

YOUNG MEN MARKED BY INTEGRITY

Titus 2:6-8

Years ago an ad appeared in *Wall Street Journal*: photographer would follow you around for 2 days, filming your life for \$500. She'd condense film into a 20 minute documentary. ***Anyone interested?***

People get nervous about being followed that closely. As God's children, **people are watching** to see if our life supports what we say!

What kind of memories are we creating for people who come behind us?

Tit. 2: Paul urges Titus: **Teach God's people to live in a way that's consistent with sound doctrine.**

Begins with description of appropriate lifestyle for *mature men*.

Then appropriate lifestyle for *mature women*—urging them to mentor *younger women* so they learn what godly lifestyle looks like.

Thesis throughout this section:

(no matter what group he's addressing!)

FAITH IN CHRIST PRODUCES A DISTINCTIVE LIFESTYLE!

—older or younger, men or women! ***We should look different!***

ADVICE FOR YOUNG MEN 2:6-8

4 bits of advice how *young men* should live:

(rest of us too!)

Exhortation 2:6

“Likewise, urge younger men to be self-controlled.”

Here's that word again! Same concept presented in 2:2, 4 & 5

Encourage young men to be *discerning*

1. SEE YOURSELF AS GOD SEES YOU 2:6

Only *personal* quality addressed to young men!

Why is THIS one so important for young men?

Ability to live in world, experience dangers and worries, feel emotions, recognizing God's in control, understanding what He's doing.

Especially significant because it seems lacking from young men.

Few young people are able to experience life's pressure and still keep God's perspective on what's going on around them.

“If you can keep a level head in all this confusion, you just don't understand the situation!”

One reason it's hard for young to grasp: comes from experience—it's the stuff maturity's made of!

If we'd learn young to understand what we're going through from God's perspective, life would be much easier!

Young people need to ask:

“What will this look like from the perspective of eternity?”

If we'd learn how God sees what's happening, struggle'd be easier.

When I look for leaders, this is key: *ability to understand issues as God sees them, to see things from His perspective.*

Learn while you're young to ask what GOD's doing; Ask how HE sees things going on in our life!

What's important to Him? What does He want to accomplish?

Example 2:7-8a [example of what this looks like=>“YOU!!”]

2. [YOU] MODEL GODLY LIVING! 2:7a

“Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works”

“Model”/“example” = word from which we derive “TYPE”

Type = “divinely-designed illustration”

Example God planned to teach us spiritual truth.

Tool and die industry: die molds parts; each comes out same.

We can tell what die is like, seeing piece stamped in its image.

In education, term could describe audio-visual aid.

When we teach children, we look for audio-visuals to help children understand what we’re teaching.

Focus in preaching => real-life examples people identify with.

Likewise young men *model* godly living, dressed as a young adult!

We need people—all shapes and sizes who model godly living!

Titus is living audio-visual, designed by God to help young men understand what God wants *them* to look like.

God has called each of us as “*audio-visuals*” to “*show and tell*” what He can do in people’s lives.

3. TEACH GOD’S WORD IN WORTHY WAY

–appropriate way

2:7b-8a “*In your teaching show integrity, dignity,
and sound speech that cannot be condemned...*”

Model 4 CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD TEACHING:

1. Teach with INTEGRITY (Purity in doctrine)

Don’t teach something you don’t really believe,

“Practice what you preach”—teach honestly

2. Teach with DIGNITY, RESPECTABILITY

NOT long face, sad face, or angry tone

But seriously, in way that demands respect

I'm concerned at attempt by some speakers to be cute.

"Cutesy" preaching/teaching isn't basis for transforming a life!

Temptation to prove *our* cleverness; get people to notice *us*,

Test to evaluate our teaching: "*who gets attention?*"

Teaching Word isn't to get attention for *US!*

It's to focus people's attention *on God!*

God's Word merits respect.

We should teach so as to provoke **respect**.

3. Teach with HEALTHY SPEECH

Sound doctrine is our *starting* point

It includes everything which promotes spiritual health

Eph. 4:29: "*Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*"

4. Teach in a way that doesn't provoke criticism

–doesn't open us up for it! =>

4. Conduct yourself so that **THOSE WHO OPPOSE OUR TEACHING HAVE NOTHING TO CRITICIZE.**

Explanation (purpose) 2:8b => "*...so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.*"

When people want to attack us and reject message, we're prone to provide **so much ammunition!**

If we want to be effective in guiding people to truth, we must live so that we don't give them a basis to hide behind **US!**
 NY Transportation Dpt discovered 4 of top 10 parking violators=>ticket illegally parked vehicles. 4 owed \$5,000-\$8,000 in unpaid tickets

When we preach God's word, some won't like what they hear! Such people want to fight back, prove us wrong, make us shut up.

***"If anyone speaks evil of you,
 let your life be such that no one will believe him."***

We should conduct ourselves so attackers will look foolish when attacks fall on deaf ears of those who watch us!

***IF WE WANT TO CONVINCe PEOPLE
 OF THE TRUTH WE PREACH,
 WE MUST ADORN OUR DOCTRINE
 WITH OUR LIFE.***

God calls young men to live as men of integrity in a depraved society.

Life is shorter than you think!

For Mozart it was 35 yrs; he left his mark on music 200 yrs later!

We're used to long life. We're surrounded by people in 80s or 90s.

We think old is normal!! But for Mozart it was **only 35 years.**

If WE die at 35 (or 25?!), what mark will WE leave behind?

History records stories of people who served God in youth and made impact for eternity

Movie from youth: “**The Unfinished Task**” Missionary enroute to field never made it—killed in car accident! God used his life to challenge others to finish task to which God called him.

Church continues to be impacted—60 years later— by lives of 5 young men who went into South American jungle to tell Aucas about Christ and never returned. They were determined to make a difference!

And so, the song goes on . . . ! How about US?!!

***Will there be someone to carry on for US,
because of what we’ve modeled for them?***