

Joel Breidenbaugh

(Titus 2:1-8)

Intro. This week I had one of my semi-annual teeth cleanings, aka as my semi-annual submission to Medieval Torture Devices used in Modern Days. I have my teeth cleaned because I want to take care of my teeth as a practice of good hygiene. As a matter of fact, the word “sound” which occurs 3x in these few verses we’ll read today & 2x in chapter 1 (2:1, 2, 8; cf. 1:9, 13) comes from a Greek word, from where we get our word “hygiene” (sound doctrine/faith/speech—healthy doctrine/faith/speech). Church health is vitally important & necessary to move from a “Good to Great Church.” Today we look at “Mentoring” from Titus 2.

Theme: Discipleship

Background: Paul gave instructions to Titus about serving as a pastor on the island of Crete.

- That which is biblically sound & healthy is first & foremost built on the gospel of Jesus Christ—which highlights God’s holiness, man’s sinfulness, Christ’s redemptive work via His death & resurrection & our response of repentance & faith—everything else in the NT builds on this foundation

➤ Receive these instructions to these 4 groups in the church:

1. Older men, mentor younger men by setting an example in morality (behavior) & spirituality (belief) (2:2)

- “older men”—probably age 50+; your physical body may be slowly deteriorating, but this is the time for your spiritual health to shine as an example—you have had decades to work on this

Illus: Moses was 80 when God called; Abraham was 75 when God called; John Wesley at 83 (after traveling 250,000 miles on horseback, preaching 40,000 sermons & writing 200 books & pamphlets) regretted he was unable to read & write more than 15 hours a day without his eyes becoming too tired to work; at age 86 Wesley admitted to an increasing tendency to lie in bed until 5:30 in the morning! (MacArthur, 73)

- Morality—sober-minded (clear-headed); dignified—morally valuable & worthy
- Spirituality—self-controlled—thoughtful aspect of submitting oneself to Spirit-control; sound in faith—learned that God can be trusted in every situation

Illus: This is the man who says of his God, “Even when I cannot trace His hand, I can always trust His heart” (Akin, “The Role of Men & Women in the Church,” 3)

- “sound in love”—toward God, His people, others
- “sound in steadfastness”—able to endure hardship; that which leads to hope

2. Older women, mentor younger women by setting an example in morality (behavior) & daily living (2:3-4a)

- “older women”—50-55+; do not flinch at “older” (“less younger women”)—our culture idolizes youth & laments age when the Bible does just the opposite, associating youth with folly & age with wisdom; every year is an honor—if you are going to lie about your age, then inflate it a little!
- “be reverent in behavior”—being priest-like; godly examples of holiness
- “not slanderers”—not malicious, seeking to tear down others but build them up

Illus: “Slander” is the same word for “devil”—the devil walked into a church one day & scared everyone away but one old man; the devil walked up to him & asked him if he could hear, “Yes, I can hear,” said the old man. “Can you see?” “Yes, I can see.” “Don’t you know who I am, I’m the devil, aren’t you afraid of me?” “I’m not afraid of you,” the old man said. “Why not?” “I’ve been married to your sister for 54 years!”

- “not slaves to much wine”—wine & drugs can enslave someone
- “teach what is good”—how to live out the gospel
- “train the young women”—most of the text deals with this, because it is desperately needed (have you stopped to consider that it is your responsibility to train younger women in the church?)—many think the lives of younger women are none of their business, but the Bible says it is

3. Younger women, be mentored by an older woman who can instruct you in the areas of morality (behavior) & daily living (2:4-5)

- The role of women in society or the church has been under attack for several decades now—although women are not to teach men in the church (1 Timothy 2:12), they are responsible to teach younger women & children, helping prepare the next generation of leaders

Illus: If older women will not teach you, risk embarrassing them by asking—Annthea went to Karen Cheong in seminary to learn how to plan her shopping & cooking schedule

- “love husbands”—a committed love
- “love children”—the best love teaches about salvation in Christ (cf. 2 Timothy 3:14-15)
- “self-controlled”—to live in submission to the Spirit’s control
- “pure”—moral purity & sexual fidelity
- “working at home”—caring for the things of the home (cf. 1 Timothy 5:13-14; Proverbs 31:10-31)—Anthea is not employed outside the home, but she still works a great deal!
- The point is not so much that a woman’s place is in the home, but that her responsibility is for the home

Illus: Paige Patterson says preaching the gospel is the 2nd greatest calling in life right after being a homemaker who raises up a generation of godly children to the glory of God

Illus: We live in a society where it is harder to make a decent living with only one working parent—we try to keep up with the Jones’ & make as much as we can, but you can make it with one working parent or an adjusted work schedule (my mom worked a lot of second shifts when we were little so we could be with a parent rather than spend most of our time with a babysitter or at a daycare—they raised 3 sons who live for the Lord & serve Him, so they did something right)

- “kind”—gentle
- “submissive to their own husbands”—present, middle voice, meaning continually submitting themselves as a voluntary submission to their head (as the church submits to her Head, Christ)
- Such living upholds the word of God as you demonstrate to the world a different goal in life than looking like everyone else

4. Younger men, be mentored by an older man who can instruct you in the areas of morality (behavior) & spirituality (belief) (2:6-8)

- “self-controlled”—again, said of 3 of 4 groups; controlled by the Spirit
- “model of good works”—young Christian men have been given job promotions based on their good attitude & high work ethic
- “integrity & dignity in teaching”—sound in belief & behavior

Illus: “sound speech”—missing among many Christians today; I’ve heard pastors & deacons cuss & laugh at coarse jokes & it ought not be that way—we ought to be setting examples for others

- Such living puts opponents to shame, because others realize their unfounded criticism of Christianity
- Notice how this starts & ends with men—older men & then younger men—just as leadership in the home falls to the husband/father, so leadership in the church falls to men
- Churches where men largely sit back & let the women teach & serve & sing & lead is an unhealthy church—both men & women are needed in service, but men have the greater responsibility to lead

Age Group	Primary Objective in Mentoring Ministry
60 and older	To mentor
40-59	Either to mentor or to be mentored
39 and younger	To be mentored

- If you look at the Connection Card today, you have an opportunity to communicate with us & let us know if you are available to serve as a mentor or if you are willing to be mentored (or both)
- For the guys I am about to start mentoring in September, we will go through Bible study practices, stewardship, prayer & other Christian disciplines, evangelism, family relations & more—if you are willing to mentor but need some tools, I can recommend those tools

Conc. Jesus mentored John and the rest of the 12 disciples. John mentored both Ignatius & Polycarp, quite possibly the 2 most important Apologists & church leaders of the 2nd century. Polycarp mentored Irenaeus, who was significant by the late 2nd century. Irenaeus mentored Hippolytus. These figures are among the most influential leaders in the church for the first 200 years—God can use you & someone you mentor to make a major impact for the kingdom of God. I began by talking about church health. Our church’s health hangs on how well we disciple/mentor others in the faith. Will you commit today to mentor or be mentored? You may need to pray for the one who will mentor you or for whom you will mentor. Or maybe you aren’t ready to be mentored in the faith, because you aren’t in the faith. Would you turn from your sins & trust in Jesus today?