

Introduction: Observational Learning

In Children:

In Adults:

Psa. 71:17-18—¹⁷ O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. ¹⁸ So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

Key Point: It has always been God’s design for His people to be a multi-_____ body with older believers both modeling faithfulness and encouraging the young to live faithfully throughout the various seasons of life.

Sound Doctrine & Godly Living**A Review of the Structure and Content of Titus 2**

- There is a noticeable *inclusio* (2:1,15) that emphasizes the importance of teaching the churches about godly living.
 - Specific instructions are directed to *certain groups of people* within the churches in 2:2-10.
 - ⇒ There is a chiasm present within the chapter that emphasizes the importance of cross-generational discipleship.
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|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| A Older Men (2:2) | B Older Women (2:3-4a) | } | Key Phrase: “...and so train...” |
| A ¹ Younger Men (2:6-8) | B ¹ Younger Women (2:4-5) | | |
- The *theological basis* for these instructions to all believers within the churches is given in 2:11-14.

The Patriarchs of the Churches: The Older Men (2:2)

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

- ⇒ The older men of the churches have a foundational role in that they are to _____ what it looks like for someone to know the truths of the gospel and to be changed by them. (*Justification* → *Sanctification*)

The Matriarchs of the Churches: The Older Women (2:3-4a)

Titus 2:3-4a—³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women...

- The instructions are to be spoken to the older women in order that they might be reminded of the importance of the example they set by their *conduct*.
 - ⇒ The single controlling verb for this entire section (*einai*—“are to be”) is in the infinitive tense, implying and ongoing, continuous action.
- The passage has a clear structure: (+) Conduct (−) Speech (−) Conduct (+) Speech → Goal
- Godly women *are to be* characterized by certain conduct :
 - “behavior”—**κατάστημα** (*katastēma*)—properly, a position or condition, i.e. (subjectively) demeanor:—behavior.
 - ⇒ Paul is referencing the way of _____ of these older women.
 - “reverent”—**ἱεροπρεπής** (*hieroprepēs*)—Befitting people, places, actions or sacred things to God. It is used only here, but is closely related to another Greek term [*hierothytos*] that means ‘offered in sacrifice.’
 - ⇒ This term is intended as a _____ description of the character of a believing older woman who is walking faithfully with the Lord.
 - ⇒ This involves a recognition that she has been _____ to the Lord for His purposes.

Key Point: The character of the older women in the church is of vital importance because they are to be _____ of faithfulness to those who are younger (women in particular).

- Godly women *are not to be characterized by certain kinds of speech* :

“slanderers”—**διύβολος** (*diobolos*)—Prone to slander, slanderous, accusing falsely. A false accuser, devil, slanderer. Metaphorically applied to one who, by opposing the cause of God, may be said to act the part of the devil or to side with him.

⇒ The image of an older woman who _____ ill of others or _____ accuses them.

- Godly women *are not to be characterized by certain kinds of conduct* :

“not...slaves to much wine”

“enslaved”^[NASB]—**δουλόω** (*douloō*)—To make a slave of, reduce to bondage (metaph. give myself wholly to one's needs and service, make myself a bondservant to them).

⇒ The verb here is in the perfect tense further emphasizing the _____ nature of the enslavement.

⇒ This exhortation serves as a warning about the dangerous tendency towards _____.

Key Point: Because of the influence that they have, older women can be the cause of great _____ within the church, particularly among the younger women.

- Godly women *are to be characterized by certain speech*.

“teaching what is good”—**καλοδιδάσκαλος** (*kalodidakalos*)—teaching that which is good, a teacher of goodness.

⇒ The things they speak are to be the things that are right or fitting for the _____ of God.

- The godly character of older women in the church is intended to *meaningfully impact* the lives of the younger women.

“train”^[ESV] / “urge”^[NIV]—**σωφρονίζω** (*sōphronizō*)—To make of sound mind; to restore to one's senses. To discipline, correct, exhorting one to be sober.

Key Point: The younger women of the churches face great _____ and _____ from the surrounding culture and must therefore be encouraged and instructed by both the example and teaching of older, godly women.

Concluding Thoughts

1. Older women must recognize that they have been set apart by the Lord Jesus for His _____.

Our sanctification is simultaneously _____ (our position) and _____ (our condition).

1 Cor. 1:30-31—³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Throughout the NT, the apostle Paul uses _____ imagery to help us to understand this :

2 Cor. 6:16-7:1—¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I WILL MAKE MY DWELLING AMONG THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM, AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE (Lev. 26:12).

¹⁷ THEREFORE GO OUT FROM THEIR MIDST, AND BE SEPARATE FROM THEM, SAYS THE LORD, AND TOUCH NO UNCLEAN THING; THEN I WILL WELCOME YOU (Isa. 52:11), ¹⁸ AND I WILL BE A FATHER TO YOU, AND YOU SHALL BE SONS AND DAUGHTERS TO ME, SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY (Isa. 43:6).¹⁷

^{7:1} Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

2. Older women are therefore to live their lives as His _____ ~ _____.

Older women must present themselves to the Lord for service to Him.

Rom. 6:16-18—¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

Questions for Reflection:

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