TITUS 2:1-15

1 But you are to proclaim things consistent with sound teaching. 2 Older men are to be self-controlled, worthy of respect, sensible, and sound in faith, love, and endurance. 3 In the same way, older women are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not slaves to excessive drinking. They are to teach what is good, 4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands and to love their children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, workers at home, kind, and in submission to their husbands, so that God’s word will not be slandered. 6 In the same way, encourage the young men to be self-controlled 7 in everything. Make yourself an example of good works with integrity and dignity in your teaching. 8 Your message is to be sound beyond reproach, so that any opponent will be ashamed, because he doesn’t have anything bad to say about us. 9 Slaves are to submit to their masters in everything, and to be well-pleasing, not talking back or stealing, but demonstrating utter faithfulness, so that they may adorn the teaching of God our Savior in everything. 11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14 He gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people for his own possession, eager to do good works. 15 Proclaim these things; encourage and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.
1. SPOKEN (Titus 2:1)
   • Paul challenged Titus to speak the truth.

2. ACTED (Titus 2:2-10)
   • Paul gave Titus directions to be delivered to older men, older women, young women, young men, and slaves.
   • The actions he gave to each group identified practical ways of demonstrating godliness in their current life stations.
   • Paul wasn’t affirming slavery but rather addressing those who were slaves and how they were to conduct themselves toward their masters.

3. EMPOWERED (Titus 2:11-14)
   • Paul pointed to the gospel as motivation for living a godly life.
   • A godly life can’t be lived apart from the gospel.
   • Affirm that everyone is offered salvation, but salvation is only granted to those who accept Christ.
   • The believer’s “blessed hope” is Christ’s return.

4. AUTHORITY (Titus 2:15)
   • Paul directed Titus to act with authority, not allowing any believer to disregard his message.

SUMMARY STATEMENTS
Believers are to live so that they bring honor to Jesus.
   • Believers are to testify in word to the truth of the gospel.
   • Believers are to demonstrate godliness in their lives regardless of their age or stations in life.
   • Believers can live godly lives though the power of the gospel.
   • Believers are to teach godliness boldly in the authority of Jesus.
FOCUS ATTENTION

What standards of integrity do employers expect their employees to uphold as representatives of the company?

• Most employers seek integrity in word and deed from their employees, a standard God expects from His followers.
• Successful employees don’t work just to advance their own agenda but empower others to the benefit of the entire organization.
• Companies expect their employees to exercise the authority that has been assigned to them; likewise, Christians serve under the authority God has given them.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

TITUS 2:1

What might keep a person from speaking for the truth?

• Christians should speak up as appropriate. Sharing insight and information into the meaning of life through Jesus Christ requires voluntarily communicating with other believers and the world.
• Christians must speak truth. What we say must match up with what the Bible teaches.

TITUS 2:2-10

What significant opportunities and pitfalls did Paul identify that may interfere with our ability to live with spiritual integrity?

• Paul provided directives on how to act at every stage of life.
• Older men, by virtue of their age and accompanying life, should be able to amass a higher level of respect through their actions that will leave positive impressions on the younger.
• Instead of resorting to empty activities like gossip, older women have the unique opportunity to mentor in godly marriages and motherhood.
• The young men share the message of living with integrity under the control of the Holy Spirit.

How would you summarize what Paul was teaching us in verses 9-10?

• Paul’s advice shouldn’t be considered as affirmation of slavery but as directions for the Christian who hopes to share the gospel with those in authority.
• Submission in act, speech, and devotion would more likely lead to reflecting a positive gospel message than rebellion.
• While our culture rejects slavery and the idea that one person can own another, we can apply these same principles as we serve our employers faithfully in our workplaces.

TITUS 2:11-14

What motivation for living a life that honors Christ could we borrow from Paul and Titus?

• Receiving God’s grace is life-changing with the motivation not only to move us but keep us going in a new direction.
• Living with the expectancy of Christ’s return encourages us to stay faithful.
• Remembering the sacrifice that Jesus made for our redemption provides the inspiration to replicate His example with selfless living.

TITUS 2:15

If our message is going to be received, what must we do to be taken seriously?

• If our speech and actions match up with the message, we’ll appear to be authentic, and our message can’t be discounted.
• We can speak God’s message with confidence both when we encourage and correct because we have the authority as a follower of God.
• Our message is so important that it demands a hearing that we should insist on.

SUMMARIZE & CHALLENGE

Do you live with the spiritual integrity required to share the gospel message and be heard?

• Living up to the gospel requires us to embrace a personal set of ethics that are carefully outlined in the Scriptures and impressed upon us by the Holy Spirit in collaboration with our own consciences.
• Testifying to the truth of the gospel demonstrates our verbal commitment to spiritual integrity.
• Maintaining our spiritual integrity is a lifelong in-season and out-of-season commitment.
• God’s standards are so high that we can’t reach them in our own strength, but we’ve been empowered by grace.
• Striving for spiritual integrity shouldn’t be just a personal goal; on the authority of Christ we compel others to do so as well.

Personal Challenge: Apply the life stage that most closely applies to determine whether you’re living up to those standards. In addition, decide where the characteristics Paul suggested for servitude apply to you (at home, in the workplace, etc.). Finally, consider how you can share the gospel message with authority at your current stage of life.

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A GLOVE

Before the session, select a close-fitting glove to bring and wear. If possible, choose a glove that’s attractive rather than just functional.

Put the glove on your hand and hold it up in front of the group.

Ask: **Why do we wear gloves?** Lead the group in various responses (to protect the skin, for warmth, as an accessory, etc.).

Say: **Wearing this glove reminds me of my need to clothe myself with spiritual integrity.** When spiritual integrity fits like a glove, it gives me all the benefits that a glove provides my hand. First, spiritual integrity protects me from sin. Living by a personal code of conduct helps me to stay further away from certain kinds of sin that would damage me spiritually. Second, I want to be someone who lives with integrity. I can’t take sinful pride in it, but it makes me feel good about myself. Third, just as others notice how this glove looks on my hand and maybe find it attractive, others take note of my spiritual integrity, too. My hope is that it’s winsome enough that they want to try it on.

Segue into a discussion of what spiritual integrity looks like according to Paul’s instructions to Titus and why it’s so important as we communicate the gospel. Point out that by accepting Christ, believers agree to a code of conduct that’s outlined not only in Titus but throughout Scripture. Be sure to connect speech and action with authenticity and motivation with empowerment. Close by reading Titus 2:11-14 as a prayer over the group.

EFFECTIVE TEACHING

Paul’s instruction to Titus about teaching well invites Christians to pay close attention to the teaching ministry in the church. His urgency about making sure we teach God’s ways well beckons us to consider the important matters of teaching substance and style. Paul gave attention to both components of effective teaching in this portion of his Letter to Titus. Wise Bible teachers give serious consideration to both components as we teach God’s people how to walk in Him.

Of course, the substance of our instruction matters most. It’s the “what” of the church’s teaching ministry. Notice Paul’s insistence on making sure our instruction remains consistent with sound doctrine (Titus 2:1). When we grasp Paul’s firm assertion that our instruction needs to be based on dependable truth, we appreciate God’s Word even more. We regard the Bible as the foundation for what we teach, and we affirm that Scripture provides what’s necessary for instruction that makes a difference in our lives.

God’s Word shows us how to love Him and to express it in our love for others through Christ Jesus, who transforms us from the inside out. As a result, the relationships we have with people at home and at work are stronger and deeper (vv. 2-6). When we get the “what” of our instruction correct, we’re on solid ground and on a clear path to helping believers grow in Him.

But what about the other component? Do we need to give attention to the style of our instruction? Answering that question requires us to define style correctly. It’s a word we generally associate with the way we dress. But teaching styles include much more than mere decoration or ornamentation. Style has to do with how teachers share the content—or the what of the teaching moment.

Paul addressed style as he guided Titus to be an effective teacher. He directed Titus to embody what he taught (v. 7). Then he went on to tell Titus to present his instruction in a compelling, authoritative manner. That’s how people would be unable to ignore him (vv. 8,15).

Teachers do well to take Paul’s advice regarding the what and how of effective teaching. What we say matters most, but how we say it makes a monumental difference in the way people listen to us.