

The pastor describes how some things are so valuable they ought to outlive us -- what aspects of your faith do you most want to pass on to the next generation, and are you currently living in a way that makes that possible?

Paul draws a sharp contrast between false teachers whose beliefs and behavior do not match and Titus who is called to something different -- in what areas of your own life do you sense a gap between what you say you believe and how you actually live?

The pastor distinguishes between getting older, which happens automatically, and growing mature in Christ, which does not -- what intentional practices or relationships are helping you grow spiritually rather than simply grow older?

Paul calls older men to be sound in faith, love, and endurance, suggesting that decades of following Jesus should produce a kind of steadiness -- who in your life models this kind of mature, tested faith, and what specifically about their example inspires you?

The pastor describes the older women's calling as living in a way that is appropriate for sacredness because their whole life belongs to God -- how does viewing your everyday speech, choices, and relationships as sacred ground change the way you approach ordinary moments?

Paul warns that the way believers live can give others reason to dismiss what Christians claim to believe -- can you think of a time when someone's life either reinforced or undermined the credibility of the gospel for you personally?

The concept of self-control appears repeatedly throughout Titus 2 for both men and women across generations -- what appetites or desires in your own life most challenge your ability to live faithfully, and who are you allowing to speak into that struggle?

The pastor emphasizes that the church is meant to be a place of intentional, cross-generational investment rather than simply a place where people occupy a seat for an hour

-- what would it look like for your church community to more fully embody the kind of relationships Paul describes in Titus 2?

Paul assigns older women a specific ministry of teaching and urging younger women, suggesting that wisdom gained through difficult seasons is meant to be shared rather than kept -- is there a younger person in your life who could benefit from what God has taught you through hardship, and what is holding you back from investing in them?

The pastor closes by reminding the congregation that the Christian life begins not with right living or mentoring relationships but with grace -- how does remembering that grace is the foundation of your faith change the way you approach the call to teach, live, and pass on truth to others?

Small Group Guide

"Built to Last: Truth That Is Taught, Lived, and Passed On"

Based on Titus 2:1-6

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Encourage group members to bring their Bibles and to read Titus 2:1-6 before gathering. Open your time together in prayer, asking God to make the truths of this passage visible in your lives and relationships.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1. Truth Must Be Taught** Paul instructs Titus to teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. Doctrine is not merely knowledge stored in our heads -- it is truth about God that shapes the way we live. What we believe should become visible in our words, our relationships, our priorities, and our character.
 - 2. Truth Must Be Lived** Teaching alone is not enough. Paul calls older men and older women to embody the truth they believe. Mature Christians are expected to demonstrate what decades of faithfulness to Jesus actually looks like. Getting older happens automatically; growing mature in Christ does not.
 - 3. Truth Must Be Passed On** Maturity in Christ is meant to be multiplied. Healthy churches invest the wisdom and experience of older believers into the lives of younger believers. Every generation needs someone ahead of them showing them how to follow Jesus, and someone behind them to pour into.
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening (Choose one to get the conversation started)

- What is something valuable -- a skill, a tradition, a piece of wisdom -- that someone older passed down to you? Who passed it on, and how did they do it?

- The pastor shared a story about learning his dad's barbecue sauce recipe by standing in the kitchen beside him. What is something important in your own life that you could not have learned from a book or instructions alone?
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Digging Into the Text

1. Read Titus 2:1 aloud together. Paul draws a sharp contrast between the false teachers in chapter one and what he expects of Titus. What is the difference between someone who claims to know God and someone who teaches what is appropriate to sound doctrine? Why does that distinction matter?
 2. Paul uses the phrase "sound doctrine" to describe the kind of teaching Titus is to promote. In your own words, what does it mean for doctrine to be sound or healthy? What does unhealthy or unsound doctrine look like in everyday life?
 3. Look at the qualities Paul lists for older men in verse 2 -- temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, love, and endurance. Which of these qualities do you find most challenging to develop? Which do you most admire when you see it in someone else?
 4. Paul describes older women as being called to live reverently -- in a way that is suitable for someone who belongs to God. He specifically warns against slander and being controlled by appetites. Why do you think Paul connects the way we live with the credibility of what we teach?
 5. In verses 4 and 5, older women are called to urge younger women in areas like love for their husbands and children, self-control, kindness, and faithfulness at home. Why do you think Paul assigns this teaching role to older women rather than simply to the church's official teachers or leaders?
 6. Paul gives younger men just one direct instruction in verse 6 -- be self-controlled. Why do you think self-control keeps appearing throughout this passage? What makes it such a central mark of a mature believer?
 7. At the end of verse 5, Paul says these things matter "so that no one will malign the word of God." What does it look like when a believer's life gives others a reason to dismiss or discredit the gospel? What does it look like when a believer's life reinforces it?
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Going Deeper

8. The pastor asked two pointed questions during the sermon. Take a moment to sit with them now as a group:
 - Who is ahead of you in the faith, showing you the way?
 - Who is coming up behind you that you are pouring into?

Are you able to name specific people for both? If not, what might be getting in the way?

9. The pastor made the point that "some of the most important things we learn in life are not learned from reading instructions alone -- somebody has to show us." How does this apply to the Christian life specifically? What are some things that can only really be learned by watching someone else live them out?
 10. The sermon closed with a reminder that the Christian life begins with grace, not with right living or mentoring relationships. How does keeping grace at the center change the way we approach the call to teach, live, and pass on truth? How does it guard against legalism or performance-driven faith?
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PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Consider choosing one of the following as a personal or group commitment this week.

For Everyone

- Identify one person ahead of you in the faith whom you could reach out to this week -- not just for friendship, but to ask a specific question about how they have navigated a challenge in following Jesus.

For Those with Life Experience

- Pray and ask God to bring to mind one younger believer in your church or community who could benefit from a relationship with you. Take one concrete step to initiate that connection this week.

For Younger Believers

- Think about an area of your life -- marriage, parenting, self-control, perseverance in hard seasons -- where you feel underprepared. Ask God to show you a mature believer you could approach for wisdom and ongoing conversation.

For the Group Together

- Discuss whether your small group itself is structured in a way that allows for intergenerational investment. Is there an opportunity to connect with someone outside your age or life stage before the next time you meet?

For Anyone

- Spend time this week asking honestly: Does the way I live match what I say I believe? Pick one specific relationship or responsibility and ask God to help your life and your faith align more closely there.
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CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time by praying specifically for the relationships in your group and church that carry truth from one generation to the next. Ask God to raise up men and women whose lives make sound doctrine visible. Pray for those in your group who may still need to take a first step of faith in Jesus, and thank God for the grace that makes all of this possible.

"Some things are so valuable, they ought to outlive us." -- Sermon, Titus 2:1-6

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Built to Last: Passing Faith from One Generation to the Next

Day 1: The Foundation of Sound Teaching

Reading: Titus 2:1-2

Devotional: Truth is not self-sustaining. It must be spoken, taught, and reinforced in the lives of those who claim to believe it. Paul's charge to Titus was urgent and clear: teach what matches the character of God. Sound doctrine is not merely information stored in the mind. It is living truth that reshapes how a person speaks, loves, endures, and perseveres. Older men in the faith are called to demonstrate temperance, dignity, and steadiness earned through years of walking with God. Ask yourself today: does the way I live confirm or contradict what I say I believe?

Reflection: What is one area of your life where your behavior and your beliefs need to come into closer alignment?

Practical Application: Choose one character quality from Titus 2:2 and identify one specific, concrete way you can practice it before the end of this week.

Day 2: The Sacred Ordinary

Reading: Proverbs 31:25-31

Devotional: Paul's call to older women in Titus 2 is a call to treat everyday life as sacred ground. The word reverence he uses carries the idea of living in a way that is fitting for someone who belongs to God. That means the kitchen, the workplace, the conversation with a neighbor, the difficult phone call, and the quiet moment of prayer are all holy territory. Nothing in the life of a believer is outside the reach of God's claim. When a woman of faith lives with that awareness, her whole life becomes a testimony. The ordinary becomes extraordinary in the hands of a surrendered life.

Reflection: Which areas of your daily routine do you treat as separate from your faith rather than as an expression of it?

Practical Application: Select one routine task today and approach it with deliberate prayerfulness, asking God to make your faithfulness in small things a witness to those around you.

Day 3: Grace That Changes Everything

Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Devotional: Paul makes it unmistakably clear that the Christian life does not begin with self-improvement. It begins with grace. The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared for all people, and that same grace teaches us to say no to ungodliness and to live upright and godly lives in this present age. Grace is not only the doorway into salvation. It is the ongoing teacher of the redeemed life. We do not clean ourselves up to earn God's favor. We are transformed by a favor we could never earn. Every effort toward godliness flows from gratitude, not from striving to deserve what Christ has already freely given.

Reflection: Are you pursuing godliness out of gratitude for grace, or out of a hidden belief that your behavior earns God's approval?

Practical Application: Write down three specific ways the grace of God has changed your life. Share at least one of them with someone today.

Day 4: Passing the Faith Forward

Reading: Psalm 78:1-7

Devotional: The psalmist describes a solemn and beautiful responsibility: one generation declaring to the next the praiseworthy deeds of God, so that those who come after will set their hope in him. This is the heartbeat of Titus 2. Mature believers are not simply called to maintain their own faith. They are called to invest it into someone younger. The stories of God's faithfulness in your life, the lessons learned through hardship, the wisdom earned through years of following Jesus, none of that belongs to you alone. It belongs to the generation coming up behind you. Someone needs what you have learned.

Reflection: Who in your life is younger in faith and could benefit from your experience of following Jesus through difficulty?

Practical Application: Reach out this week to one person who is younger in age or faith and invite them to share a meal, a conversation, or a regular time of connection with you.

Day 5: A Life That Outlasts You

Reading: 2 Timothy 2:1-2

Devotional: Paul's words to Timothy echo the same pattern he gave Titus: what you have received, pass on to faithful people who will in turn teach others. The gospel was never meant to stop with any single generation. It is a living truth designed to travel. The barbecue sauce that a father teaches his son to make can outlive the father. How much more should the faith, the endurance, the love, and the hope that Christ has placed in us outlive us in the lives of those we pour into. A church that is truly built to last is filled with people who are intentionally investing their faith into someone else. That is how truth endures.

Reflection: What specific aspect of your faith journey, a lesson, a habit, a hard-won truth, are you uniquely positioned to pass on to someone else?

Practical Application: Identify one person ahead of you in faith from whom you are learning, and one person behind you whom you are helping. If either relationship does not yet exist, take one step this week to begin it.