

Honoring Our Older Members

While we often focus on our younger families as the key to the future ... the older members here provide us with strength, experience, stability, and wisdom. They make the church a better place ... a richer place. On Friday I found some stats that says in 12 years (2034) those 65+ will outnumber those aged 18 and below. Due to low birth rates ... the Baby Boomer generation getting older ... our country is presently the oldest it has ever been. If these trends continue ... and our church gains more older members ... we need to see it as blessing!

I. Titus 2.2: Why We Respect Older Men

- A. Because of their self-control
 - 1. All the possessions, reputation, achievement, and accolades have been discarded because they had no real value.
 - 2. This is the person who has his priorities in the right place.
- B. Because of their dignity
 - 1. Think ... **worthy of respect** ... venerable.
 - 2. These are those who see life the way it really is.
- C. Because of their discernment
 - 1. "**Sensible**:" They're under control, they have discernment.
 - 2. They think as to have sound judgment.
- D. Because of their commitment...
 - 1. Sound in **Faith**: Unwavering faith.
 - 2. Sound in **Love**: His love exemplifies 1 Corinthians 13.4-7.
 - 3. Sound in **Endurance**: Those who never lose heart in spite of disappointment, unfulfilled aspirations, physical weakness, and loneliness.

II. Why We Respect Older Women

- A. Scripture exalts godly women. They are to be praised and honored. Why?
 - 1. For their reverence: Titus 2.3a: *older women are to be reverent in behavior, ...*
 - a) **Reverent** means "priestlike." They're humble and meek. Their reverence revealed by:
 - 2. For watching what they say: Titus 2.3b: *not slanderers, ...* known for uplifting words.
 - 3. For not drinking excessively: Titus 2.3c: *not slaves to excessive drinking*. Be in full use of their senses.
 - 4. For teaching: Titus 2.3d - *teach what is good*. To who?
 - a) 2.4a - **younger** women. Teach what?
 - b) 2.4b-5: love their husbands and children; be self-controlled; **pure** and kind ... a worker in the home...

III. As We Close...

- A. At the beginning of today's lesson we read: Psalm 92:12-15. Those who can best declare the character of God are those who have walked with him the longest.
- B. Older Christians, may I remind you that you have so much to offer. Please see how crucial your generation is to the life of this church.
- C. Do you need Jesus?