

## DOING GOOD: "Old and Bold"

### INTRODUCTION: "Old age is not a time to be indolent"

- **Five categories of people who are in the church:** Older men (2:1-2), Older women (2:3), Younger Women (2:4-5), Younger Men (2:6-8), Bondservants (2:9-10).
- **Older men (v.2):** those who are in their mid-50s and up are in this category.

### EXHORTATION TO TITUS (2:1)

- "But as for you" (2:1) – emphatic contrast with the false teachers in 1:10-16.
- "teach what accords with sound doctrine" (2:1) – the word *laleo* can refer to "lively conversation."
- This is pastoral, practical instruction that results in a gospel testimony to the outside world.
  - v.5 – "that the word of God may not be reviled."
  - v.8 – "so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us."
  - v.10 – "so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior."

"Perhaps, then, we should think of this as a type of discipleship-evangelism: to make disciples who know how to follow Jesus with their lives and thus know how to commend the gospel to others." (Todd Wilson, Devoted to Good Works)

### CHARACTER QUALITIES OF OLDER MEN (2:2)

#### A. Restrained (v.2)

- "sober" - Literally not drunk. Metaphorically it means "level-headed", not cloudy in one's mind.
- This man is known for moderation, not given to excess. "A clear thinker".
- 1:12 - contrast is with "lazy gluttons".
- Walks circumspectly - like "*cats walking through the glass*".

#### B. Reverent

- The word **reverent** means "**worthy of respect**".
- **Dignified** (ESV) - understands the weightiness of life; everything is not a joke.
- The older man is to have *gravitas* in his demeanor and disposition.
- John MacArthur - "The older I get the fewer things I have to laugh about."

#### C. Responsible

- **Temperate** – the word means "prudent" and describes a man who has sound reason.
- This person is given to responsible behavior.
- The term indicates "*avoidance of extremes and careful consideration for responsible action.*"

#### D. Right

- **Sound in faith:** this man has lived long enough to see God's faithfulness (Psalm 37:3).
- **Sound in love:** he lives out the virtues of 1 Corinthians 13:1-8.
- **Sound in steadfastness:** he lives with patience, endurance and hope.

# Sermon Application Questions

May 12, 2019

## REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## PERSONAL RESPONSES

1

Pastor Philip stated at the beginning of the sermon that those in their mid-50s should consider themselves to be in the category of "older men" in the church. What did you think about this observation? What are some common struggles for those who are "older men" in the church?

2

**Read Titus 2:1-10** carefully and slowly. List the five categories of people Paul addresses in the church. Why do you think Paul specific exhortations to each people group? Why not just exhort the entire church to be godly?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1

Take some time and reflect on some of the key passages related to this week's sermon. Ask the Lord for help in making application of these truths to your life.

### **Psalm 37:25-27**

I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread. He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing. Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever.

### **Psalm 92:12-15**

The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God. They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, to declare that the LORD is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

### **Proverbs 16:31**

Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.

### **Proverbs 20:29**

The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their grey hair.

### **Isaiah 46:3-4**

Listen to me, O house of Jacob, all the remnant of the house of Israel, who have been borne by me from before your birth, carried from the womb; even to your old age I am he, and to gray hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.

### **1 Timothy 5:1-2**

Do not rebuke an older man but encourage him as you would a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, in all purity.

2

**Reflect on the language of Titus 2:1.** Here, Paul does not exhort Titus to “teach sound doctrine”. Instead, he exhorts Titus to teach “what *accords* with sound doctrine.” (emphasis added). In your own words, summarize what you think is the difference between the two. Why do you think this distinction is so important?

**PERSONAL APPLICATION**

1

The word “**sober**” means to be “level-headed”, “clear-thinking” or “free from rashness or confusion.” This character quality is a qualification for an elder in the church (1 Timothy 3:2). What is one way that you can grow in spiritual sobriety? Think through the following suggestions and then write one application of your own.

- Carefully think through my priorities in life and steward my resources to implement those priorities.
- Keep my emotions under control so that they do not act as the authority over my life.
- Prudently evaluate occasions of spiritual danger and temptation and act to avoid them (Prov 22:3).
- Manage my time and my finances in a way that promotes order and not chaos.
- Choose my words carefully so that they reflect biblical truth and wisdom and are not destructive.
- Make decisions according to biblical principles and not according to whim or fancy.
- “Live in reality”: deal with life situations as they are and not according to what I wish they were.

**My Application:** \_\_\_\_\_

2

The word “**temperate**” (NKJV) is translated as “**self-controlled**” in the ESV. The term indicates “avoidance of extremes and careful consideration for responsible action.” What are the major responsibilities that God has entrusted to you right now? How can you be more faithful to fulfill these responsibilities?

✓ **Responsibility #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

✓ **Responsibility #2:** \_\_\_\_\_

✓ **Responsibility #3:** \_\_\_\_\_

**“The church needs her older men to be what God has called them to be.** They should live life in such a way that evokes admiration and respect. They do not need to be great orators. They do not need to write books on theology. They simply need to be godly. . .The world puts the old people on the shelf and the young people on the podium. But it really should be the other way around. Every believer should aspire to the crown of splendor – to the honor that is due to those who have learned to live well and faithfully to what God has called them. **So this word to the old, therefore, is a word to all of us.**” (Denny Burk, “Why our churches need more gray hair”)