

Introduction: Household Codes in the Greco-Roman World

Key Point: For the churches to maintain an effective witness to the truth of the Gospel, the _____ of those who comprise them must properly reflect that truth.

Sound Doctrine & Godly LivingThe Structure of Titus 2

- There is a noticeable *inclusio* that emphasizes to Titus the importance of teaching the churches about godly living.

Titus 2:1—But as for you, teach (*laleō*) what accords with sound doctrine

Titus 2:15—Declare (*laleō*) these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

- Specific instructions are directed to *certain groups of people* within the churches in 2:2-10.

⇒ There is a noticeable chiasm present within the chapter that emphasizes the importance of cross-_____ discipleship.

A _____

B _____

B¹ _____

A¹ _____

- The *theological basis* for these instructions to all believers within the churches is given in 2:11-14.

Titus' Instructional Ministry

Titus 2:1—But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.

- All of the instructions in 2:2-10 stand in *contrast* to those of the false teachers previously discussed.

⇒ Unlike the false teachers (1:16), Titus' instructions are intended to equip believers for _____ (2:6,14).

“teach”—λαλέω (*laleō*)—To speak or talk. Used in the NT of teachers (Jesus, the apostles, and others).

“accords with”—πρέπω (*prepō*)—To tower up (be conspicuous), i.e. to be noticeably suitable or proper (what is fitting or right).

- Titus must instruct the believers in how to live out the *sound doctrine* that they had received by faith.

Key Point: Believers must be taught both biblical doctrine and its _____ for faithful living if they are to be effective witnesses to the Gospel message.

The Patriarchs of the Churches: The Older Men

Titus 2:2—Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.

- Paul lists four specific traits that should characterize the older men of the churches:

1. _____—νηφάλιος (*nēphalios*)—Literally, sober or temperate (avoiding the immoderate use of wine).
Figuratively, circumspect or level-headed.

⇒ It's use here is probably more related to the literal sense of the word given the _____ associated with Cretan culture.

2. _____—σεμνός (*semnos*)—Venerable, reverend; to be worthy of respect because of character, honorable.

⇒ The emphasis here is on one's demeanor which would naturally command the _____ of others.

3. _____ ~ _____—σώφρων (*sōphrōn*)—Sensible or prudent. Moderate in regards to opinion or passion. Possessing the ability to control one's desires or impulses.

⇒ The lives of older men in the churches must stand in contrast to those of the surrounding _____.

4. _____—“sound”—ὑγιαίνω (*hygiainō*)—This term can be translated here as “being healthy.”

How is ‘health’ demonstrated in the life of an older man?

* _____ →

* _____ →

* _____ →

Key Point: The character of the older men in the church is of vital importance because they are to be _____ to the rest of the church of what it means to live faithfully as a followers of Jesus Christ.

Concluding Thoughts

1. Scripture highlights the character and example of older men in order that we might _____ their faith.

Heb. 11:8—*By faith* Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

Heb. 11:17—*By faith* Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son

Rom. 4:16—That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also *to the one who shares the faith of Abraham*, who is the father of us all,

2. Older men are called by God to bear _____ to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

⇒ You bear witness by your example of _____:

Rev. 2:10—Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

⇒ You bear witness by your _____ of God's faithfulness.

Psa. 145:4—One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Who are the older men in my life who have served as examples of faithfulness?
2. Who are the younger men that God has brought into my life that I might serve them as a witness to the truth of the Gospel?