

The Characteristics of a Spiritually Healthy Church

An Exposition of **Titus 2** 7- Younger Men and Elders

March 22, 2026

Titus 2

2 But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.

2 Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.

3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,

4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible;

7 in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified,

8 sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

9 Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative,

10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith so that they will adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

15 These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

*To the Glory of God the Father;
God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit. Amen*

God is Glorious! And God's Glory is THE SINGLE Focus of God as to WHY He does everything that He does! So, the God, Who is revealed in both Nature and Scripture, is "*white-hot*" in His Passion for His Glory! And God desires that ALL of Creation *magnify* and *love* and *enjoy* the Beauty; and the Importance; and the Value; and the Worth of God's Glory. And that "*Magnification*"- that "*Love*"; and that "*Enjoyment*" of the Glory of God is what is called, "*Worship*". So, God *desires* to be worshipped because He is *entitled* to be worshipped. He has *earned* and *deserves* our Worship.

But it is much MORE than a Desire. God *commands* Worship from His Creatures; He *expects* it- precisely because of WHO He is and WHAT He alone has done! And that Reality is what makes the Worship of the one, true, and living God- to be Correct and Right and True and Good and Beautiful.

But that Reality of WHO God is and WHAT God alone has done- is also what makes it Evil; a Sin; and a terrible Injustice for God's Creatures to NOT worship Him; or to worship something that has been made and something that is passing away.

But Sin stops Worship from happening. So, because we are "Sinful"; because we are "fallen Creatures"- human Beings CANNOT worship God *correctly nor fully*- unless God *delivers* them from their Sin and their "fallen State"- *by what He alone does for them!* And that sovereign, powerful "Doing" is called, "*Grace*" and that supernatural and miraculous "*Deliverance*" is called, "*Salvation*".

You see, we simply CANNOT worship nor enjoy what we do not love. And part of what it means to be "Lost" is that we have NO Love for God- at all. And so, God's Glory CANNOT be fully *comprehended* nor can it be *appreciated* by human Beings through our own human Power or Intellect. In other words, we CANNOT worship God- without Him sovereignly *empowering* us to love and enjoy Him.

And God has determined that the "*Glory of His Grace*" and the "*Glory of His Deliverance*" is found the Best and the Most in the "*Person*" of the Lord Jesus! And so, God *loves* the Glory that is found ONLY in the Lord Christ- precisely because NOBODY *understands* nor *appreciates* nor *loves* nor *enjoys* God the Son- *more* or even the *same* as God the Father.

So, because God desires that ALL of Creation worship Him; because God desires that we "*praise the Glory of His Grace*" (**Ephesians 1:6**); AND because we CANNOT worship God unless He empowers us to worship Him- God must *sovereignly* "draw" sinful Rebels into a "*Union with Christ*"!

And that is what is called, "*Evangelism*". And so, Evangelism exists because Worship does NOT already exist. So, Evangelism of the Lost is what *produces* Worship in Believers. And so, we are *commanded* by the Lord Christ- everyone of us- to *evangelize* the Nations of the World!

And even though the modern Church teaches that Man-made Methods hold the Key to effective Evangelism- the Bible declares that God has chosen...

... the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. (1Corinthians 1:21)

... and that is *why* we preach the Gospel!

But there is something that we possess that gives Credibility to the Message that we preach. And that is the Life that we live. So, the Way we live our normal, daily Lives either gives Credibility to the Word that we preach; or by the Way we live our normal, daily Lives, we ...

- Dishonor the Word of God (**Titus 2:5b**)
- Cause the Enemy of Christ to be justified in rejecting us (**Titus 2:8b**)
- Do NOT “adorn the Doctrine of God” (**Titus 2:10b**)

... and that is WHY God the Holy Spirit “moved” on the Apostle Paul to write the **Epistle of Titus**- *especially* the 2nd Chapter!

So, we are here on the Earth to worship God! Part of the Reason we have been saved is so that we may go forth into our Homes; our Neighborhoods; our Cities; and the Nations of the World to herald the glorious Truth that Jesus saves wicked Sinners! And we do that- NOT so they could then live to their own Lusts- but so they may be radically transformed into “Worshippers of God”!

And that Transformation happens *suddenly and instantly* in the Miracle of the New Birth; being Forgiven and made Righteous; and by being Adopted into the Family of God to become true, spiritual Jews! But then we become much *better* Worshippers of God through the Life-long Process called, “*Sanctification*”- where we are molded; and shaped; and formed; into the very Image and Likeness of our Lord Jesus Christ by the ongoing and purifying “*Fire of Sanctification*”! And the Fruit that we ARE being progressively “made Holy” (Sanctified)- is that we bow our knees to the Authority of Scripture and live Lives that prove- *unmistakably*- that we have, in fact, experienced the New Birth!

And the *Way* that we are edified; the Path of our Sanctification is that- by *availing* ourselves of the “*Means of Grace*” on a regular Basis- we become more and more aware of God through the Understanding of His Word; we are encouraged and strengthened through Prayer and Times of godly Fellowship; we are reminded of the Grace of God through our participation of the Sacraments; we see Jesus more clearly through Seasons of Fasting; and we learn to put the Kingdom first- by giving and serving!

And we are moved with Compassion and genuine Love for those who are still Lost. So, we do NOT merely get angry that lost people sin- we weep over the Reality that at the End of this “Present Age”- no one who is Unsaved will enter into Heaven- but will spend all of Eternity in the unthinkable Torment of God’s Wrath in Damnation and the Lake of Fire!

And even though God has given us the very BEST Method of reaching ALL of the Elect throughout the entire World- heralding the glorious Gospel- loudly, proudly, and completely unashamedly- *inexplicably*- the modern Church insists that the BEST Way to reach the Lost- is to be LIKE the Lost!

And their Logic is that the more we are *like* the pagan World- we may develop a “Commonality” with them. And that Commonality gives us a better Chance of reaching them for Jesus! Their Philosophy is- that if we are going to have any Hope of “winning the World to Christ”- then we've got to “come alongside them”- we must “relate to them”- we must become enough “like” them- so they don’t feel threatened or intimidated by us. And I cannot even begin to tell you how Wrong that Logic is.

Now we must proclaim the saving Message, yes! We must preach the Gospel- absolutely! We must proclaim a clear and authoritative Word about Sin; Judgment; Repentance; and Faith without Apology and without Hesitation and without being Ashamed of it! But what we preach has to be “made believable” by the Way we live our Lives. It does absolutely NO Good for us to speak about a God who can save- when we show a Life that doesn't evidence that Salvation. Please look again at

Titus 2:11:

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

Now what Paul wrote here- in Context- is that God’s Grace will bring Salvation to ALL SORTS OF Men. Paul was NOT saying that ALL human beings will be saved. That has NEVER been true- even under the Old Covenant.

But then in the next three verses- Paul gave Titus the WAY or the PATH for already saved people to actually bring Salvation to ALL SORTS of Men when he said,

12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

So, God Almighty sovereignly gives us new, spiritual Life in the Miracle of the New Birth; then He forgives us of our Sins and makes us perfectly Righteous by Faith alone (Justification); and then He adopts us into His Family. And then God begins to mold and shape us and empower us unto Godliness- so that that Godliness becomes the Platform or the Basis or the Credibility of the Gospel that we preach! So, where you have godly Lives- you have people who can- by the Impact of their transformed Lives- genuinely reach the Lost! And that's why the Apostle Peter said this in **1Peter 1:16**,

"Be holy for I am holy," quoting God Himself.

But what the modern Church is promoting today is NOT “Holiness”- it is “Worldliness”- which is being like the people of the lost World. Worldliness means that you think; and act; and speak; and handle Life- just like those, who are unsaved in the World do. It means that your Mind *reasons* in the very same Way as those who do not believe the Bible; and who do not love God! It means that you handle Money; raise Children; and take Positions on important Issues- just like those who do not know what God has said! Being “worldly” means that you are either *ignorant* of what God has said about how to live- or you completely *reject* what God has said- and how to conduct yourself; and you embrace what the World teaches about these things.

Listen to what Ian Murray, the great English Preacher and Theologian, wrote about Worldliness when he said:

“Worldliness is departing from God. It is a “man centered” way of thinking; It proposes objectives which demand no radical breach from man’s fallen nature. It judges the importance of things by the present and material results. It weighs success by numbers. It covets human esteem. It wants no unpopularity. It knows no Truth for which it is worth suffering. It declines to be a fool for Christ sake. Worldliness is the mind set of the unregenerate. It adopts idols. It is at war with God.”

The modern Church growth Gurus teach that rather than being *separate* from the World and thereby laying a Foundation of Credibility for the Gospel that you preach- they say that God's people need to be MORE like the World! Now, of course, they don’t call it, “Worldliness”- they have a new word for it- it's called, “*Contextualization*”- which is nothing more than a three-dollar Word for “Worldliness”.

But the “Contextualization of the Gospel” has infected the modern Church with the “Spirit of this Age”. It has opened the Church's Doors wide for Worldliness and Shallowness and great Sin- where biblical Holiness is either laughed at; condemned or called, “Legalism”; and where Sin is graciously accepted and, in some cases, actually promoted! Today- the lost unsaved World- not the Bible- sets the Agenda for the Church.

This has been demonstrated clearly in a book by James Davidson Hunter, who is a Sociology Professor at the University of Virginia. And Hunter surveyed Students in Evangelical Colleges and Seminaries and concluded that Evangelical Christianity has changed dramatically in the past five Decades. Professor Hunter found that young Evangelicals have become significantly more Tolerant of Activities once viewed as either “worldly” or “immoral”, such as: Homosexuality; smoking dope; Cursing; Pornography; and premarital Sex. Hunter writes,

"The symbolic boundaries which previously defined moral propriety for conservative Protestantism have lost a measure of clarity. Many of the distinctions separating Christian conduct from worldly conduct have been challenged if not all together undermined. Even the words `worldly' and `worldliness' have within a generation lost most of their traditional meaning. The traditional meaning of worldliness has indeed lost its relevance for the coming generation of evangelicals,"

Now here is an outside Observer- *who may not even be saved*- simply saying what I just said- that the Christian Church- in my Lifetime- has become completely Worldly! But how is it that a secular Sociology Professor can see this but people in the Church- don't? What Professor Hunter noted among Evangelical *Students* is a Reflection of what has happened in large Measure to the Evangelical Church as a Whole. And this has gone on for so long that the average Church today is *far more* concerned about what the lost World thinks about them than they are concerned about what Jesus Christ- the Head of the Church- thinks about them! They are *more* concerned about being accepted with Sinners than they are about being accepted with God!

So, if we're going to accomplish the Goal of Evangelism- in order to bring about Worship- in a God honoring Way- then we must become much more concerned about what kind of people we actually are- rather than what kind of Technique we are using. Please turn with me to **Ephesians 2:10** to see what the Apostle Paul said about this:

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

... and then look at **Philippians 2:14- 16** that says:

**14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;
15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,
16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.**

So, God says that it is our “Blamelessness”; our “Innocence”; our “Purity”; and our “Godliness”- in the midst of crooked and perverse people- that lays the Foundation for preaching and teaching the Word of Life!

And that is why we are studying **Titus 2** to begin this new Year of 2026. Because it is here in this Chapter where we find how we may live our normal, daily Lives to the Glory of God. And we have already covered older Men and Women as well as younger Women and so today, I want to look at what the Apostle taught this young Pastor on the Island of Crete back in the 1st Century was the Way that younger Men and Elders may honor and glorify God. So, let’s look again at verses 6-8:

**6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible;
7 in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified,
8 sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.**

Now the correct Context in this Passage is that verse 6 deals with the younger Men of the Church- those younger than 50. But then Paul spoke directly to Titus himself in verses 7&8. And Titus was a young Man himself as well as the lead Elder (Pastor) of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church that was on the Island of Crete back in the 1st Century.

And so, it would be fine to simply say that God wants younger Men to be “**sensible**”; and then God wants Elders to be the other Things in verses 7&8. But because Titus himself was a younger Man- I want to group all three verses together. So, all three verses apply to Titus *personally*- BUT they also apply to ALL the other young Men- as well as ALL the Elders.

We must remember that God, through the Apostle Paul, has *reserved* the Office of Elder to ONLY godly and qualified Men. God has *forbidden* Women to

teach or to usurp Authority over Men. So, a Women is NOT to teach nor exposit the Scriptures to the general Congregation- precisely because she would be teaching Men.

Plus, we must raise young Men to become godly, loving, and strong Fathers and Husbands. And ALL Fathers and Husbands are *commanded* by the Scriptures to *love and to lead* their Families and to *teach* their Children. So, because that is true- then ALL young Men MUST then become very *familiar* with the Bible- which *requires* them

to study the Scriptures! They MUST pray and fast and seek God's Face! They MUST partake of the Sacraments! They MUST engage in godly Fellowship; and they MUST give and serve- without murmuring and complaining! And they MUST LEAD!

And so, this Passage says that younger Men MUST be five things:

1. **Sensible**
2. **An example of good deeds**
3. **With purity in doctrine**
4. **Dignified**
5. **Sound in Speech- which is beyond reproach**

... which means that every single Man, who is 50 years old or *younger* MUST be consistently engages in *some* type of *ongoing* Activity that will *promote* and *facilitate* and *accomplish* these five things in their Lives! And like I told you before- IF you are actually doing this- IF you are striving to obey the Bible here- you can talk about it!

But that also means that the older Men MUST urge; or teach; or come alongside of those younger Men- to show them HOW to accomplish these things- precisely because when they were "younger Men" they were doing this, too! And so, this has the Effect of holding the WHOLE Church Accountable to the Authority of Scripture!

Now there are particular Dangers that come to most younger Men. And first of all, there is the "Danger of Laziness". Or you might call it, "Indulgence". And this is usually programmed. But it's also innate in being Fallen. Most younger Men- left to themselves- will naturally migrate into Laziness. And lazy Men are usually produced in Homes that lack Discipline- where they're never really taught to pull in the loose Ends of their Life and be Constructive and Productive.

Lazy men are also produced in Homes where the Children are spoiled. Spoiled people are always Self- centered people. And so, a spoiled younger Man does NOT see himself as "one *among* many" but "one *above* many". And so, a

younger Man, who is spoiled, looks NOT at what he can do to serve others- but what others can do to serve him! And that feeds into his Laziness.

Lazy men are usually produced also in Homes where they were never taught hard Work; Homes where they were indulged and had plenty of Money and plenty of Goods. Lazy Men are produced in Homes where there is either NO godly, loving and strong Father; or where there is a weak and emasculated Father that is dominated by the Mother. And left to do what they please- MOST younger Men will always choose to do nothing that is Beneficial. And they become Victims of their own programmed Lethargy. It's a dangerous Time to be young- if you don't learn Discipline. And if you don't learn how to work- hard- you will NOT learn Discipline.

This is why I suggest to every single young Man to get a Job whereby you can get up early; work all Day; and then be worn out; and go to bed early at Night. There is something in our modern Culture that promotes Men to stay up Late and get up later in the Day. And from everything I know about the Bible as well as Life- that is an ungodly Pattern of Life. So, I encourage you to work hard to break away from it. I also suggest that all of us- old men; old women; young men and women get into the habit of rising early; reading your Bible; and praying- *before* you start your Day; *before* you look at your Phone; or you Tablet; and *before* you listen to the radio or turn on the TV.

The Bible teaches that this is the Way every single person, who ever did anything meaningful for God, conducted his Life- including Jesus. And History proves that the greatest people- the people who accomplished the greatest things for God; who built great Companies and Nations- made this one thing a Cornerstone of their daily Lives.

Secondly, another Danger of Youth is “Freedom”. Turning young people loose from the family Accountability; the family Scrutiny- too soon, too fast, and too far- usually hurts them. They get a car and they *think* they have total Freedom. They're out from under strong, godly Influence; out from under any Restraint. And they think they're out from under the Consequences of their Behavior. They're out from under Instruction and Discipline. They're out from under “Fatherly Control”. And when younger Men begin to do what they please in their Freedom they are usually pleased to do what is NOT honoring to God nor Fruitful; nor Productive.

The third Danger is a “Decadent Culture”. Young Men being raised in a decadent Culture are accustomed to Evil; Sin; and Vice. Listen carefully to what I am about to say- Familiarity with Sin does NOT produce Disgust- it produces Attachment! Moral Perceptions are blurred; Sensibilities to Evil are dulled; and when young Men, become accustomed to Vice they are usually victimized by its Allurements.

Fourthly, another Danger that comes to younger Men is “godless

Education”. They are exposed, in their Education, to blatant Attacks against God; Attacks against Christ- both overt and covert. They are exposed to Attacks against the Bible. Christianity and biblical Morality are either ignored; laughed at; or not considered at all as being Intelligent. Younger Men go through a Process of Education that basically leaves God out; or defines Him in human Terms; and it's powerful Stuff- because Mentors and Teachers and Professors have Credibility with them. It's a dangerous Time as the very Foundations of Life; and the Belief in God- which are so innate to the human Heart and the Reasonings as indicated in **Romans 1** are attacked and devastated and shattered in the educational Process and many younger Men lose their Sense of Reality about God.

And then in a general Category, number five, I would say it's a dangerous Time because of the overall “Immaturity” of younger Men. Immaturity has its own Problems. Somebody said, *“It's too bad that Youth has to be wasted on the Young!”*- but that's how it is. And Youth- precisely because it is Youth- is ALWAYS Immature! And because it's Immature- it has its own set of Problems.

For example, the Bible says that Temptation is strongest in Youth.

2Timothy 2:22 says:

Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Lusts are most compelling in the Youth. And Sins engaged during this Time are very hard to kill- even after many Years. I have counselled with several Men in their 80's, who have confessed to me, with tears, that they have never been able to overcome Pornography- that they began looking at when they were Young.

So, Youth is a Time that presents more Opportunity for Sin- and more frequent Opportunity for Sin. Youth is a Time when Ambition is strong and when Pride is controlling. Youth is a Time of unwarranted Confidence that is NOT deserved because it's never been tested and it's never been proven. It's a Time of imagined Invincibility. It's a Time of the lacking of Experience. But Experience mellows the Soul and softens the Heart and brings Reality. So, Youth- specially in Men is a dangerous, dangerous Time. But the Future of the Church is dependent on young Men growing up in such dangerous Times.

So, Paul said to Titus- *“You urge the young men of the Church to be Sensible- to get Control of themselves.”* Now the Greek word from which we got the English word, “urge” is *parakaleo*- which means: *to come alongside and Exhort or Encourage*. And this is a familiar New Testament word. It means: *to instruct, to teach, to counsel, to direct, to guide, to exhort, to admonish*. And it's a method of influencing through the spoken Word- to come along side and instruct them, to be sensible.

But be forewarned- because this is an Area where the lost World will criticize or even condemn you. The lost World says that it is Wrong- and even Harmful for Parents to *impose* their own religious Ideas upon their Children. That as loving Parents – we must allow our Children to roam Free and to develop their *own* Views of Life; and that Parents are here simply to *encourage* their Children- NOT to Instruct or teach them. And whatever you do- DON'T discipline your Child- because that may harm their Psyche. So, the fallen World- that does NOT love God and that does NOT believe the Bible teaches that Parents are to be more like their Children's Friends- NOT their Mentors.

But, of course, like almost everything that the World teaches- they are as Wrong as they can be. Children have no Idea what they believe- that is what makes them Children. They are young, inexperienced, immature, and childish. That is why they call them, "Children"! And ALL Children rebel against the Structure of their Parents- NOT because what their Parents are doing is Wrong- but simply because ALL Children- just like all Adults- are Fallen and Depraved and Rebels at Heart!

So, Parents must be much more concerned about teaching their children *properly and biblically*- than they are about whether or not their Children like them on that particular Day. Parents must be Strong; and Parents must be Confident- that regardless of the "ups and downs" they are to **"bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."** (Ephesians 6:4)

So, the younger Men of the Church- so potentially Volatile; so very Impulsive; so Passionate; so Arrogant; so Ambitious; so Inexperienced- they need to become the Masters of all the Areas of their Lives to the Point that everything needs to come under godly Control.

Paul said in **1Corinthians 9:27:**

but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

And that means that Paul *purposefully and forcefully* kept his Flesh under Submission to God's Word and God's Will. And he *reminded* us in **Galatians 5** to **"walk by the Spirit"** (Galatians 5: 25b). And by living in *joyful* and *humble* Submission to God's Word- we would NOT fulfill the "Lusts of the Flesh"!

So, Paul said to Titus- *"Urge the younger Men to walk in the Spirit; to seek God with all their Might; to harness themselves; and live in spiritual Balance and Self-control; and to not become victimized by those Dangers that are lurking all around them."*

And having given that Exhortation- Paul then turns to the 2nd Point and sets up Titus himself to be the Example of how a younger and godly Man lives that

balanced and Self- controlled Life- that worships God. And so, there are two things to think about here:

1. Paul is exhorting Titus as a younger Man
2. Paul is exhorting Titus as an Elder

... and so, ALL younger Men should heed what Paul told Titus in verses 7&8- AND ALL Elders are to heed what Paul told Titus in verses 7&8.

And in this Church- the Covenant of Peace Church- we have two Elders, who qualify as “Older Men” and we have two Elders, who qualify as “Younger Men”. And so, ALL of the *five* things found in verses 6-8 apply to the two younger Elders (as well as ALL of the other younger Men of the Church); while ALL of the *four* things found in verses 7&8 apply to ALL four of the Elders of this Church.

And that is Why Paul gave Titus this Exhortation in **Titus 2**. But an Exhortation is Worthless without a real, living and breathing Example of the Reality of the Exhortation. And a Good Example, of the Reality of godly Exhortations is found over in **The Acts 20**. In verse 35- the Apostle Paul *reminded* the people of what Jesus had taught when he said, “**It is more blessed to give than receive**”. Now he *could have* stopped there- as that Statement is Wonderful. But he didn’t stop there. Paul went on to say,

"You know how I was when I was with you, you know that for the space of three years I ceased not night and day with tears to give you what you needed by way of warning. You know that I never coveted any man's silver, any man's gold or any man's clothing, you know the sacrifices I made to earn my own living and the living of everybody around me and now I say to you, it is more blessed to give than receive and you know what I mean because you saw it in my life."

... which is him using his own godly Life as the Example.

Over in **Hebrews 13:7**- we are told to follow the Faith of those who are “over us”- and NOT just to sit and listen to what they have to say- but to actually “follow their Faith”- in other words, to live the Way those Men lived. In **Philippians 3:17** Paul said, “**Join in following my example and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.**” In **1Corinthians 4:16** Paul said, “**Be imitators of me.**” And in **1Corinthians 11:1** he said, “**Be imitators of me as I am of Christ.**” There is the living and breathing Example- that gives Credibility to what Paul taught!

And nowhere is that more- clear than in **1Timothy 4:12**- when Paul wrote to *another* younger Man, who was also a Pastor- Timothy. There, the Apostle said:

Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

... and here- Paul delineates five Categories: Speech; Conduct; Love; Faith; and Purity.

And so, in all those Areas of Life- young Man- Titus, Timothy- *you*- be that kind of Example that others can follow- the Example that will give Credibility to the Word you preach in all six Areas:

In Speech- that's your Conversation- what comes out of your mouth.

In Conduct- that is your daily Life- Style- the things you do; the places you go; the Possessions you accumulate; every aspect of Life.

In Love- that's your Self-sacrificing Service on behalf of others. Don't ask them to do something unless you're demonstrating your own sacrificial Life

In Faith- that means Faithfulness or Consistency. Demonstrate that you're not a "flash in the pan"; that you're not a "shooting star"; that you're not a "comet" or someone who is "here today and gone tomorrow". But demonstrate to these other young Men that you're there for the long haul; that you're not a spiritual sprinter but a marathon runner- that you're Consistent; you're Trustworthy; you're Faithful; you're Unwavering, you're Uncompromising, you're from the Start all the Way to the Finish!

And then Paul adds, **In Purity**, *hagneia*- which has to do with moral sexual Purity on the Inside and on the Outside. Be an Example in all those Areas, what you say; and what you do; and how you treat other people; and your Consistency; and your moral Purity. Be that godly Example that others can follow.

And this is absolutely crucial and I'll go so far as to say it is the single greatest Aspect of Leadership. Because it really doesn't matter how much of the Bible that you know or what you say- if you don't actually live it out. Because if you don't live what you say you believe- then you're nothing but a Hypocrite- and people will cancel out everything that you say if you don't live it.

So, real living breathing Examples of solid sound Biblical Truth are Crucial in the Teaching of Paul. And they are Crucial throughout the Teaching of the entire New Testament. And they are Crucial in the Life and Health of the Church. And young Men have a Responsibility to set an Example, certainly Titus is one, an example that others can follow.

All through the years of my Ministry here it has been of equal Concern to me along with my Preaching and Teaching the Truth to you that I live what I say that I believe- lest my Preaching and teaching becomes shallow, unbelievable and

hypocritical. And so, he says to Titus, *"It's absolutely Crucial that you be an Example."*

Listen to what it says in **Psalm 119:9:**

How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word.

That's it! If you're going to be an Example in every Area- then you've got to line up with the Word and live in an *uncorrupted* Way.

What keeps a younger Man in Line is the Word of God and the pure, genuine Obedience to it. So young Man- put the Teaching of God's Word in your Heart and then submit to it fully; obey it with Joy; without thought of what it might cost you; and live out the Teaching of Scripture with reckless Abandon!

Listen to me- there's absolutely NO Virtue in “sowing your wild oats” while you're young and then settling down. God doesn't put any Value at all on adolescent Iniquity or on the Iniquity of Youth or on the Iniquity of Adulthood. There is NO Provision in God's Plan for you to have years and years of Sinning before you settle down. Sin at any Age is an Offense against God- even in Youth. Youth is no excuse for Sin. The Holy Spirit can restrain your Lust.

Friends, I was 16 when I was saved and today, I am 70. And from that very Moment on that football field on that Friday Evening until right here- behind this Pulpit nearly 55 years later- I have endeavored to walk with God. I didn't run the roads and party with my friends after I experienced the New Birth. I tried to win them with the Gospel and when that didn't work- I separated from them. After I was Justified- I went to Church. And after I was adopted- on Friday and Saturday nights- I stayed home and read my Bible and talked to people about Jesus and I prayed and fasted as a 16, 17, & 18 year old young Man. So, I know you can do it!

Please listen to this: *“Give God your Youth! Give God the Strength and Ambition and Zeal and Passion of your Youth! Serve God with all your Heart- even while you are young! And when you get 70 years old- you will look back and you will see how God kept you from much Sin and you will be so glad you went this Way!”* And think how wonderful it would be that every single younger Man and Elder in this Church would follow that Example! Then the Covenant of Peace Church would truly be a spiritually healthy Church!

Amen! Let's pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your Spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your Pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.