 8sound in speech which is*

*beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us. Titus 2:6-8*

It is so important for young men to live well, *to exercise self-control, to put a moderate estimate upon oneself, think of oneself soberly, to curb one's passions.* The worldly wise say *kids need to sow a few wild oats, (behave in a rather uncontrolled way, especially by having a lot of sexual relationships.)* Bad behavior is not to be encouraged for the Christian young person. Paul says, *urge the young men to be sensible, not to be puffed up.*

*I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. Roman's 12:3*

This godly behavior is to be extended to those who are servants and slaves. Much of the early church was made up of people without much influence. Paul wrote, *Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. 1 Cor 1:26*

*9Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, 10not pilfering, but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect. Titus 2:9,10*

*9Slaves must always obey their masters and do their best to please them. They must not talk back 10or steal, but must show themselves to be entirely trustworthy and good. Then they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way. Titus 2:9,10 NLT*

We find again that godly behavior reflects good on God even in our work situations, *will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way.*

*11For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. 12And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, 13while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. 14He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds. 15You must teach these things and encourage the believers to do them. You have the authority to correct them when necessary, so don't let anyone disregard what you say. Titus 2:11-15 NLT*

Paul is teaching sound doctrine here but it is reflected in godly living, *\ we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures.* We as believers are to *live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, 13while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.* And here is the truth of the faith *Jesus gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.*

Paul's final exhortation

*15You must teach these things and encourage the believers to do them. You have the authority to correct them when necessary, so don't let anyone disregard what you say.*