

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

**Paul's Instruction to Younger Men
Titus 2:1, 6-8**

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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. What is implied though not stated is that the older you get as a Christian, the more mature you should be.

In Titus 2:6-8, Paul identifies five characteristics that younger men should be and demonstrate:

1. Younger men are to be **sensible** – to be self-controlled, reasonable, clear-headed; to be disciplined in life; to get a handle on one's passions.
2. Titus (who may have been young) is instructed to be an example of **good deeds** – to be a model of moral excellence in one's service to others.
3. Titus (who may have been young) is instructed to have **purity in doctrine** – to present the teaching of God's Word in its appropriate context, according to its right meaning, not adding to or taking away from its meaning; to present the teaching of God's Word with an honest and sincere approach, reflecting the character of the doctrine.
4. Titus (who may have been young) is instructed to be **dignified** – to carry oneself in holy, God-honoring behavior that demonstrates a seriousness about the matters of God; demonstrating respect in one's lifestyle and service for the will and the ways of God.
5. Titus (who may have been young) is instructed to be **sound in speech** – to be accurate or right in what he is saying so that he cannot be criticized for not speaking the truth.
6. If Titus followed these specific instructions, it would lead him to be beyond reproach – not worthy of condemnation or criticism because he is conducting himself in a manner that is right and appropriate in the sight of all, though some may criticize anyway.¹ “The goal is not

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

to have Cretan society think well of Christians; the goal is for Titus and other church members to behave so that no justifiable charges can be leveled against them.”²

7. If Titus followed these specific instructions, it would lead those opposing Christianity to be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about them – publicly suffering loss of respect, as it becomes apparent that their criticisms are groundless, giving them no credibility to say any more on the issue at hand.³

Implications for Us to Consider:

1. Younger men in the faith must come to terms with the reality that their bodies and their minds are no longer their own. Their bodies and their minds now belong to God and must be brought under subjection to the will and service of God accordingly.
2. When younger men are demonstrating a seriousness and faithfulness to the matters of God, they give the world no credibility to say any more on the issues at hand, causing the world’s criticism of Christianity to be groundless.
3. If younger men in the faith do not take time to connect their mind, will, and affections to the reality of God and His will for their existence, there will be a disconnect between their profession of faith and their practice of faith. This will leave younger men open to criticism, as the world will have grounds for criticism due to the contradictions being demonstrated between their profession and practice of faith.
4. A man who does not control his passions and take the Christian life seriously when he is younger in the faith is a man who will be unstable when he is older in the faith.
5. The goal for younger men in the faith is not to get people to think well of them, but for others to see the light of God through them as they demonstrate seriousness and faithfulness to the matters of God.
6. As a younger man in the faith, you must ask and answer this question: Am I leading a life that is beyond reproach?
7. As a younger man in the faith, you must ask and answer this question: As I evaluate my life, my profession, and my practice of faith, do I bring cause for criticism or silence from the world?

² William D. Mounce, *Word Biblical Commentary, Volume 46: Pastoral Epistles* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2017), 612. Kindle Edition.

³ Thomas D. Lea and Hayne P. Griffin, *The New American Commentary, Volume 34: 1, 2 Timothy, Titus* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 305.