

I Timothy: Lesson #58 – The Old and the Young
Notes for Parents to Study with Their Children
For Sunday, Dec. 7th

Read I Tim. 5:1 - 6:2; Titus 2:1-10 (a simplified explanation of the text is supplied at the end of these notes).

Memory Verse: Titus 2:1 “But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine.”

This lesson combines teaching from both I Timothy and Titus about different age groups.

Older Men Should Be...

- Calm, in control and not given to extremes.
- Those we can honor and respect.
- Wise and show good judgment.
- Filled with a healthy faith.
- Known for loving God and others.
- Faithful and steadfast even through difficult times.

How Older Men Should Be Treated

- We should never talk sharply to them or criticize them in a severe way. We can talk to them like we would (or at least should) a father.

Older Women Should...

- Be behaving in a way that fits a life of holiness.
- Not be slandering people.
- Not enslaved by large amounts of wine.
- Be teachers of what is good and excellent, training the younger women.

How Older Women Should Be Treated

- We should deal with them as we would our mother.
- If her husband has died, but she has children and grandchildren, they should help her. If she cannot take care of herself, they should support her. If we don't take care of her, we are worse than people who don't believe in God or Christ.
- If she is older and has no one to help her, no children, and she has been a diligent Christian, then the church can start helping her regularly.

Younger Men Should Be...

- Wise, using sound judgment.
- An example of good works.
- Uncorrupt in their doctrines.
- Reverent.
- Pure.
- Healthy in what they say, not saying corrupt words.

How Younger Men Should Be Treated

- Deal with them like you would a brother.

Younger Women Should...

- Be trained by older women.
- Love their husbands.
- Use good, sound judgment.
- Be pure in her behavior,
- Take good care of and guard their household.
- Be someone who is good, kind and helpful.
- Be obedient to their own husbands.

How Younger Women Should Be Treated

- We should deal purely with them like we would a sister.

Slaves Should...

- Obey their own masters.
- Honor their masters.
- Not despise their master's authority.
- Work hard.
- Not talk back.
- Not steal.
- Be good and faithful.

Why Should We Live This Way?

- If older men and women, younger men and women, and even slaves are Christians, they have a duty to live in such a way that only good things can be said about what a Christian is.
- People who oppose Jesus and the church will always be looking for a reason to say bad things about them. We don't want to give them any good reason to criticize.
- When we teach these ideas, we can know that we are teaching a sound, healthy, good kind of doctrine.

Simplified Explanation of the Text

How to Treat Different Age Groups in the Church

1 Tim. 5:1 Don't rebuke an older man, but exhort him like you would a father. Treat younger men like brothers.

2 Deal with the elderly women as mothers. Treat the younger women like sisters with all purity.

Widows Indeed

3 If widows are true widows, value them, respect them, and treat them appropriately.

4 If a widow has children or grandchildren, then let those children or grandchildren understand that it is their duty before all others to show respect for their own mother or grandmother, and to repay them. That is a very good and acceptable practice in God's sight.

5 When we spoke of “true widows” what was meant? A “true widow” is completely alone or with nothing or no one left to help her financially. She trusts in God. She goes to God in prayers and requests night and day.

6 But if she has given her life over to living for pleasure and luxury, she is physically living, but spiritually dead.

7 Command these things so that none of these can be accused of any wrong.

8 But if any person is not providing for their own family, especially for those of his own household, they have denied the faith. They are worse than the people who don’t believe at all.

9 A widow should not be enrolled in being supported regularly by the church if they are under 60 years old. She must have been the wife of one husband.

10 She should be well known for doing good works.

If she raised her children, if she showed hospitality, if she showed warm greetings washing the saint’s feet, if she tried to help those who were having troubles, if she closely followed every good work, then she can be enrolled.

11-12 But refuse to enroll the younger widows, because when some start wanting to live for pleasure and ease in way that are against Christ. They decide to get married for these sinful reasons and are condemned because they reject their first faith.

13 If they were enrolled and supported by the church, they would start learning bad habits like not working. They will wander around to different houses, where they are not only being lazy, but they also start saying and doing foolish things. They would start meddling into other people’s business (while not taking care of her own business), and say things which she should not say.

14 I want the younger women to go ahead and get married, have their children, and rule over their family. This way, those who are against us as Christians, will have nothing to accuse us about.

15 For some younger women have already turned to go after Satan.

16 If any believer, or even a woman who believes, has a widow, they need to help her, and not burden the church, so that it can take care of true widows.

Respect for Elders

17 Elders who rule in an excellent way should be considered worthy of double honor. Especially the ones who work hard in the Word and teaching.

18 For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing.” (Deut. 25:4) And it also says, “The laborer is worthy of his wages” (Matt. 10:10; Lk. 10:7).

19 Don’t accept an accusation against an elder, unless its based on two or three witnesses.

20 Those who have sinned, should be rebuked before everyone, so that others will have fear.

Solemn Warnings to Timothy

21 Timothy, I’m testifying to some very serious things here in the sight of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the chosen angels: Be cautious about these things and don’t show anyone prejudice or preference, don’t do anything out of partiality.

22 Don’t lay hands to appoint anyone too quickly. And don’t take part in any one else’s sin. Keep yourself pure.

About Using Wine

23 Because of your stomach and the many illnesses you've had, it is appropriate to stop drinking water and use a small amount of wine.

Why You Have to Be Cautious About Forming Opinions About People

24 Some people's sins are out in front where everyone can clearly see them. It's obvious that person is headed for condemnation. Other people's sins are hidden behind them and it may be awhile before we see them.

25 In a similar way, when people are doing good things it is usually obvious to everyone, but if their good deeds are hidden, in time they will become known.

Attitudes of Slaves

6:1 Those of you who are under the yoke of slavery to their master should think of them as worthy of all honor, so that God's name and teaching won't be spoken against because of you.

2 Now if you have masters that believe, don't despise them or treat their authority lightly just because they are also brethren. But instead serve them even more because these masters are faithful and beloved, and they are the ones receiving the good that you're doing.

Things Titus Was Told to Teach About Different Age Groups

Titus 2:1 Now Titus, you must speak the things that truly fit sound and healthy teaching.

Older Men

2 Older men must not be given to extremes and excess, but should be calm and in control. They must be of honorable, respectable character. They should act wisely and show good sense. Their faith must be wholesome and healthy. They should be known for their love. They should show that they can endure and stay faithful.

Older Women

3 In a similar way, older women should behave in a way that fits a life of holiness, not slandering people, not enslaved to large amounts of wine. They should be teachers of what is good and excellent, training the younger women.

Younger Women

4-5 Older women should be training the younger women in wisdom to love their husbands, to love their children, to use good, sound judgment, to be pure in her behavior, to be taking of care and guarding the household, to be a good person of benefit to others, to obey their own husbands. Do this so that the Word of God won't be criticized.

Younger Men

6 And in the same way, I encourage the younger men to use good, sound judgment.

7-8 Offer your life as an example of good works. In doctrine show an unwillingness to be corrupted, show reverence and purity. Be an example of healthy speech so that who are against us, will have nothing to accuse us about, and will be shamed.

Servants

9-10 Servants, put yourself under your own master's authority so you will be well pleasing in all things. Don't talk back to your master or steal from them, but demonstrate that you are good and faithful, which will show the doctrine of God our Savior to be orderly and honorable in everything.