



6/19/25

*Today's passage is so full of direction for all believers. I find that if I just read over it quickly, I miss a ton of what God is teaching me... and why it's important for me to take these things to heart. And at the core of all this, I'm realizing more and more the importance of humbling myself before the Lord. I hope and pray that you and I can exemplify what God is calling us to as we allow the Spirit to lead.*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Titus 2:1-15*

*The more I study scripture, the more I understand that being true to the Lord will have a direct impact on my relationships with others... and my relationships with others will be the evidence of the genuineness of my relationship with God. That is a scary thing. My natural default is to compare myself with others to see where I fit on the totem pole. It is only in complete surrender to the Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit working in me that I will be able to carry out the commands of this passage in Titus without pride motivating my thoughts, desires, words, and actions.*

*I also realize that it is imperative that I continue to confess to the Lord the moment I see pride rearing its ugly head in me. It is not enough for me to ACKNOWLEDGE the sin of pride in my heart... Without confession, agreeing with the Lord that my pride is wrong and turning from the sin to Him, I will give myself permission to stay in my pride and call it my "personality." James 1:22 tells me to "be a doer of the word and not a hearer only, deceiving myself." When I acknowledge my sin without confessing it and turning from it, I deceive myself. O Holy Spirit, please convict my heart when it strays from You.*

*With that in mind, I turn to Titus 2 and ask the Lord to show me how to live this passage out in true humility...*

*Vs. 1 ~ Paul addresses Titus and says, "BUT as for you, teach what is consistent with sound,*

*healthy doctrine." Why did he say this? Right before it, at the end of chapter 1, Paul spoke of people who were infiltrating the church and teaching what is contradictory to God's word. He said, "They profess to know God, but they deny Him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work." Yikes! He was saying to Titus, "Don't do that... ever!" I would say that's the epitome of pride.*

*Vs. 2-6 ~ Then Paul turns to how the different people in the church were to honor God.*

*Older men are to be...*

- Sober-minded... not caught up into negative influences who lead them from the truth of God's word.*
- Dignified... honorable, worthy of respect. It's never okay to say, "Do what I say, not what I do."*
- Self-controlled... well balanced. This is a fruit of the Spirit working in our lives. There is no true self-control without the Spirit's help.*
- Sound in faith... the root word for this is "wisdom." Let the older men have the wisdom of putting all their confidence and conviction in the Lord as they commit to draw near to Him and seek Him*
- Sound in love... sacrificial, caring, constant love*
- Sound in steadfastness... endurance. To truly be an example to others, a leader must have endurance. When he doesn't, he tears the weaker believers down.*

*The older women have an important role that the world would mock... but God honors. They are to LIKEWISE... just like the older men... obey the following commands. Does God respect women? Absolutely. He includes them in the building up of the body of Christ. They are to be...*

- Reverent in behavior... Their actions and words need to be focused on honoring the Lord. This is something I believe Satan is hard at work to destroy. He stirs women up to believe that God thinks less of them because He has men in the higher positions of authority in the church. I struggled with this for YEARS!!! I was talking about it with Tim the other day and I said, "The Lord has done such a work in my heart to change it! This is not about me being superior or inferior... it's about me saying, 'Yes Lord, I bow to You. My hope is in YOU. If You want me to be in the role You have me in, then I say, 'Your will be done.''" The truth is, my reverent behavior needs to be in honor of the Lord no matter what that looks like BECAUSE I trust HIM and HIS love.*
- Let us NOT be slanderers... YIKES! The Greek word for this is "diablos." That is the Greek name used for the devil!!! We need to NOT be little devils... malicious gossips... false accusers... criticizing to hurt others. If I think criticizing someone else behind their back won't hurt them, I'm very wrong. Not only does it hurt them, but it hurts the person I'm criticizing them with. This in no way honors the Lord.*

- *Not enslaved to much wine... or any other substance that replaces the control of the Holy Spirit in my life. What do I go to for escape? If I'm not going to the Lord, I will not find comfort.*
- *Teach and train the younger women in what is good. What is good?*
  - *Teach them to love their husbands. The word used for love here is "philandros." It means "to love with affection." I can't be criticizing my husband and be affectionate with him at the same time. I will ALWAYS find reasons to criticize my husband. Do I want him to only look for reasons to criticize me? I need to ask the Lord to help me see what I can be thankful for in my marriage... and leave the transformation that needs to take place in my husband up to Lord. He wants my husband to be like Jesus more than I do.*
  - *Teach the younger women to love their children. The Greek word for this is rooted in the same kind of affectionate love that we need to have for our husbands. I get so sad when I'm in public and I see a mom berating her kids. I know parenting is HARD and kids can be so difficult. But most women dream of being a mom and then some of them treat their kids with resentment instead of affection. God has so much better for us!!!*
  - *Teach them to be self-controlled... this is the same word based in wisdom used for the men. All believers in Christ need the Holy Spirit to grow the fruit of self-control in our lives. I find that I need self-control to help me not be ruled by my feelings more than other area of my life.*
  - *Teach them to be pure... holy, uncontaminated, unstained by the world. This is so important. The world's culture is teaching women that they are not valuable unless they are free with their bodies or focused on their appearance or anything that distracts them from what pleases God and makes them more like Jesus. We need to actively fight against conformity to the culture of the world. That battle first starts in our own minds.*
  - *Teach them to take care of their home... Again, the world's culture says taking care of our homes makes us inferior and weak. That's not what God says. Does that mean a woman can't have a job outside the home? No. I can read about Priscilla who was a tentmaker or the Proverbs 31 woman. That woman is not weak or inferior in any way! But do I make my home a priority... for the glory of God?*
  - *Teach them to be kind... so that people will be better off for having spent time with them... Let me not forget... Jesus is kind. This is all about being more like Him.*
  - *Teach them to be submissive to their husbands... This is such a hard command for women to respect in our culture. This is not about God saying I'm inferior by being submissive to my husband. Jesus was submissive to the Father and He is God. He's not inferior. My submission to my husband is an act of worship to the Lord. It's putting myself under the Lord's care and trusting that He'll take care of me even if my husband doesn't treat me with the sacrificial love of Jesus. 1 Peter 3 talks about this. If I'm unwilling to submit to my husband (which is not the same as worshipping my husband), I am proving that my hope is not in God. This is so hard to embrace... but I have no regrets when I do. Also... this does*

*not mean that a woman should let her husband abuse her. If a husband is not obedient to the Lord in loving his wife, the wife should go to the leadership of the church and get help... and if what her husband is doing is illegal, she needs to get the police involved with the help of the church.*

*What is the reason the women should be setting these examples and teaching the younger women to follow Jesus according to sound doctrine? So that the word of God may not be reviled... spoken evil of, slandered. There is a much bigger picture going on than just trying to live my best life on earth... and do self-care... and be comfortable. My time on this earth, no matter who I am, has a purpose... to lift high the name of Jesus and be a light for Him as I humble myself before Him... that He might draw others to Himself in reconciliation. O Lord, please make it so.*

*Likewise... In the same way that the older men, older women, and younger women are pointing their hearts to Jesus, so the younger men need to do this... with self-control. Again, this is a fruit of the Spirit. True self-control will not come without Him. Why make this point with the younger men? It is so easy for them to think they can be self-sufficient, taking the bull by the horns, living for self-pleasure... just like we're all tempted to do. The only way to overcome this is to let the word of God be rooted in our hearts as we lay down SELF and live for Jesus.*

*Vs. 7-11 ~ No matter who I am as a believer, whether I'm male or female, old or young, I need to model good works...what pleases God in all that I do... If I'm teaching, model integrity, dignity, and sound speech... so that no one can have anything legitimately bad to say about me. If they do say something, live in such a way before God that they will be put to shame for making false accusations.*

*Bondservants... I relate this to the role of employees. Bondservants were people who put themselves under a "master" in order to pay off debt or care for their families or just be in voluntary service to their master/employer... Bondservants/employees are to treat their employers with a submissive attitude and servant hearted actions, pleasing them as to the Lord... not fighting them because of pride... not stealing from them, but being faithful. This is all for a purpose... that their adorning... their "kosmos" which means their world... is centered in the doctrine, the teaching and instruction, of Jesus our Savior. He is at the center of ALL our motivation, no matter who we are.*

*Vs. 11-15 ~ This is what all this previous instruction is about... the grace of God in our lives. God didn't just save us so that we could go to heaven. He came to restore relationship with us and to help us to be like Jesus. True salvation trains us to...*

- *Renounce ungodliness and worldly passions... Fighting for our freedom to do what we want is missing what really matters. Jesus didn't come to help us live more freely and proudly for SELF. That's destructive. He came to set us free FROM living for self.*

- *Live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives... that exemplify the humble and gentle heart, and the character, and the love of Jesus. This is when we will truly be free.*
- *Wait for our blessed hope... when Jesus comes to take us home. That's where our true hope lies... not in living our "best life" here on earth but knowing that the best life on earth is nothing compared to the eternal life we have waiting for us with Jesus in heaven.*

*Jesus humbled Himself and gave Himself for us... to do in us what Paul is calling us to do in this passage. Jesus came to redeem us from all lawlessness (sin, because it separates us from God) ... to purify us and make us holy like Jesus... so that belonging to Him is the most beautiful place to be. Knowing that we belong to Jesus and He treasures us, if He is our true motivation, will make us zealous (enthusiastically devoted) to do all that pleases Him.*

*O Lord, I could spend days, months, and years going through this passage and still know that I have more to learn. But the bottom line is... my motivation for all that I do needs to be humble gratitude for all that You've done for me. I WAS dead in my sin. You made me ALIVE because You treasured me and adopted me and made me Your own forever. What is better than that? Please help me to lay down SELF and take up my cross daily and follow You.*