

# Training Troops

July 2, 2017 ~ Titus 2.1-10

## Part 4 of 7-Part Series

### ❖ Parts 1-3: Following Orders, Choosing Lieutenants, and Establishing Discipline

1. First week was Titus' task - "set things in order" and "appoint elders"
2. Second week was the role and qualification of elders
3. Last week was about rebuking the villains in their midst

### v1 ~ "But as for you, speak .. sound doctrine"

- ❖ It's not enough to "know" the truth - it must be shared
  - ✧ It can be easier to just chit chat / And "sound doctrine" can offend
- ❖ The first command to Titus c/people is to "speak" to them
  - ✧ Titus must take the initiative to train the new believers in the faith
- ❖ He then gives instructions to address 5 social groups

### Note the Order & Means of Leading

1. "older men" (v2) ~ Men are to lead in homes and society
  2. "older women" (v3) ~ Women are their helpers in this
  3. "young women" (v4) ~ Older women teach the young women
  4. "young men" (v6) ~ Titus a pattern for young men
  5. "bondservants" (v9) ~ Obedience and submissiveness praised
- ❖ Note reflection of young women and bondservants upon God (v5,10)

### v2 ~ "older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience"

- ❖ "sober, reverent, temperate"
  - ✧ serious, respectful, patient and prudent
    - ◇ MH – "Those who are full of years should be full of grace and goodness, the inner man renewing more and more as the outer decays"
    - ◇ MH – "Aged persons are apt to be peevish, fretful, and passionate; and need to be on their guard against such infirmities and temptations"
- ❖ "sound in faith, in love, in patience"
  - ✧ informed and secure, passions are in check, not easily offended
  - ✧ Aged Christian men should be reliable as pillars of virtue and wisdom

### Xition: Paul moves from the older men to the older women

**v3 ~ “older women likewise, that they be reverent .. teachers of good things”**

- ❖ **III: likewise** ~ “What’s good for the goose is good for the gander”
  - ✧ All that Paul recommended for the older men goes for older women too
  - ✧ But he chose to stress 4 more things in verse 3
- ❖ “reverent” ~ Said to “older men” too ~ Remember island culture
  - ✧ Older women to be “reverent in behavior” / Behave like queen or princess
- ❖ “not slanderers, not given to much wine”
  - ✧ The two go together / Cretans are “liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons”
  - ✧ This is what they “once were” / How they once behaved
- ❖ “teachers of good things”
  - ✧ Older women have tremendous influence in culture

**v4 ~ “admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children”**

- ❖ You’d think young women would need no encouragement
  - ✧ “But what must young women overcome to do this?”
    - ◇ “They must overcome a love of self”
- ❖ Older women teach & model selflessness & sacrifice to younger women
  - ✧ What’s shown on TV is opposite (“Don’t make my mistake!”)

**v5 ~ “discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their husband”**

- ❖ Paul gives 5 positive traits of a good wife and mother
  1. “discreet” ~ Keeping confidence of husband / **Pro 19.14** ~ “Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Lord.”
  2. “chaste” ~ Faithful – not flaunting beauty or flirting / **Pro 31.10** ~ “Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.”
  3. “homemakers” ~ As opposed to home wreckers / Building home up
    - ◇ Not “housewife” / A wife & mother is so much more
    - ◇ **III: Dave Lane’s FB post** about leaving house in Ft. Calhoun
    - ◇ **Read Pro 31.10-12** ~ “Who can find .. days of her life”
  4. “good” ~ High moral character / Helpful to others
    - ◇ **Read Pro 31.27-30** ~ “She watches over .. she shall be praised”
  5. “obedient to their own husbands” ~ Obedience bad word today
    - ◇ **III: CA bible study couple** – drove Coke truck / ran temp business
- ❖ “What’s the importance of the young woman’s conduct?”
  - ✧ “that the word of God may not be blasphemed”

**Xition: Now Paul turns to the young men**

**v6 ~ “Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded”**

- ❖ Another “likewise” / Everyone gets their turn in the barrel
  - ✧ But only one command to the young men / “be sober-minded”
  - ✧ This was first command to “older men” / It hearkens us back to the list

**v7 ~ “in all things showing yourself to be a pattern”**

- ❖ Paul stresses the criticality of Titus’ witness / His character
- ❖ “pattern” ~ If the pattern is wrong the copy is flawed / Sometimes severely
  - ✧ III: Coding patterns ~ Much greater impact now with mature code base
  - ✧ **Proverbs** is all about valuing, establishing & maintaining good patterns
    - ◆ **Pro 7** portrays this beautifully c/father instructing son c/harlots
  - ✧ **Read Deu 6.4-9** ~ the “Shema” ~ “sit in house .. walk by the way”
- ❖ “good works” ~ get active and serve others / be helpful
- ❖ “integrity” ~ be a “man of your word”
- ❖ “reverence” ~ revere God and revere other people for God’s sake
- ❖ “incorruptibility” ~ corruption is idolatry / to value earth more than heaven
  - ✧ “Lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven .. does not corrupt”
  - ✧ “Direct your gaze to heaven, and thus everyone’s eyes to heaven”

**v8 ~ “sound speech that cannot be condemned”**

- ❖ Be a “man above reproach” / **Read Dan 6.1-5** ~ “Be a Daniel”
- ❖ Public figures are on display / Don’t always want to be / But they are
- ❖ Misunderstandings will happen / Misrepresentations will happen
  - ✧ This is about not giving opponents ammunition
  - ✧ This doesn’t reflect only on individual / But on God

**v9-10a ~ “Exhort bondservants to be obedient .. showing all good fidelity”**

- ❖ The first 4 categories were fixed - men and women of certain ages
  - ✧ But this one cuts across genders and ages
- ❖ Broaden this to cover boss/worker in addition to slave/master
  - ✧ “well pleasing in all things” ~ The “all” is a challenge / Not ours choice
  - ✧ “not answering back” ~ maintain respect / Address wrongs tactfully
  - ✧ “not pilfering” ~ no justification / If you deserve it – request it
  - ✧ “showing all good fidelity” ~ “faithful” ~ can be trusted

**Xition: Again Paul mentions reflecting upon God**

## **v10b ~ “showing all good fidelity .. Savior in all things”**

- ❖ Twice we’re reminded of connection between our behavior and God’s honor
  - ✧ **v5b** ~ “that the word of God may not be blasphemed”
  - ✧ **v10b** ~ “that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things”
- ❖ Note that “young women” and “bondservants” are singled out
  - ✧ They are important and reflect upon God

## **We’re All Ambassadors of Christ**

- ❖ Paul points out to Titus that he’s a pattern for young men to follow
- ❖ He points out to bondservants that their behavior reflects on God
- ❖ Not one of us is exempt from this reality
- ❖ We are ambassadors of God

**Epimenides said** “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”

- **They had a reputation to live down / to overcome**

**Paul wrote this to the Corinthians in 1 Cor 6.9b-11** ~ “Do not be deceived.

Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”

**Training can be monotonous / We can fail to see improvement day-to-day**

**But training is essential to living as God would have us to live**

**Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,**

**And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,**

**To God our Savior, who alone is wise,**

**Be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.**

**Amen \*pause\* Go in peace . . .**