

# What is Your Doctrine: Part 1

*Titus 1:15-2:10*

## BIBLE PASSAGE

[Tit 1:15-16 NKJV] 15 To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. 16 They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work. [Tit 2:1-10 NKJV] 1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: 2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; 3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- 4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. 6 Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, 7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, 8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you. 9 Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, 10 not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

## INTRODUCTION

Over the last two weeks, we studied chapter 1 discussing the importance of called and qualified church leaders overseeing the church's doctrine and direction. In order for the

church not to be led astray, it must be led well by men who are both spiritually minded and mature and live that out in a morally and ethically upright way.

While elders have many functions, the primary reason Paul was concerned about good leadership in the church at Crete was the presence and activity false teachers and pot-stirrers. The good elders function was to know the Word, hold fast to the Word, and utilize the Word to stand against false doctrine and rebuke those who were leading others astray for their own financial and material gain.

These false teachers were Judaizers who were distracting people's faith with arguments about Jewish genealogies, stories, and the application of the Mosaic law in the life of new Gentile believers. Instead of becoming more like Jesus, people under these teachings were becoming more confused, more disillusioned in their faith, and falling into various sins and lusts. Paul said that these men were, "speaking things they ought not."

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#### BIBLE PASSAGE

### Titus 1:15-16 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>15</sup> To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.

<sup>16</sup> They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

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#### APPLICATION

This verse sounds a bit confusing at first, but Paul's logic is as follows:

***"The inward state of one's purity dictates their moral and religious actions."***

- The person who has had their heart washed and purified by Christ will naturally gravitate toward all that is morally pure, and distance themselves from legalistic religion that relies on outward observance over inward purity.

- Conversely, the person who is defiled by the lusts of the world and its sensual pleasures will find a way to make everything impure; the wicked intent of their hearts will defile their lifestyle and their religion. They externally confess God and portray religious actions or purity, but because their hearts desire wickedness, what's inside will surface and seep through the crevices of their appearance.

EXAMPLE: You could take an axe and place it in two people's hands. One person might use it to help someone chop firewood, and the other might use it as a weapon to harm someone. It depends on what's in their hearts. A person who the Spirit is purifying navigates around the pitfalls of unrighteousness and uses what they have in this world for the glory of God. The impure in heart will take the things of the world and even religion and defile it to their destruction.

## SOUND DOCTRINE

So in light of men speaking things they ought not, Paul shifts to Titus and contrasts him with them. He commands, **[Tit 2:1-10 NKJV] 1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: Rather than teaching things that corrupt people, teach things that make them more sound in their faith and in their lifestyles.**

Sound - Healthy and not mixed with error

Doctrine - teaching or instruction

As you study Paul's definition of sound doctrine you learn something incredibly valuable:

***Doctrine is not merely a statement of beliefs; it is the philosophy that governs our daily behaviors and manner of life.***

***Sound doctrine always seeks to align "believing the right things" with "doing the right things."***

**For example:** you can say, "My doctrine is that Jesus is Lord," but you're living in sexual immorality, then your actual doctrine is "sex is Lord, and my desires matter the most." In other words, your actual doctrine is known by the way you live. If your spiritual priorities only come secondarily to pursuing your financial goals or hobbies, or achievements, then that is your doctrine.

LET'S BRIEFLY LOOK AT PAUL'S TEACHING ABOUT SOUND DOCTRINE IN HIS LETTERS TO TIMOTHY TO SEE WHAT WE CAN LEARN.

**[2Ti 3:16-17 NKJV] 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

Here we find that teaching is not solely about increasing one's theological knowledge, but practically equipping them to DO every good work that Christ has prepared

**[2Ti 3:10-11 NKJV] 10 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, 11 persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra--what persecutions I endured. And out of [them] all the Lord delivered me.**

Paul's doctrine was tied at the hip to his manner of life. **Sound doctrine = sound living.**

**[1Ti 1:8-11 NKJV] 8 But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, 9 knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, 11 according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.**

**Doctrine = Lifestyle decisions**

#### QUOTE

**“ Proper preaching and sound doctrine equip people to obey and practically live out God's truth.**

## DISCIPLESHIP

***This is what discipleship is: embracing doctrine that leads to Christlikeness.*** In our cultural context, we miss a big part of this.

- You see, our Western way of learning emphasizes knowledge. Many Christians in America get a thrill out of discovery and learning, which is great. When I see a truth unlocked that I haven't learned yet or seen before, there's a bit of a dopamine response. I like it. This is why we see so many enthralled with eschatology (the study of prophecy and last days) or soteriology (the study of the process of salvation). Even the words we use, like THEOLOGY, emphasize this focus on study and learning. (Theo - God; Logos - to reason and learn). We like to learn.
- Again, this is extremely valuable, but here is the caution to our thinking. The Jewish paradigm was that there was no separation of learning and doing. Learning always was to impact some way of living.
  - This is why we have verses like James 1:22 - But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
- I personally believe this is one of the biggest reasons the Western church struggles with discipleship. I don't think its because we are;t relational people, we are. I think it's because we often focus our relationships, small groups, and gatherings on learning (gaining knowledge) instead of doing (practicing knowledge). There is a place for both, but the expectation should always be, ***"I'm learning the truth to bring my actions and words in alignment."***

## QUOTE

**“ All true believers are expected to have their faith reflected in their conduct and to have their conduct affirm their faith.**

Hughes, R. K., & Chapell, B., (2000). 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus: to guard the deposit (p. 325). Crossway Books.

#### BIBLE PASSAGE

[Mat 28:19-20 NKJV] 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Did you catch that? Making disciples is about teaching them TO OBSERVE = there is no disconnect between what you learn and what you do.

#### QUOTE

“*If Jesus taught it, I need to live it.*”

Pastor Josh

#### APPLICATION

Next, Paul lays out what sound doctrine looks like applied to **GENDERS and GENERATIONS**, male and female, young and old.

## 1 Doctrine for Older Men

**BIBLE PASSAGE****Titus 2:2 (NKJV - New King James Version)**

<sup>2</sup> that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;

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**APPLICATION**

I believe older men are mentioned first due to the order of honor and respect that culture showed the elder generation. In Jewish culture, the more mature you were, the more respect and deference you deserved.

**[1Pe 5:5 NKJV] 5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."**

**[Pro 20:29 NKJV] 29 The glory of young men is their strength, And the splendor of old men [is] their gray head.**

**[Pro 16:31 NKJV] 31 The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, [If] it is found in the way of righteousness.**

Not every older person is a wiser person, but those who are older and have lived their life walking in fear of God gain a crown of glory that should be revered by the generations coming after them.

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**QUOTE**

**“ If the older generation wants to REACH the younger generation, they need to TEACH the younger generation by the example of their life.**

Pastor Josh

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## APPLICATION

Because our culture worships youth, many within the older generation have lost their sense of purpose in the plans of God. They retreat into self-serving and self-preservation because they have effectively been told, even by the church, "You are expendable, and your time has passed."

There couldn't be anything from the truth. It's true that the older you get, the more difficult certain tasks become.

**But the goal in getting older shouldn't be to do what you used to do when you were young. The goal should be to use your gained wisdom and skill to help the next generation mature in Christ and look to you for the kind of character, morality, and legacy that they should pursue.**

## APPLICATION

Older men should have the following targets for their season of life:

- **Sober:** The word implies "Free from outside control or influence." Alcohol doesn't control them, and neither do their emotions or circumstances. Older men should exhibit self-control, especially in areas where younger men might struggle. A soberness of mind leads to clear judgment. Young men who are struggling with lust, pride, and misplaced priorities should be able to look to an older man who has become disciplined and freed from being enslaved to those struggles and can help

2:24



submission to God and His Word.

- **Temperate:** The word indicates Moderation. Whether it's with emotions, actions, or material things, these men are not easily swayed by extremes. They learned how to control the extremes of their emotions and the extremes of their passions, and they are steady and consistent.
- **Sound in faith, love, and patience:** This reflects a complete and mature faith. After walking with God through the highs and lows of life, their *trust in God deepens. Their love is sacrificial, and their patience is rooted in wisdom.*



- [2Pe 1:5-7 NKJV] **5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.**

## 2 Doctrine for Older Women

### BIBLE PASSAGE

### Titus 2:3 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>3</sup> the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—

### APPLICATION

I will not take it upon myself to define how old an "older woman" is. That might get me into trouble. However, a couple of cultural considerations here:

1. At that time, within the Roman empire, the life expectancy of a female was between 50 and 60 years old, which indicates that a woman in her mid-to-late 40s and above would have probably been placed in this category.
  2. Seeing that these women were to teach younger women about being a wife and a mother, they were probably women old enough to have already raised children and potentially have grandchildren.
  3. So, if you can identify with that stage of life, you are probably in this category.
- **Reverent in behavior:** Like older men, older women are to be examples of holiness and dignity. ***Reverent - This means something holy and sacred.*** Their behavior

(speech and actions) reflect a sacredness and holiness that speaks to their life being set apart for the Lord.

- **Not slanderers:** They should avoid gossip and any speech that could harm others, using their words to build others up.
  - The word slander comes from the Greek word "Diabolos," from which we derive the words diabolical and devil. It means to be a false accuser of others.
  - Now, I hate to bring this up, but I believe that Paul's exhortation to avoid slander is uniquely given to the women on purpose. This is not because men don't have the capacity to slander others but because culturally then, and I believe still today, women's social circles and interactions led them to be more prone to slanderous gossip.
  - Modern psychology has identified that men and women are both slanderous, but the nature of their slander tends to be different. According to research published in "Social Psychological and Personality Science," Men tend to gossip about accomplishments and status, and women tend to gossip about relationships and people.
  - Because women historically have been the ones to stay home, social circles were more easily formed and there was more time for prolonged conversation. Speaking of young widows, Paul writes:
    - **[1Ti 5:13 NKJV] 13 And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.**
  - Ladies, please don't leave the church but hear the word of the Lord. Be careful not to get engrossed in social group conversations, where relational gossip, assumptions, and accusations start flying. Older women, your example of that kind of behavior starts with your example.
- **Not given to much wine:** This emphasizes a life of moderation and self-control.
- **Teachers of good things:** Older women have a vital role in discipling younger women. They are to teach not only through words but by example.

### 3 Doctrine for Young Women

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#### BIBLE PASSAGE

#### Titus 2:4-5 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>4</sup> that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

<sup>5</sup> to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

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#### APPLICATION

Here, the younger women are given sound doctrine for their lives. I think it's also noteworthy that the leading voice of teaching in the younger women's lives is the older women, not the pastor or even the husband. Yes, of course, the pastor, husband, or friend can be a good source for learning, but again, when ***learning = doing***, you need someone to show you the example.

- Obviously some of these will not apply to younger women who aren't married, ut there's something in here for everyone.
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#### APPLICATION

#### The first appeal to young wives is: Love their husbands and children:

- In a day and age where most marriages were arranged, a young woman's decision to show authentic love, kindness, affection, and respect to her husband testified to the power of the gospel. It goes to show that authentic love goes beyond an emotion into

the realm of a decision. The decision to show love to your husband is a decision to imitate Christ.

- This doesn't mean enduring physical abuse or not having a voice to express your expectations, hurts, or feelings. But it shows that one of the ways a young wife lives out the gospel is to have a holy love for her family.
  - The order is also essential. The Greek structure indicates a priority that husbands come first, followed by children. A wife and mother's main priority is for her children to see her loving her husband with faithfulness and joy. Children will leave and carry that example with them, but when children are idolized above the marital relationship, it ends up being very toxic to the kids and to the marriage.
- Another thing this principle displays is that a wife shouldn't have mentality of independence from her husband and children, but a sense of responsibility over the environment of her home.

**Discreet and chaste:** These words indicate wisdom and purity - they use wisdom in the relationships they build and the things they pursue in life, and they maintain sexual purity reserved for their husband. They don't need attention and affirmation on Instagram for their body image or beauty.

**Homemakers:** This speaks to the vital role women play in creating a home where Christ is honored and cultivating an atmosphere of peace and order.

**We have to realize that women in that culture and society were not seen as equal to men, neither in Greek or Jewish culture.**

- ***Aristotle - Politics 1.13:*** "The male is by nature superior, and the female inferior; and the one rules, and the other is ruled."
- ***Greek Philosopher Plutarch*** - "A wife ought not to make friends of her own, but to enjoy her husband's friends in common with him..."
- ***Josephus (Jewish Historian) - Antiquities 4.219:*** "The woman, says the law, is in all things inferior to the man."
- **Paul (an apostle of Jesus Christ) - [Gal 3:28 NKJV] 28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

**The gospel was counter-cultural, declaring the equal value of men and women while maintaining their distinctions. In other words, Christ elevated women from being "less than" men without erasing the unique differences between the sexes and the roles that reflect the way God created humanity from the beginning.**

- We should be careful not to overlay modern feminist imprints over this text. Paul is not trying to make an argument for whether a woman should or shouldn't work outside the home, or if a man can't handle certain household responsibilities.
  - The virtuous woman of Proverbs 31 is an income earner for her family, a disciple maker of her children, a crown for her husband, and runs a healthy and thriving home.
- The term "Homemaker" means "to guard over the household." It's not strictly "do the dishes and vacuum." It's ownership of the environment created for her family in the household. A woman has the freedom in Christ to pursue other activities and opportunities outside the home, but not at the expense of her home.
- I can't count the times I've been so blessed to come home from a chaotic day of ministry to worship music playing, candles burning, kids working on their homework, good food on the table, and receive such peace and strength from an environment my wife WORKED hard to create. That is worthwhile work.

#### QUOTE

**“ Let’s all realize, home is the most important place on earth. It’s where life makes up its mind. It’s a family’s refuge from the world. A stable home makes for stable kids and a steady husband. A lady who neglects her home, and allows chaos to rule, is out of God’s will.**

Sandy Adams

#### APPLICATION

**Finally, Obedient to their own husbands:** This isn't about subjugation but about biblical submission—working in partnership with their husbands to progress the gospel in their home and beyond. I encourage you to go back to watch my marriage series for a more in-depth study on biblical submission and leadership in the home.

## 4 Doctrine for Young Men

### BIBLE PASSAGE

#### Titus 2:6-8 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>6</sup> Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded,

<sup>7</sup> in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,

<sup>8</sup> sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

### APPLICATION

#### **Sober Minded - To have a clear and mature mind about life, God, and yourself.**

It appears that the prime of youth is also the season where the body has the lust for pleasure, but the mind lacks the wisdom of self control and foresight. Most men you talk to recall a season in their youthful years where they planted seeds of the flesh and underestimated the long term effects.

To Timothy, Paul refers to something called "Youthful lusts." He writes:

**[2Ti 2:22 NKJV] 22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.**

Lusts is plural. There are many temptations and desires in one's youth that would be wise to avoid:

- **Sexual lust** - a 2020 survey from Common Sense Media revealed that 75% of youth were regularly viewing porn by the age of 17. 45% of those said that pornography helped them understand and discover their sexuality. You men have hormones that

are raging and are physiologically designed for sexual function. But Satan and sin have swept in to steal, kill, and destroy. ***When young men pursue the sexual lusts of their flesh, they don't understand they are planting seeds of emotional and physical destruction in their minds, their bodies, the bodies and minds of their sexual partners, their future marriage, and their relationship with God. The weapon against sexual lust is to place your pursuits in places of righteousness and things that will plant seeds to build your spiritual strength.***

- **Lust for pleasure** - Pleasure is not merely sexual. Pleasure can be alcohol consumption, partying, drugs, and even more seemingly innocent things like video games, entertainment, etc. Now, before you accuse me of getting too "Legalistic," you do realize that a Satanic strategy is to steep the Christian in so much ease and pleasure that they become lazy, useless, apathetic consumers.
  - **Young men need to primarily learn in their strong, formative years that life isn't about them; life isn't about fulfilling every impulsive desire they have. They need to learn sacrificial service, hard work, diligence for something greater than themselves, self-discipline in hard things, and how to deny themselves for the greater good.**
- **Lust for materialism and success (pride of life)** - Young men have the drive to look good, be popular, drive a nice car, and have a job that makes money. None of those things are wicked within themselves, but if young men can learn how to turn their energy to serving others, walking in humility, and following the path of Christ, everything they pursue and accomplish later in life can be used for good and fruitful for eternity.

## 5 Doctrine for Employees

### BIBLE PASSAGE

### Titus 2:9-10 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>9</sup> Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back,

<sup>10</sup> not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

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## APPLICATION

And what was true of servants in Rome is true of employees today. Our desire to be a godly example starts at work! 2:9 **“Not answering back...”** Don’t be a smart aleck or insubordinate. Respect authority; don’t buck it..

**“Not pilfering...”** 2021 statistics show that American businesses lost three times as much to employee theft as they did to shoplifting. One out of eleven Americans are guilty of shoplifting, while three out of four have stolen from their employer. Just because you’re not paid what you think you deserve doesn’t entitle you to self-appointed perks and favors. *Taking what doesn’t belong to you is stealing.* Instead, employees should 2:10 **“show all good fidelity...”** They should be honest and trustworthy. 2:10 **“That they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.”** I love this idea, that we can 2:10 *“adorn the doctrine”* of God’s truth. We can give the Gospel color, and beauty, and charisma by living lives transformed by Jesus.