

**HELPING EACH GENERATION BECOME SPIRITUALLY FIT
(TITUS 2:1-8)
PART FOUR: EXHORTING YOUNGER MEN**

Dr. Jim Cecy

Introduction and Review of Part One-Three

Titus 2:1 "But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound (lit. healthy) doctrine.

PART ONE: EMPOWERING OLDER MEN

"...to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance..." (Titus 2:2)

PART TWO: EQUIPPING OLDER WOMEN

"...to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good..." (Titus 2:3-4)

PART THREE: ENCOURAGING YOUNGER WOMEN

"...to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God will not be dishonored." (Titus 2:4-5)

Now in

PART FOUR: EXHORTING YOUNGER MEN

"Likewise urge the young men (Gk: neos =new men, young men) to be sensible..." (Titus 2:6)

Titus 2:7-8 "...in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us." (NASB)

"The glory of young men is their strength, and the honor of old men is their gray hair." (Proverbs 20:29)

What kind of amazing strength do young men have?

• Strength of Body • Strength of Will • Strength of Passion • Strength of Vision • Strength of Enthusiasm

The Remarkable Young Men of the Bible

• Young David, the Shepherd (1 Samuel 17) • Young Gideon, the Judge of Israel (cf. Judges 6-8)
• Young Jeremiah, the Prophet (cf. Book of Jeremiah) • Young John, the Apostle (John 19:25-27)
• Young Timothy, the Missionary-Pastor (1 Tim. 4:12) • Young Titus, the Missionary (Titus 2:7-8)

The Shortcomings of Youth

Eccl. 11:9-10 "Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things. So, remove vexation from your heart and put away pain from your body, because childhood and the prime of life are fleeting."

"...vigorous young men stumble badly..." (Isaiah 40:30)

2 Timothy 2:22 "Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."

What Young Men Need

Need #1. To Flee Foolish Passions

• **Young men need to flee from being impulsive and reckless.**

The essence of maturity is the ability to delay gratification (i.e. to wait) and to weigh the consequences before they commit the act.

• **Young men need to flee from being overly confident.**

"Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!" (Lk 22:33)

"I say to you, Peter, the cock will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me." (Lk. 22:34)

• **Young men need to flee from the majors swings in attitude and behavior.**

• **Young men need to flee from being naïve.**

Prov. 7:7 "And I saw among the naïve, and discerned among the youths a young man lacking sense..." Note: naïve = Hebrew: pethi = naïve, open-minded

Prov. 14:15 "The naïve believes everything, but the sensible man considers his steps."

Prov. 22:3 "The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, but the naïve go on, and are punished for it."

Prov. 27:12 "A prudent man sees evil and hides himself, the naïve proceed and pay the penalty..."

Prov. 14:18 "The naïve inherit foolishness, but the sensible are crowned with knowledge."

The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15)

Need #2. To Pursue Godly Wisdom

Titus 2:6 “Likewise urge the young men to be sensible (Greek: sophroneo = to act wisely, to be sober-minded, to use common sense, to be of right mind, to be prudent) cf. Titus 2:7-8

“prudent” = Hebrew: ormah = to strip/to make naked/peel off the layers of a problem/get to the core issue

Prov. 22:3 “The prudent sees the evil and hides himself but the naïve go on, and are punished for it.”

- Prudence is the one comprehensive quality to overrule the weakness of his youth
- Prudence is the one all-encompassing attribute to make him a spiritually fit young man...
- Prudence is the one life-long pursuit that will help him become a spiritually fit older man.

David was “a mighty man of valor, one prudent in speech...and the Lord was with him...” (1 Sam. 16:18)

Prov. 14:18 “The naïve inherit foolishness, but the sensible are crowned with knowledge.”

Where do our young men learn to be sensible?

#1. Young men learn to be sensible from the Word of God

Psalm 119:9 “How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to your Word.”

The Book of Proverbs = The Young Man’s Guidebook (cf. Proverbs 1:1-7 = The Preamble of Proverbs)

(Assignment: A month of Proverbs and a month in James (The Proverbs of the New Testament)

James 1:5 “...if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” (cf. James 3)

#2. Young men learn to be sensible from the People of God.

“Hear, my son, your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching; Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head and ornaments about your neck.” (Prov. 1:8-9)

Titus 2:6 “Likewise urge (Greek: parakaleo = exhort, encourage, come alongside to help) the young men to be sensible...”

God wants to mold the young men in our midst. He is recruiting all of us to be a part of His training

Titus 2:7-8 “...in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.” (NASB)

Young men especially need older men in their lives! “Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” (Proverbs 27:17)

“Give me one hundred men who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God and I will shake the world.” (John Wesley)

Let’s get practical...

Prayer of Dedication:

“Heavenly Father, give us young men who are sensible, prudent, holy and pure, who are men of the Word and men of integrity and who are mighty in Spirit and champions for the Lord. We dedicate these young men to You. We dedicate ourselves to You as the older men in these young men’s lives. Give us the wisdom to teach Your ways to them and to live our faith before them. In the strong and mighty Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.”