

DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE

CONDUCT FUELED BY GRACE

Today's Passage: Titus 2:1-15

For the week of May 5th

MAIN POINT

Grace finds us where we are and then moves us toward the likeness of Christ inside and out.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Use these questions to learn more about others in your Life Group.

What is one thing you thought was important when you were younger that you have grown out of?

What is one thing that's important to you now that would surprise your younger self?

What are some of the reasons we grow out of pursuits like that?

Whether it's video games, playing certain sports, or having tea parties, we grow out of things as we get older. The things that once were very important to us now seem childish because we've moved onto more important things. In the Christian life, we grow as well; that's one of the reasons Paul took the time to challenge different ages of people in different ways. But no matter how old we are, we never grow out of being transformed into the likeness of Christ. God's grace finds us where we are and then, throughout our lives, moves us toward the likeness of Christ both inside and out.

SCAN HERE FOR ADDITIONAL
COMMENTARY ON TODAY'S LESSON



GROW TOGETHER

Read Titus 2:1-5 (ESV).

2:1 *“But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. 2 Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. 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 to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.”*

Why do you think Paul chose to emphasize these things in the older men and women of the church?

What do these verses show us about the importance of relationships beyond those who are most like us?

If Paul were writing to our modern culture, how would he rephrase these commands?

What older Christian men and women have provided a good example for you to follow as you grow and mature in the faith?

Our spiritual formation is a life long process. As we grow older, we actually take on the responsibility of helping others along in their walk with Christ. In fact, We make the message of the gospel more attractive to outsiders when we live responsible, self-controlled lives.

What are some of the practical implications of living a self-controlled and responsible life?

Is that kind of lifestyle valued in our culture? Why or why not?

Read Titus 2:6-10 (ESV).

2:6 "Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. 7 Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, 8 and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. 9 Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, 10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior."

Why do you think Paul had only one command for the younger men?

**What instructions did he have for Titus as the leader of the church at Crete?
How was his life to be an example to others?**

What's the difference between teaching a message that is sound beyond reproach and teaching a message that our opponents find acceptable?

We should strive to live purposeful lives of self-control by following the example of godly leaders and by allowing the Holy Spirit to work through us. We should practice integrity in doing good works, and in faithfully communicating the message of Christ.

Why did Paul want slaves to be submissive and obedient to their masters?

What does it mean to "adorn" the teaching of God? How can believers adorn the gospel message through their conduct and relationships in the working world?

Besides taking money or merchandise, what are some ways employees today may steal from their employers? What does it take for Christian workers to be diligent and faithful in these situations?

How have you seen a Christian worker's consistent honesty and loyalty to an employer also become a testimony to the gospel's beauty and power?

Complaining about one's job or employer is practically expected in our culture, but if we are loyal, supportive, willing workers we can have a great influence in our workplace as followers of Christ. This makes our testimony for the gospel more credible.

Read Titus 2:11-15 (ESV).

2:11 "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. 15 Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you."

What did Paul say the grace of God instructs us to do? Do you think he meant this in the sense of giving us commands, or training us how to do it? What's the difference?

How has God's grace empowered you to live in self-discipline and purpose, instead of focusing on your own interests and appetites?

Every believer, whether young or old, should commit to striving for lifelong Christian excellence. Our lives should demonstrate the self-control that shows we belong to Christ and live to serve His purposes. We should fulfill our God-given roles at home and in society with consistent integrity. Let God's grace displayed in salvation constantly motivate you to live with Christian excellence as you wait for the Lord's return.

MAKE AN IMPACT

Discover how you can apply today's lesson to your life so you can impact the world.

How does living in anticipation of Christ's return affect the way you live today?

What does it take for someone to be "eager to do good works" (v. 14)? What good works has the Lord brought to your attention? What will you do about them?