

MINISTERING TO YOUNGER BELIEVERS

Paul instructed Titus on the unfinished church business that needed straightening out in Crete (1:5).

Paul commanded Titus to use sound doctrine to straighten out the following five groups within the Cretan church (2:1 / laleo / p.a.impv)[older men and women and younger men and women and slaves (employees)]

In the pastoral epistles (I & II Timothy and Titus), Paul assigned an age to the older and younger adults of the church – “Let a widow be put on the list only if she is not less than **60 years old**, having been the wife of one man.” (1 Tim.5:9)

Paul told Titus to teach these five groups with sound doctrines – “Sound doctrine demands right conduct of all believers, regardless of age, sex or position.” (NIV, 2:2-10)

“Teaching and proclamation are called ‘sound’ because they avert the corrupting influence of the false teachers.” (TD of NT, vol.8, pg.310)

The Greek word used for younger woman is (tas neos/ new in relation to time) and for younger men is (tous neoterous/ comparative meaning is youthful).

This lesson will study FOUR aspects of sound doctrine necessary to straighten out younger adult men and women of the church of Crete.

1. An important ministry of the older women in the church is to train the younger women with sound doctrinal thinking (sophronizo / p.a.subj) in the following seven areas (2:4).

YOUNGER WOMEN

- Love husbands (philandros) – wives must be trained in this area doctrinally.
- Love children (philoteknos) – mothers must be trained in this area doctrinally.
- Live sensible (sophron) – make good decision based on the CBD.
- Live pure (hagnos) – pure from defilement by walking by Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16).
- Like keep home working (oikourgos) – must be trained to be a keeper of home.
- Live kind or good (agathos) – live to please God (Rom.12:2,9,21).
- Live subject to position of husband (hupotasso aner) – (Eph.5:22-24)

“That the word of God may not be dishonored (me blasphemeo/ p.p.subj).” (2:5)

2. Titus was commanded to encourage (parakaleo / p.a.impv) the younger men in the following five areas (2:6-8).

YOUNGER MEN

- Live sensible (sophroneo / p.a.infin) – make good decision based on CBD.
- Live an example of good deeds (tupos kalos ergon) – Walk the Christian talk
- Living by doctrinal purity (aphthoria) – not corrupted by false teachings
- Live dignified (semnotes) – reputation of respectful behavior as a Christian
- Lips sound in speech above reproach (hugies logos akatagnostos) – (James 3:2)

“That the opponents may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.” (2:8)

3. Since 4 of the 7 areas of Titus' ministry to younger women dealt with marriage and family, we will share FIVE guidelines for marriage taken from the Pastoral Epistles.

- Desires of sensuality overshadow the issue of a celibate life style (1 Tim.5:11-12; 1 Cor.6:18-7:2, 9).
- Desire to invest one's time in marriage and family (Eph.5:15). Single idleness has become boredom and mismanagement of time on earth (1 Tim.5:13).
- Desire to parent children (1 Tim.5:14; Titus 2:4).
- Desire to manage household (Titus 2:5)
- Desire to submit to position of authority of husband (Titus 2:5).

If you are single, you are to be sensible (sophron) and pure (hagnos) for these stated reasons.

- "And give the enemy no occasion for reproach." (1 Tim.5:14)
- "That the word of God may not be dishonored." (Titus 2:5)
- "That the opponents may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us." (2:8)

4. Single status is a time for waiting on God's perfect timing whether young or old.

Single status is as much a part of God's perfect timing as marriage - "Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner (single), and another in that (marriage)." (1 Cor.7: 7)

When it is time, God will bring it to pass in your life. God may tarry, but He is never late. Your responsibility is to be ready.

"And the Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man." (Gen.2:22)

"For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh (weave)." (2:24)

How does it affect you when people say things to you like – Why isn't a nice Christian like you marriage? Maybe you shouldn't be so picky? You know your biological clock is running down? Isn't there any nice Christian single people at your church?

Single status is a time to develop spiritual growth momentum regarding life (Eph.4: 13; Heb.13: 8).

- How well are you handling adversity and prosperity issues in single life?
- How well are you handling personal relationship issues in your life?
- How well are you handling intimacy issues in your life?
- What about relationship issues with your family?
- How well are you handling OSN patterns of behavior?

The waiting period is a time for developing fragrant memories and not painful and miserable memories related to single status (Prov.4: 23). A lot of scar-tissue is developed during single courtship that has an adverse effect upon marriage and family life (Prov.6:32).

"Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." (Mark 10:9)

"He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord." (Prov.18:22)