

## TITUS 2:1-10

### A. Introduction

1. Titus is one of three letters that the apostle Paul wrote, known as the Pastoral Epistles.

These are letters addressed to individuals who were church leaders, one of whom was Titus.

2. Why Titus?

Titus is a great book for us to study together because it gives us a model for how to lead a local church that is healthy in terms of what it believes and how it behaves.

In Titus 1:1-4 we saw that a healthy church is one where people become Christians, remain as Christians and grow as Christians as they hear the gospel preached.

In Titus 1:5-9 we saw that a healthy church needs qualified leaders – men as elders who are godly in their conduct, character, and convictions.

In Titus 1:10-16 we saw that a healthy church has elders who confront those who are deceiving church members and church members who are being deceived.

3. A key way that elders confront those who are deceiving church members and church members who are being deceived is by teaching.

“You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.” (Titus 2:1)

The false teachers are teaching things that ought not to be taught.

Titus, and the elders of the churches in Crete after him are to be teaching things that will help the church members to be healthy Christians.

To help him and them do this, he answers for them four important questions.

### B. Who are the elders’ to teach?

1. The elders are to teach whole households because the false teachers have been ruining whole households (see Titus 1:11).

How do they do that?

By teaching the older men in the households.

“Teach the older men.” (Titus 2:2)

By teaching the older women in the households.

“Likewise, teach the older women.” (Titus 2:3)

By teaching the younger men in the households.

“Similarly, encourage the young men.” (Titus 2:6)

By teaching the slaves in the households.

“Teach slaves.” (Titus 2:9)

2. But there is one group they are not told to teach directly – the younger women.

The way elders’ are to teach the younger women in the households is through the older women in the congregations.

“Then they can train the younger women.” (Titus 2:4)

Why?

Older women are able to model the things they are to teach in a way that male elders cannot.

Maybe to avoid the danger of sexual temptation?

### **C. What are the elders’ to teach?**

1. Elders are to teach the members of the church how to be healthy Christians.

“Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no-one will malign the word of God. Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.” (Titus 2:2-6)

“Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted.” (Titus 2:9-10)

2. Elders are to teach the members of the church that to be a healthy Christian self-control is required.

A healthy Christian refuses to be conformed to the world, but is being transformed daily by the renewing of their mind, in all areas of their lives.

Some of the issues that Titus needs to address in his teaching, are hinted at, by the specific things that are listed, which each group needs to be taught.

The expectation is that the older members of the church will be examples for the younger members to look up to and learn from. The older men are to be worthy of respect, sound in faith, in love and in endurance. The older women are to be reverent in the way they live.

### **D. How are the elders’ to teach?**

1. They are to teach by encouraging.

“Encourage.” (Titus 2:6)

Gently correcting what is wrong and praising what is right.

2. They are to teach by example.

“In everything set them an example by doing what is good.” (Titus 2:7)

They must model a godly life – showing people what this looks like.

3. They are to teach by exhorting.

“In your teaching show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned.” (Titus 2:7)

With motives that are pure.

With a manner that is serious.

With words that are free from error.

### **E. Why are the elders’ to teach?**

1. So that the church members do not live in a way that undermines the gospel.

“so that no-one will malign the word of God.” (Titus 2:5)

2. So that the church members cannot be accused of being hypocrites.

“so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.” (Titus 2:7)

3. So that the church members live in a way that makes the gospel attractive.

“so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive.” (Titus 2:10)

#### **F. Application**

1. There is a place for targeted teaching to be given to specific groups in the church.

Elders are responsible for ensuring that teaching is given to both men and women.

There is a place for an elder to lead or teach in the women’s ministry of a church.

2. There is a need for younger and older members of the church to mix.

We want to be proactive in encouraging the younger members of the congregation to find someone older to disciple them.

We want to be proactive in encouraging the older members of the congregation to find someone younger to disciple.