

Episode #346 – Titus 2 Part 1: Behaviors to Accompany Sound Teaching

I. The book of Titus is a personal letter of Paul to Titus, a leader among the believers on the island of Crete. He is instructed how to act as a leader, and also how to choose others as leaders over the believers in Crete. From these instructions, we learn much about how God wants His people to act in this dispensation of grace in which we live.

II. We saw Paul give Titus the qualifications of leaders, and then speak of those who are not like this, whom Titus is to oppose. Now, Paul tells Titus the behaviors he is to teach the leaders and others to model.

III. Titus 2:1-8. The behaviors Titus is to teach.

A. Titus 2:1. Sound doctrine.

1. There is no contrast here between “doctrinal” and “practical” portions of Scripture. The word “doctrine” means “teaching.”
2. Titus must speak what is proper, whether or not people are happy to receive it. Corrupt teaching is usually the result of taking God’s Word and building some doctrine upon it that is not found in it.

B. Titus 2:2. The behavior of elders.

1. This word for “older men” is the same word as “elders” in the previous chapter, *presbuteros*.
2. They should be of sound mind, calm and honorable. Elders should be self-controlled. Elders need to be healthy in what they believe, to truly love and care for their people (*agape*), and to be sound in patient endurance (*hupomone*).

C. Titus 2:3. The behavior of elder women.

1. The word here translated “older women” is simply the female version of the word for “elders,” *presbutis*. This is its only occurrence in the Scriptures, and is a revolutionary concept. All throughout the Old Testament, men were leaders. The exception of Deborah (Judges 4-5) was due to extreme circumstances (Judges 4:8-9, 5:30.)
2. Some have accused Paul of being a woman-hater. This does not sound like it, when he is the only one in Scripture to give women the place of elders! The qualifications for elders in chapter 1 were male, but the masculine was the typical default in Greek, so the qualifications were the same. Here we have the behaviors Titus is to teach the women elders.

V. Conclusion: The first chapter of Titus reveals to us that Titus was left in Crete to appoint leaders to help the people. In the second chapter, we learn the behaviors he was to teach them, not only to the male leaders, but also to the leaders among the women. The idea of women elders in Scripture was a revolutionary concept at the time. May all of us, men or women, behave in ways that decorate and complement true doctrine.