

LESSON 4

A Godly Lifestyle

Materials

- RBP transparencies 1 and 6
- Lesson 4 case study from resource CD
- Titus 2:1 verse card from resource CD

Scripture Focus

Titus 2:1–10

Key Verse

“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1).

Overview

The Scripture for this lesson addresses practical issues of Christian behavior. A godly lifestyle is very important as evidence of salvation and because of the results it produces. The apostle addressed five specific groups in the churches of Crete. Four were differentiated on the bases of age and gender. The fifth group consisted of servants, whose directives can be applied to employees.

Topic

Godly lifestyle

Theme

Biblical doctrine leads to a godly lifestyle in the believer.

Desired Learner Response

The learner will desire to demonstrate the genuineness of Biblical doctrine by a godly lifestyle.

Outline

- I. The Relationship of Behavior to Belief (Titus 2:1)
- II. The Regulations for Godly Behavior (Titus 2:2–10)
 - A. For aged men (2:2)
 - B. For aged women (2:3)
 - C. For young women (2:4, 5)
 - D. For young men (2:6)
 - E. For servants (2:9, 10a)
- III. The Reasons for Godly Behavior (Titus 2:5b, 8b, 10b)
 - A. Avoiding desecration
 - B. Adorning doctrine

Getting Started

Mom Gets the Best

Ask: You have just purchased the best gift in the world for your mother—

something she has wanted for years. What would you choose to wrap the gift in?

- (a) Yesterday's newspaper
- (b) Torn wrapping paper from a gift you received
- (c) The best wrapping paper and ribbon you can find
- (d) The store's standard bag for purchases

Ask: Why is it important to you that the valuable gift you are giving look appealing? What difference would it make to your mother whether or not the wrapped gift looks attractive? (Questions 1, 2)

Our faith is like a valuable package, and our actions are the wrapping.

Searching the Scriptures

Titus 2:1–10 qualifies as one of the most practical sections of God's Word, showing what godly behavior looks like for various groups in the church.

I. The Relationship of Behavior to Belief (Titus 2:1)

Some things just go together—mashed potatoes and gravy, bacon and eggs, ham and cheese, and belief and behavior. The book of Titus shows that wrong beliefs lead to wrong behavior, while good doctrine results in godly behavior.

Titus 1 warned of ungodly people. Their beliefs were wrong. They aligned themselves with fables and the commandments of men. They turned from the truth. Not only were their beliefs wrong, but their behavior was wrong as well. In their works they denied God, being abominable, disobedient and reprobate, or worthless for every good work (1:16). Wrong beliefs led to wrong behavior.

It is important to note that these ungodly people professed to know God, although they really did not. They were not part of some obviously heathen group. However, discerning believers could have determined the insincerity of these false professors' claims because their behavior denied genuine salvation.

In fundamentalism, we seem to accept without question nearly any profession of faith in Christ. Have we forgotten some important New Testament statements?

READ: Acts 26:20. **ASK:** What kind of works should believers do? **READ:** Ephesians 2:10. **ASK:** For what have believers been created in Christ Jesus? **READ:** 1 John 2:4. **ASK:** What does the Bible say about a person who claims to know God but does not obey God's commandments? (Questions 3–5)

Some Christians today think that if a person claims to know God but does not obey God's commandments, the person is merely carnal. They seldom question his or her salvation. Carnality is a genuine Biblical concept, and it

is possible for a Christian to be a babe in Christ and to be living as a mere man (1 Cor. 3:1–3). But the category of carnality has been stretched beyond what is Biblical. The real tragedy is treating those who are false professors as Christians when they are on their way to Hell. When we do that, we show our lack of urgent concern for their souls. Jesus Christ taught that “by their fruits ye shall know them” (Matt. 7:16, 20).

When the false teachers on Crete professed to know God, Paul looked at their lives and said their works denied God. He further described them as abominable, disobedient, and reprobate for every good work. Paul then assumed they were not saved.

Chapter 1 of Titus also tells of godly leaders. They held fast to God’s faithful Word. And not only were their doctrines good, but their behavior was godly. Sound doctrine led to a godly lifestyle.

READ: 1 John 2:3, 5. **ASK:** What evidence of knowing God, or assurance of salvation, is mentioned? (Question 6)

II. The Regulations for Godly Behavior (Titus 2:2–10)

A godly lifestyle, or righteous living, is for every Christian. Paul instructed Titus to speak the things that become sound doctrine. That meant to proclaim the behaviors that were suitable to go along with sound doctrine. Paul gave Titus examples of the godly lifestyle for five categories of people, beginning with aged Christian men.

A. For aged men (2:2)

Sober. This word means to be unmixed with wine. Older men are to be fully rational, having conscious control of their total faculties—mind, emotions, and will. The older Christian man is to have a clear perspective about living as God’s child in God’s creation.

Grave. Perhaps a more contemporary word would be “dignified.” The older Christian man is to be restrained or reverent in his behavior. That dignity of manner comes from a serious attitude toward life. The man can have fun, laugh, and enjoy himself, but at the same time he has an overriding spiritual maturity that knows life is a race, a warfare, a fight.

Temperate. This quality was required of church leaders (Titus 1:8, “sober”). The older man is to have the correct outlook upon God, himself, and all of life.

Sound in the faith. “Faith” in Titus 2:2 may refer to doctrine or to personal trust in God. By virtue of the months and years the older man has daily walked with God, he will have a strong, healthy, robust personal confidence in God and will be well taught in the health-producing truth of the Word.

Sound in love. Love, or “charity,” is caring concern. It is an objective love that comes about by an act of the will. It is being interested in another’s welfare and disciplining oneself to do what is best for the other. The man who is mature in the faith is not self-centered or self-pitying. He has a genuine

concern for others, developed through many years of walking in love as Christ loved us (Eph. 5:2).

READ: 1 Corinthians 13:1–3. **ASK:** How important is love for godly Christian living? (Question 7)

Sound in patience. He knows how to persevere and stick to his commitment to Christ, no matter what happens.

READ: Job 13:15. **ASK:** To what extent was Job determined to persevere in his commitment to God? (Question 8)

Such strong perseverance comes through experience in holding on to Christ through thick and thin. The Christian who is sound in patience won't become disillusioned or bitter, as some worldly people tend to be as they approach older age.

It is easy to lose heart as we get older. We experience increasing physical infirmities and accumulated disappointments. Loneliness grows as friends and family die and we are less able to get around. These things call upon the older Christian to exercise his soundness in patience.

B. For aged women (2:3)

Four characteristics are given to aged Christian women.

As becometh holiness. The words “as becometh holiness” are used only here in the entire New Testament. They mean “as is proper for priests.” Older Christian women—indeed all believers today—are priests (1 Pet. 2:4, 5). A priest's behavior is primarily that of offering sacrifices.

ASK: What are the sacrifices of the New Testament priest? (Question 9)

The older Christian woman should be experienced in offering these spiritual sacrifices to God.

Not false accusers. The word translated “accusers” is the Greek word *diabolos*. The same word is used about thirty-five times in the New Testament of Satan and is translated “devil.” It means a slanderer. A slanderer spreads evil about another for the purpose of hurting that other person.

EVALUATE: Just one person who spreads evil about others in order to hurt them could not possibly hurt a church's ministry. (Question 10)

The tongue is very powerful and yet difficult to control, but a mature Christian woman should have learned how to control her tongue by the grace of God.

Not given to much wine. There have been debates over this verse between the total abstainers and the moderate drinkers. Their debate seems to center on the word “much.” Why did Paul introduce the concept of much? Because,

due to the low alcoholic content of the beverages of that day, it took “much” to dull one’s senses, to make one feel different, or to give the relief that addiction craves. Paul emphasized that they should not be enslaved by wine, and one could not be enslaved by just a little (c.f. Lesson 3).

Perhaps Paul was not dealing directly with drunkenness here as he was in Ephesians 5:18, but with something more subtle. Perhaps he was thinking of that all too prominent practice of older women, and men too, turning to alcohol for relief from tension, boredom, fear, or loneliness. It’s possible for a person to be given to wine and never drink enough at one time to appear drunk. Surely there were those in Paul’s day, as today, who drink in the morning to clear their minds, drink at noon to help them face the rest of the day, drink in the evening to relax before dinner, and drink at bedtime for sound sleep. Christian women must not look to a bottle to find strength for living.

Teachers of good things. A teacher seeks to establish teaching or doctrine in another. Paul instructed the older women to tell about good things, explain how the good things fit into everyday life, and encourage others to believe the good things and act upon them. What these good things consist of is revealed in verses 4 and 5.

Younger women sat at the feet of the older women to learn the good things. It is interesting that teaching the young women was not a priority for Titus as Paul’s representative, nor for the elders of the churches. Rather, it was considered the responsibility of the older women of the churches.

The personal traits required of older women (v. 3) would prepare them to teach others and would make the younger women respect them and be ready to listen to them.

EVALUATE: Older women and younger women learn best when they are with people their own age. (Question 11)

C. For young women (2:4, 5)

Seven qualities are expected of young Christian women. Some apply specifically to married women, while others apply to either single or married women.

To love their husbands. The pressure of today’s culture pushes women away from loving their husbands and into loving their own personal fulfillment, which supposedly can be found only away from the husband and the home. The example and encouragement of older Christian women with a track record of tender affection toward their husbands can be a tremendous influence on younger women.

DISCUSS: How do popular sitcoms of today often portray a wife’s treatment of her husband? What would most sitcom wives think about the Biblical love a wife is supposed to have for her husband? (Questions 12, 13)

To love their children. Children can be very lovable in their tender, precious moments. But every mother knows too well those “other” moments. Mothering also involves some tedious chores. If a mother loses sight of her vital role in shaping the character of her children as God’s, she can lose her mother’s heart of affection.

Be discreet. “Discreet” means to be in one’s right mind. It was used in 1:8 (“sober”) and 2:2 (“temperate”). The young woman must see life from God’s perspective, and not the materialistic or hedonistic perspective of so many of her peers.

Chaste. Purity is worth more than fine gold. Purity of life and character bring honor to the Christian woman and to her Lord. Satan attacks the purity of young women today on many fronts, and older women should encourage them in their battle.

READ: Philippians 4:8. “Pure” here is the same word translated “chaste” in Titus 2:5. **ASK:** How would the instruction in this verse help a person be pure in behavior? (Question 14)

Keepers at home. Literally this expression means “home workers.” The idea is first and foremost that they should actively work in the home rather than being lazy or spending time being busybodies. They must not shirk their responsibility to train their children and care for the domestic needs of their family.

Good. Twice Paul used this word of good works (1:16; 3:1). It is used of the famous Dorcas, who was full of good works (Acts 9:36). Young women, in the prime of health, should be characterized by works that are acceptable to God and beneficial to others.

Obedient to their own husbands. The Greek form probably should be taken in a reflexive sense—she is to submit herself to her husband. God instructs the husband about his duty (love) and the wife about her duty (submit). God does not instruct one mate to force the other to do their duty. Each must give an account of himself to God. The wife is responsible to bring herself under the leadership of her own husband.

D. For young men (2:6)

Only one requirement is specified for young Christian men. They are to be sober minded. This has already been discussed, as it appeared in 1:8 (“sober”), 2:2 (“temperate”), and 2:5 (“discreet”).

ASK: What is the significance of this term being repeated? (Question 15)

E. For servants (2:9, 10)

The Christian servant-master relationship operated on the basis of principles, many of which apply to employee-employer relationships today.

Obedient. The concept is simple—do what you are told. The difficulty comes when we struggle within for the self-discipline to obey.

Please their masters well. They should go beyond mere obedience to orders and think of what would please their masters.

Not answering again (back). They were not to talk back to or speak against their masters, even behind their backs.

EVALUATE: Most employees respect their bosses enough to not talk about them behind their backs. (Question 16)

Not purloining. This means they were not to take things that did not belong to them.

ASK: Have you ever been tempted to take something from work, perhaps just a notepad or package of pens, because you thought your employer owed you? What did you do? (Question 17)

Showing all good fidelity. They were to show good faith; that is, to be faithful and trustworthy. This includes showing up on time, working instead of surfing the Web, and telling the truth when giving a report to a boss.

Is it really possible for Christian servants/employees to behave this way?

READ: Colossians 3:22–25. **ASK:** What light do these verses shed on how Christian servants/employees can implement the godly behavior of Titus 2:9, 10? (Question 18)

III. The Reasons for Godly Behavior (Titus 2:5b, 8, 10)

A. Avoiding desecration



TRANSPARENCY: Display transparency 6 with the right half covered. **ASK:** What desecrations are avoided by godly behavior? (Question 19) Record learners' answers on the transparency.

The world usually judges Christians by the way they behave, not by what they believe or teach. A godly lifestyle avoids carping criticisms by the world. Note two specific examples. The young women were told that when they behaved as they should, then the Word of God would not be blasphemed (v. 5). And Titus's proper behavior would result in the enemies of the gospel having no evil thing to say of him (v. 8). Both God's Word and God's children are spared bad reviews when His children live lives becoming to sound doctrine.

B. Adorning doctrine

The word "adorn" in the Greek is "cosmos," related to our word "cosmetics." It refers to putting things in order so that they look their very best. When we live a godly lifestyle, we adorn the doctrine of God our Savior. Of course, we do not make that doctrine any better than it already is, but we present it

in an attractive way. What a privilege to present our Savior's doctrine in the pleasant-looking package of our good conduct. We show the genuineness of the gospel by our good works.

TRANSPARENCY: Display transparency 6. **ASK:** What are ways we can live our doctrine before a watching world? (Question 20) Record learners' answers on the transparency.

A godly lifestyle facilitates evangelism by removing objections against the Word and against Christians, and by demonstrating that the gospel leads to an attractive way of life.

Making It Personal

Adorning Doctrine

Christ's preciousness to believers makes us desire to adorn His doctrine with our godly living (1 Pet. 2:7). Review the regulations for your age/gender group and praise God for allowing you to honor the Lord by the ones at which you excel. Tell Him of your sincere desire to improve in the ones where you are weaker, and ask Him for special grace to honor Him in those too. (Questions 21, 22)

Case Study

Distribute the case study for lesson 4 to the learners. Have a learner read the case study. Use the questions on the case study to lead a discussion.

Review Transparency

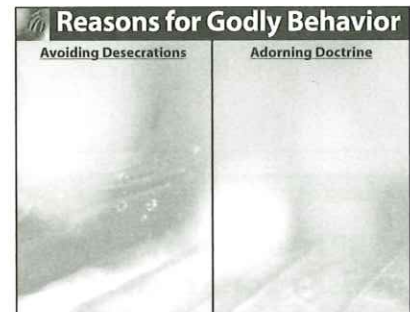
Use transparency 1 to review the Mark of the Faithful for this lesson: Lives a genuine, godly life.

Memory Verse

Distribute copies of the Titus 2:1 verse card from the resource CD. Encourage the learners to memorize the verse.

NEXT LESSON

Encourage your learners to complete lesson 5 before the next class.



LESSON 5

Where Godliness Comes From

Materials

- RBP transparencies 1 and 7
- Lesson 5 case study from resource CD
- Titus 2:13, 14 verse card from resource CD

Scripture Focus

Titus 2:11—3:3

Key Verses

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” (Titus 2:13, 14).

Overview

Most Christians quickly identify Christ's death with deliverance from the penalty and punishment of sin. However, fewer Christians are quick to identify Christ's death with deliverance from the power of or slavery to sin. This lesson stresses that God intends for Christians to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age, and that Christ's death provides both the basis for such living and an incentive to such living.

Topic

God's provision for godly living.

Theme

Christ's death makes godly living possible and desirable.

Desired Learner Response

The learner will understand that Christ died so believers could live godly and respond to His sacrifice by doing so.

Outline

- I. The Basis for Godliness (Titus 2:11)
- II. More Godly Behaviors (Titus 2:12; 3:1–3)
 - A. General behaviors (2:12)
 1. Deny ungodliness
 2. Live
 - B. Specific behaviors (3:1–3)
 1. To the government (v. 1)
 2. To society (vv. 2, 3)
- III. An Incentive for Godliness (Titus 2:13–15)
 - A. Christ's death (v. 14)