

Living With Integrity
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Titus 2:1-15

Opening: **What is the difference between imitation and emulation? What characteristics have you emulated from parents or mentors in your life?**

- Paul wrote this letter to Titus whom he had left behind on the island of Crete to put the newly planted churches “in order.”
- In chapter one Paul instructed Titus to silence false teaching.
- Chapter one taught us that the best defense against false teaching is for Christ-followers to be firmly grounded in biblical truth (sound doctrine.)
- We need to KNOW the truth, TEACH the truth, and LIVE the truth.
- In chapter two Paul moved seamlessly from sound teaching to right living.
- Right living reflects the sound doctrine of biblical truth and is worth emulating. Paul directed Titus to be an example of right living as pastor and to teach older believers to be an example to the younger believers:
 - Pastors should be an example to the people.
 - Older believers should be an example to younger believers.
 - The church should be an example to an unsaved world.

Big Idea: Because we’ve experienced salvation, followers of Christ should live a life that is consistent with biblical truth and worthy of emulation. Question: Is my life a Christ-like example to others?

Titus 2:1–15 (ESV)

2 But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.

- Because of the verses that follow, the New Living Translation renders verse one: *“As for you, Titus, promote the kind of living that reflects wholesome teaching.”*ⁱ
- Let’s learn two “big words:” ORTHODOXY and ORTHOPRAXY.
- The prefix “ortho” means “right, correct, or straight.”
- An orthodontist straightens/corrects teeth; an orthopedist, bones.
- Orthodoxy is “correct doctrine” or the “sound” doctrine Paul mentions.
- The second word in orthopraxy is “praxis” like the English word practice.
- Orthopraxy or orthopraxis is “correct practice” or “correct behavior.”ⁱⁱⁱ
- After focusing on sound, biblical doctrine (orthodoxy,) Paul shifts to the need for believers to put that doctrine into practice (orthopraxy.)
- Paul addresses specific groups of people in the churches at Crete: older men and women (50+,) younger women, younger men, and slaves.
- His instructions model both an obligation and an opportunity that is custom made for a group in our demographic: older believers influencing younger believers.

- Before too long some of us will be deciding how to spend our lives in retirement. Will we just golf and goof-off, or will we intentionally build in ministry opportunities to pass along what we've learned through our life experiences? Look at Paul's instructions for every group in the church:

² Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.

- **What do you think “sober-minded and dignified” mean? Does your translation have different words for this?**
- **What does it mean to be self-controlled? How can we be?**
- **How do we have these “serious” qualities without being “no fun?”**
- “Sound in faith” means grounded in truth and having a deep relationship with God. “In love” is motivated by the selfless (agape) love of Christ.
- Steadfastness means endurance, patient enduring, perseveranceⁱⁱⁱ
- Picture a wise older man (or woman) who has seen a lot and looks at the difficulties in life with a “big picture” perspective. Know anyone like that?
- The NLT adds: “...to be worthy of respect, and to live wisely...”^{iv}
- “Men over fifty” is MY demographic and I sincerely pray for the Holy Spirit to help me live toward that description! What a target to shoot for!
- Again we ask: Is my life a Christ-like example worthy of emulation?
- Now we turn to older women teaching younger women.

³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,

- Paul's teaching for women in the church can be controversial.
- The word “likewise” could imply that the qualities for older men also apply to the older women. Paul also has specific topics for the older women.
- Reverent behavior – the Greek word means “*as becometh holiness.*”^v
- Let's modernize the language: a woman who acts like she knows Jesus!
- Again, this should apply to men and women. Do I act like I know the Lord?
- Next in verse three, **what two “vices” must have been a problem?**
- Surely only Cretan women engaged in malicious talk after too much wine!
- Ever known people who destroyed others' reputations over cocktails?
- That shouldn't be the conduct of someone who knows Christ!
- Older women were to train younger women “what is good” in God's eyes.

⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

- **In the context of that time why would a young woman have to be taught to love her husband?**
- “The word love in this instance comes from the root word *phileo*, or “brotherly love.” It emphasizes the strength of companionship, of pulling

together toward a goal, of devotion measured by kindness and mutual friendship. This forms the basis of a secure and solid marriage and home.^{vi} In other words, the woman's love holds the family together.

- Let's dive into the controversy of Paul's references to "working at home" and "submissive" to their husband. **For the ladies: was Paul a male chauvinist?** Later in verse nine Paul talks about how slaves should act as Christians. **Why wasn't Paul advocating for equality for women or slaves instead of teaching them how to act in their cultural roles?**
- *"He was not defining or limiting a woman's place; he was addressing women where they were."*^{vii} The same for slaves in verse nine.
- Paul was teaching in the context of that society in that day.
- We have a number of professional women in our class and in the church and I believe if Paul were writing today he would have spoken to those roles for women. Aside from the context let's look at the content.
- "Submissive" is another hot topic. In every organization someone has to make the final decision if there is not consensus. If there is mutual love and respect, then accepting authority shouldn't be a problem.
- Illustration: Billy Graham's wife Ruth Graham's five fireplaces. To her daughters: *"There is a time to submit and there is a time to outwit."*^{viii}
- **Is Paul's teaching about the role of the wife/mother still valid today? Why is the role of the wife/mother in a home so pivotal to the family?**
- The end of verse five says a Christian woman's conduct can bring shame on the word of God (or, I would add glory to God.)
- That applies to both men and women who are followers of Christ.
- As we said, the church should be an example to an unsaved world.
- Titus was also to teach the younger men by his own example as pastor.

⁶ Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. ⁷ Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, ⁸ and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

- Those verses don't require much interpretation. Again, Paul was challenging Titus and us to be a Christ-like example worth emulating.

⁹ Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, ¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

- Slavery was a fact of life in ancient Roman society and some find fault with Paul for not speaking out against it. Paul was addressing the church members where they were and some were slaves.
- In our day we can apply verses nine and ten to our role as employees.
- Don't "pilfer" means don't steal stuff justifying that you deserve it.
- **Why should we hold our tongue when we believe the boss is wrong? What's the "line" that defines when to push back or to leave?**

- When you disagree with a decision your boss makes it can be tough not to push back and argue. If they are directing you to do something illegal or immoral, a Christian must draw the line.
- For anything else refer to Colossians 3:22–23 (NLT) ²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord. ²³ Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.
- Verse ten: **Why does our conduct matter for a follower of Christ?**
- In his letters Paul never says, “do these things just because I said so.” Followers of Christ have a reason for living in this way as an example:

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

- Why should God’s people display self-control, love, patience, sobriety, controlled tongues, purity, wisdom, integrity and all the rest?
- Because as followers of Christ we are to reflect who He is.
- He gave Himself on the cross to redeem us (pay the price) from death and sin, and to purchase us as “His own possession” so we are to be “zealous for good works.” We are to be Christ-like examples worthy of emulation.
- Paul reminded Pastor Titus of his responsibility to these churches:

¹⁵ Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

So, What’s the Takeaway?

- For one thing you learned two big theological terms: orthodoxy (correct doctrine) and orthopraxy (correct practice or living!)
- Not only should we KNOW biblical truth, we must LIVE biblical truth.
- Living biblical truth allows us to influence other believers and be an example to an unsaved world.
- We also saw that older believers have an opportunity and an obligation to influence and mentor younger believers. What an impact we can have!
- Paul’s instructions to Titus in this chapter are practical teaching for us.
- Because we’ve experienced salvation, followers of Christ should live a life that is consistent with biblical truth and worthy of emulation.
- If you don’t remember anything else from this lesson I hope you walk away with these questions: Is my life a Christ-like example to others? Do I bring glory to God as an example worth emulating?

ⁱ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Tt 2:1). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

ⁱⁱ <https://www.gotquestions.org/orthopraxy-orthopraxis.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

^{iv} Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Tt 2:2). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

^v Strong, J. (2009). *A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament and The Hebrew Bible* (Vol. 1, p. 37). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

^{vi} Larson, Knute. Holman New Testament Commentary - 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon: 9 . B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

^{vii} *ibid*

^{viii} Ruth Graham story:

https://books.google.com/books?id=cjDxpsHZn9sC&pg=PA100&lpg=PA100&dq=ruth+graham+submit+outwit+fireplaces&source=bl&ots=2K6RaIN9dc&sig=ACfU3U2JtgNKgZtahcbMKhTpNaWly_evqQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiym_qniYfkAhUELa0KHx9hB6gQ6AEwAXoECAkQAQ#v=onepage&q=ruth%20graham%20submit%20outwit%20fireplaces&f=false