

# Small Letters

## Week 7 - Titus 2

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### READ

Read the verses aloud as a group

<sup>1</sup> *But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.*

<sup>2</sup> *Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.*

<sup>3</sup> *Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,*

<sup>4</sup> *and so train the young women to love their husbands and children,*

<sup>5</sup> *to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.*

<sup>6</sup> *Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.*

<sup>7</sup> *Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity,*

<sup>8</sup> *and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.*

<sup>9</sup> *Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative,*

<sup>10</sup> *not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.*

<sup>11</sup> *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,*

<sup>12</sup> *training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,*

<sup>13</sup> *waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,*

<sup>14</sup> *who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.*

<sup>15</sup> *Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.*

Titus 2 ESV

## COMMENTARY

Paul starts out chapter 2 by telling Titus to teach sound doctrine

The word could also be translated as “healthy doctrine” in the sense that it is free from spiritual error. Sound doctrine is the life-blood of Christian faith.

In verse 2 the older men that Paul is referencing is not those who hold the title of Elder, but instead mean that are advanced in age

- Sober-minded: be free fr. every form of mental and spiritual ‘drunkenness’, fr. excess, passion, rashness, confusion
- Dignified: worthy of respect/honor, noble, dignified, serious
- Self-control: Avoidance of extremes and careful consideration for responsible action
- Sound: refers to “healthy”

In verses 3-5 Paul lays out qualities for older women

- Reverent in behavior: behavior fitting with holiness (links verse 1 of sound doctrine)
- Not slanderers: prohibits verbal assassination of someone’s character
- Slaves to much wine: should not be mastered by wine/drink
- Teach what is good: their wisdom must be passed down
- Train young women: same Greek word used in verse 2, 5, 6 - idea of self-control
- Self-controlled: the theme referenced in verse 4, same as older men
- Pure: moral uprightness – can also mean sexual faithfulness
- Working at home: literally to care for her home. “Whatever else she does, she cannot shirk her primary duty to care for the home and those who live in it.” (Proverbs 31:10-31)
- Submissive to husband: willingly submit and follow the leadership of husband

In verses 6 Paul now moves to talk about young men

- Self-controlled: same as previously stated
- “The person with self-control is one who embodies all of the virtues previously named for the other age groups in the list.”

Young men are to be self-controlled, and to exemplify all that was listed above – they are not off the hook, but expected to follow all

In verses 7-8 Paul turns specifically to Titus to tell him he must model this

He must model integrity, dignity, and sound speech

That Titus must be the example that all others can look too AND so that the world will be put to shame trying to go against him

Bondservants for us today can apply to the workplace

- Well-pleasing: positive in action – following directions correctly
- Not argumentative: literally not actively going against your superior
- Not pilfering: “skimming off the top” not take what doesn’t belong to you
- Show all good faith: always lead with your Christian witness. You are a Christian first and foremost

In verses 11-14 Paul affirms all that he said about the conduct of believers

Why should we live a certain way? The grace of God which saved us

We are to declare, exhort, and rebuke with all authority – we are following God not man

## **DISCUSS**

Discuss the following as a group

1. What questions do you have from Titus?
2. What characteristic stands out most to you about older men? Older women? Younger women? Younger men?
3. Which characteristic(s) from the lists do you need to work on the most?

4. How can you model Jesus in your workplace when you have a terrible boss?
5. Paul says to “let no one disregard you,” why?