

**TITUS:
THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE GRACE OF GOD
AND THE FUNCTION OF THE CHURCH**

**Paul's Instruction to Older Men
Titus 2:1-2**

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Overview: Titus is commanded by Paul to speak the things that promote and lead to spiritual health within the local body of Christ. He is to teach the insights that are in line with true, authentic Biblical Christianity. As a result, Titus is given insight on how the older and younger men and women, and those who are slaves, are to live. The concept of being older and younger is referring to years of age in relation to others, as well as years of being a Christian in relation to other Christians. Therefore, the term “older” can refer to someone who is older than you in age and Christianity, or to someone older than you in years of being a Christian. Therefore, what is implied though not stated is that the older you get as a Christian, the more mature you should be.

In Titus 2:2, Paul identifies six characteristics that older men should be and demonstrate:

1. Older men are to be **temperate** – clear-minded, sober in judgment, self-controlled¹
2. Older men are to be **dignified** – worthy of respect, noble and good; demonstrating the morality that reflects the character of Jesus Christ; honorable^{2 3}
3. Older men are to be **sensible** – self-disciplined in one's freedom; self-restrained in all passions and desires⁴
4. Older men are to be sound in **faith** – possessing a spiritually healthy, solid trust in the Lord
5. Older men are to be sound in **love** – demonstrating a spiritually healthy, solid practice in seeking the highest good of others unconditionally, with no strings attached
6. Older men are to be sound in **perseverance** – exhibiting a spiritually healthy, solid ability to withstand the pressures and challenges of life without succumbing to sin in those circumstances because of one's hope in the return of the Lord

¹ William D. Mounce, *Word Biblical Commentary, Volume 46: Pastoral Epistles* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2017), 606. Kindle Edition.

² *Ibid.*, 606.

³ Robert L. Thomas and Andreas J. Köstenberger, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006). Kindle Edition.

⁴ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

Implications for Us to Consider:

1. God expects and empowers Christian men to grow in being temperate, dignified, sensible, and sound in faith, love, and perseverance.
2. Therefore, as Christian men get older, they should be gaining momentum and not losing momentum in being temperate, dignified, sensible and sound in faith, love, and perseverance.
3. You cannot be older with the six characteristics mentioned above unless you start young developing in them.
4. Your development, or lack thereof, in these six characteristics mentioned above are in direct correlation to how you are choosing to manage your life.
5. The measure of older Christian men is not necessarily tied to their accumulation of wealth, but to how well they have developed in being temperate, dignified, sensible, and sound in faith, love, and perseverance.
6. Therefore, your legacy as an older Christian man should not be tied to your accumulation of wealth, but to how others have benefitted from you being temperate, dignified, sensible, and sound in faith, love, and perseverance.