

Women Teaching Women – Radio Show #150

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 telling Titus the behaviors he is to teach the leaders and others to model. After giving him instructions for teaching the male elders, he is now giving him instructions on what to teach the female elders.

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

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. The women elders are to be reverent in behavior. *Hieroprepes*, befitting things sacred, not the same as that used of the male elders in the previous verse. These women are to act in a proper way for people who are the representatives of God. They are not to be slanderers (*diabolos*, devils). The women elders should not be enslaved (*douloo*) to much wine, and should teach good things. This is in contrast to I Timothy 2:12. What is the difference? Not cultural (why is I Timothy 2:12 cultural and Titus 2:3 is not?). Not dispensational (both are written to the dispensation of grace). What good things, and to whom?

D. Titus 2:4. Things the elder women should teach the younger women.

1. The representative women were to teach the younger women. This answers the difficulty above: the women elders were not to teach men, but young women. This is literally “new” women. They are to teach younger women (in age or in faith).
2. The importance of older people teaching younger people character and conduct is one that is lost on our society, wherein we tend to segregate people based on age. Proverbs 13:20. Psalm 111:10 is true even for young people. Yet our young people also need the wisdom that older believers, even older than their parents, can provide.

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 duties of the women elders appears to be largely over the younger women, whom they are to teach reverent and Godly behavior. May Christ’s older women be willing to teach, and His younger women be willing to listen!