

A Practical Study of Titus

Growth Toward Godliness “Beginning to Look More Like Jesus”

Study Number Four – The Parish and Godliness – Titus 2:1-10

We're talking about Growth Toward Godliness.

We've seen the PROCESS in study #1.

We saw the PICTURE of it in study #2.

And last week we flipped it over and looked at the NEGATIVE side—[PERVERSION]—the ugly lives in study #3 were there. Although they confessed with their lips to know God, yet their lives would not bear up under close scrutiny. And the reason was they had turned away their ears from the hearing of the truth.

Now as we come to this particular study, we're going to answer the question:

What does godliness look like in relationship?

I mean, it's one thing to be a monk in a monastery and it's another thing to be godly in your relationships with people.

In the PICTURE we could see godliness in isolation. That's what you look like when you're all alone and when you're studying and when you're working on your spiritual life and your walk with God and you're dealing with these areas of your life, that's pulling off from the rest of humanity.

Now what we're talking about today is godliness in RELATIONSHIP.

What does it look like in the pew? What does it look like in the body of Christ? How should you act toward me if you're godly and pursuing godliness? How should I act toward you as a person, if in fact I'm growing in my relationship to the Lord?

You know a lot of guys that I bump around with say "You know, I really don't go to church very often. I frankly can worship in nature. I can get out under a tree and sit down with my Bible. I can really have a great time with the Lord."

Or "Put me in my boat, my bass boat, set me on a lake and man I can really have a worship service."

Or "Let me go to my cabin" or "Let me go skiing" or "Give me my tractor and put me on a farm and boy I can really worship the Lord."

You know for a long time I kind of thought well, you know, there might be some validity in that. If that guy really gets close to the Lord out there and he really likes that and that's

his way of life and he's doing his thing, you know. I haven't said much but today I'm going to say something.

Hebrews chapter 10 and verse 25 says:

Hebrews 10:25

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another; and all the more, as you see the day approaching.

In other words, God has an instrument for producing and hastening the godly character in your life and that is through relationships with others.

That's why He puts people in your life. That's why He puts people in my life. So that He can hasten that good work of making us godly. And when we fail to go to church, when we fail to be involved with one another intimately and in relationship, we are disregarding one of God's key instruments in producing the godly life.

So what we're looking at today is the relationship aspect. How we're going to look as godliness begins to be produced and we are in relationship one with the other.

Pick up with me at verse one now, chapter two, and we'll move through it. There's going to be a little outline. There're going to be five groups—that's basically what we're going to address ourselves to:

1. the older men,
2. the older women,
3. the younger men,
4. the younger women.

And then we're going to look at:

5. the bondslaves—master or employer/employee relationship—how's godliness supposed to look on the job in the last part of the study.

Verse 1.

v. 1 But as for you, be speaking the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.

Now when you read a verse like that it's too bad that there's a chapter division. You know those are made by man and not by the Spirit of God.

Our last verse in last week's study talked about the guys who had "turned away their ears from the truth."

In verse 16—the last verse of the study—said:

"They are confessing to know God."

And with their lips they're saying "Oh yay. I know Him."

"but"—it says— "by their deeds, they're denying Him, being detestable, disobedient, and as far as every good work is, disapproved."

They are like that and now the emphasis is on you, Titus:

"But you"—TITUS—"you, be speaking the things which are FITTING for sound doctrine."

In other words Titus, the secret to solving those ugly lives that we looked at last week is the teaching of truth. And that's the principal we've been following all the way through this thing.

When I come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, I've got an insatiable appetite for truth, I begin to feed upon the Word, and the results of that are a changed life, I begin to display the aspects of godliness and the quality of life that we're seeing in these verses.

He told him back in chapter 1 verse 9:

Titus 1:9

cling to the trustworthy message which is in accordance with the teaching, in order that you may be able both to be exhorting in sound doctrine and to be refuting those who are contradicting.

Now, let's get to the FIVE GROUPS.

Verse two gives us group #1—OLDER MEN.

And I don't know who qualifies here.

v. 2 Older men are to be temperate, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, in patience.

Ok, five things about the senior citizens. These five things are emphasizing not what you SAY, but what you ARE. And that's you're greatest witness. The sooner we learn that the bigger impact we're going to make is what we are more than what we say, it's going to make us a lot more effective and we're going to be pursuing a proper path of submission to the Spirit and obedience to God's Word, because that's what's going to bear fruit.

And here he says to the older men, first you:

1. "are to be temperate"

Now what does that mean? Well that's the word for not drinking too much. You know, sober. But it's not the word of being a kill-joy. You know, being a sour-puss.

The word "temperate," if you were to really try to put it in the settle of laymen's terminology, is this guy calm, cool and collected. He's really got his act together. He's been living long enough that he knows the things which bring true pleasure and the things which don't.

He has learned a long time ago that you cannot hoot with the owls at night and get up with the birdies in the morning. You just can't put that all together.

What ARE and what ARE NOT the real and true pleasures of life. In other words, this guy being "temperate" has a clear perspective and a correct orientation as far as life is concerned. He doesn't lose his psychological, physical and spiritual orientation.

2. He's "dignified."

And now you look at that word and you say "Oh good grief. That's bad. He's a sour-puss and then he's so dignified, he's so formal, you can't get close to him."

That's too bad that that word communicates that when you think of "dignified."

"Dignified" means SERIOUS.

What does an older man have to be serious about? TWO THINGS:

1. he knows that God is looking upon everything he does, and
2. he's an awful lot closer to meeting Him than some other younger guy that's sitting around.

And that's something to get serious about. I mean the older you get, the more you realize that sooner or later you're going to be standing in His presence. And when you flick it in here, you're going to check in there. And it's not going to be long.

So the word "dignified" really means **SERIOUSNESS** in the sense that I'm soon going to meet Him face-to-face.

Thou God seest me.

Before long I'll be leaving the society of men to go to the society of God. I'm going to be in His presence.

3. "self-controlled"

You know we sometimes epitomize the old man as the drunken old man or the—in our day—he's the sexy senior citizen, you know. The guy who has snow on the roof, but fire in the furnace. We kind of picture that. That's the epitome of society's old man.

And yet, in the Bible, the godly man is described as having all of his passions under control, blended in harmony. He is a person who has blended all of his instincts and he has control of them. And it's beautiful to see this.

4. He is "sound in the faith."

First John chapter 2, John addresses the old men, the young

men in his address and in the children. And when he speaks of the old men, or the fathers, this is what he says:

1 John 2:13

I write to you fathers because you have known Him who is from the beginning.

A man who is godly and older and who has walked with the Lord many years is something fantastic to behold because God has enriched, blessed his life, it's beautiful to see it.

I always think of that old guy who sang "the longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows" on the Alleluia album. I think that's kind of the epitome of this.

I'm reading, I always read my devotional reading in a different translation each time I read through the Bible. I just make it a practice to pick it up and read it and just read it through consecutively.

Genesis 5:23-24

Enoch, 365 years old, walked with God, then he was no more, because the Lord took him.

It was almost like God says "This is so rich. But let's just keep on walking and you come to My house." And he went home. And in it, it's so beautiful the way they translate Genesis 49 where Jacob in his final hours as he commits his blessing to

his boys, it says in that beautiful picture he worshipped the Lord while he was leaning on the top of his staff.

That's a guy who's sound in faith. He's walked with God a long time and he's displaying the beautiful Christlikeness that all of us are pressing toward.

5. He is "sound in love."

A good faith is going to manifest itself in an abundant love.

Christ chided the church at Ephesus for leaving its first love. The stronger the faith, the more the manifestation of love begins to display itself.

And then the last and final characteristic of the older man is he is to be:

6. "sound in patience."

And I looked at that for the longest time and I thought why does an old man have to be patient? Well you know the older you get and the more you realize time is running out, the hurrieder you go. I mean, you know, the hurrieder you go the behinder you get. And when you realize that you're getting close, you really just get busier.

An old person, an older person, has a real problem with a creaky body and cranky people frankly. And those two things

create a spirit of impatience. And the older I get, the more I want God to hurry up.

And I should be, instead of churning turning, instead of being clamorous, become calm. There should be serenity in the storm. And in adverse circumstances I need to be patient with the process that God is using this in my life to produce further good work.

Verse 3.

v. 3 Older women likewise are to be worthy of reverence in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved too much wine, teachers of that which is good,

Alright, let's look at THREE THINGS:

1. “[The] Older women...are to be worthy of reverence in their behavior.”

Let's put that another way. You're to be a BLESSING in your behavior, would be a way to say it.

You know I'm amazed at the tremendous emphasis in the Scripture upon the behavior of women—godly women. That carries the greatest impact.

Peter describes that in 1 Peter chapter 3. Here's a lady that's hooked up with an unsaved husband. How's she supposed to

see him to come to know Christ? Well it's not by speaking about it. It's by displaying her behavior.

The purity and reverence of your lives, your beauty should not come from the outward adornments such as the braiding of hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Not that those were wrong. Instead it should be that your inner self, your unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit which is of great worth in God's sight. (1 Peter 3:3, 4)

Proverbs 31, verses 10-31—when you read that passage on the godly woman you discover that a lot of the things in that passage is what she is that creates the impact on the husband. It says:

Proverbs 31:30-31

Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned and let her works bring her praise at the city gates.

Secondly, she's not to be a:

2. “malicious gossip.”

You can just put James chapter 3 beside that girls.

The tongue is hard to control. It is through the tongue that oftentimes we can speak rebellion.

You can always tell when a woman is getting ready to sin with her tongue. And it comes one of the following three ways:

If she prefaces what she's about to say by the little phrase "have you heard?" or "did you know?"

And you know the next one: "I'm really not supposed to share this, but..."

3. They are not to be "enslaved too much wine."

That speaks for itself. Nothing more disheartening than a female alcoholic who is destroying her life by the fact that she's enslaved to something and she can't cope with life and she has to turn to this means.

4. They are to be "teachers of that which is good."

That is by their lives and their lips, their example, their exhortation, their walk and their words.

Now, as we move into the next sphere which is going to be the younger women, you need to realize—the ladies who fit into the older category—that part of your spiritual stewardship before God is to be teaching that which is good to the younger women. And we're going to see that in just a minute.

It was William Barclay who says some ladies are, or some people are famous for using their experience to teach how not

to do it and to bring about discouragement. (source unknown)

And really one of the things that a godly woman should learn is how to encourage younger women in their walk with God by positive affirmations of experience that will in fact encourage rather than throw cold water on youth and on enthusiasm.

You'll notice verse 4. It says:

v. 4 in order that they may encourage (train) the young women to be loving their husbands, to love their children,

“in order that they may encourage (or train) the younger women to be” doing the following seven things. And here's the description of the younger women.

First, “the younger women” are:

1. “to be loving their husbands,”

“Love your husbands.” You know, the Bible says “husbands love your wives.” They're always telling you that and that's in a lot of places. But here for the first time it's “love their husbands.”

Howard Hendricks in his little book *Don't Fake It, Say It with Love* tells the story about a husband and wife who both were

not Christians and how she came to know Christ. And he points out:

We're inclined to think that love should vary according to performance and that people need to change before we can love them. That isn't God's kind of love, and it isn't the way to change someone. If you're trying to change your partner, stop. Instead, ask God to change you. A lady in our community learned to pray that way and was the instrument to lead her husband to Christ. At Thanksgiving we had a testimony time in our church. This husband got up and said, "As most of you know, I've been an unbeliever all of my life until this year, when God so worked in the life of my wife, that I capitulated to reality." He sat down and his wife got up and said, "I have to give you the other side of the testimony. When I first went to see Mr. Hendricks, I prayed, 'Lord, You love my husband and I'll change him.' And nothing happened. Then I came to the place where I cried out, 'God, I'll love him and you change him.' And God changed us both." (source unknown)

And that's what love is capable of doing. And yet love in the marriage relationship many times flees and is described tragically by Eugene Ionesco in his play *The Bald Soprano*. He is quoted in the book *Men in Mid-Life Crisis* which I read this summer. The only argument I've got with the book is that it expects every man to go through it. And I don't think everybody has to go through it.

But he describes the play of two people in the stage, in polite conversation, engaging in somewhat of a preliminary

discussion—is the picture.

But then as they began to talk, they discover that they both came to New York that morning on the 10:00 train. They both have the same apartment house address on Fifth Avenue. To their surprise they discover that they both also live in the same apartment and they both have a daughter 7 years old. To their final and ultimate astonishment, they discover they are man and wife. They live together, share the same bed, and the same kitchen table, but intimacy has fled from their relationship, leaving them strangers. (source unknown)

Too much of that is the case and it's the reason we have so many problems in the marital relationship.

2. “to love their children,”

You know the tragedy of our era is well underscored by Dale Evans Rogers in her book *Hear the Children Crying*.

It really brought tears to my eyes to read the statistics that she's uncovered as I read that little book. She quotes from Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *The Cry of the Children*:

Do you hear the children weeping, oh my brothers? 'Ere the sorrow comes with years. They are weeping in the playtime of the others in the country of the free. (source unknown)

She goes on to describe four tragic scenes of child abuse. A nine year old boy was banged against the wall until his skull

was crushed beyond repair. He was dead on arrival at the hospital.

Dr. Vincent J. Fontana who is the medical director of New York City's Foundling Hospital points out:

Parents bash, lash, beat, flay, stomp, suffocate, strangle, gut-punch, choke with rags or hot pepper, poison, crack heads open, slice, rip, steam, fry, boil, dismember. They use fists, belt buckles, straps, hairbrushes, lamp cords, sticks, baseball bats, rulers, shoes and boots, lead or iron pipes, bottles, brick walls, bicycle chains, pokers, knives, scissors, chemicals, lighted cigarettes, boiling water, steaming radiators, and open gas flames. Child abuse is the number 1 killer of American children. Probably the most common cause of death in children today, outnumbering those caused by any of the infectious diseases, leukemia or automobile accidents. He declares, "It is a myth that in this nation we love our children."

Every two minutes in the United States a child is being attacked by one or the other of its parents. If the rate continues to rise, as it is rising now, we can expect to find ourselves faced with a figure of a million and a half children either seriously maimed or crippled or killed annually. [He says] Read it and weep. (source unknown)

We've all had experiences of seeing that thing.

You know Matthew 18 gives us the perfect picture of the Lord Jesus in His relationship to children.

They wanted to take the children away but Jesus said:

“Suffer them to come unto Me and forbid them not, for such is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 18:4)

Women are to be taught to “love their husbands and to love their children.”

Verse 5 gives you the rest of them.

v. 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being in subjection to their own husbands, in order that the word of God may not be dishonored.

Let's look at the rest of those:

3. “to be sensible”

Now women, you realize that when emotional stress is put on you or the unexpected hits you, a lot of times you fall apart.

The godly woman has learned that God is in control even when it seems like everything is out of control, so she displays a calm and gentle spirit because she can see things from God's perspective.

That's being “sensible.” It's wisdom from the Lord and from His Word. In the midst of irrational stress, to be under control and to manifest that by a quiet and gentle spirit.

4. the word is “pure”

And I just put MOTIVES, MANNERS and the MESSAGE which you speak.

5. you are to be “workers at home”

Now I think part of the problem we’ve got is because we’ve taken the mother out of the house, we’ve let her go to work, we’ve let her change her entire role and so kids really don’t have the opportunity to relate to someone who can love them and who can hold them, and who can cry with them, and who can talk with them, and who can meet their needs.

Someone wrote a little poetic piece that says:

What’s a Mother?

Well, a mother can be almost any size or any age, but she won’t admit to anything over 30. A mother has soft hands and smells good. A mother likes new dresses, music, a clean house, and her children’s kisses, an automatic washer, and Daddy. A mother doesn’t like having her children sick, muddy feet, temper tantrums, loud noise or bad report cards. A mother can read a thermometer, much to the amazement of Daddy, and like magic can kiss a hurt away. A mother can bake good pies and cakes, but likes to see her children eat vegetables. A mother can stuff a fat baby into a snowsuit in seconds and can kiss sad little faces and make them smile. A mother is

underpaid, has long hours, and gets very little rest. She worries too much about her children, but she says she doesn't mind at all. And no matter how old her children are, she still likes to think of them as her little babies. She is the guardian angel of the family, the queen, the tender hand of love. A mother is the best friend anyone ever has. A mother is love. (source unknown)

Many of our kids today have lost that concept because we have found an excuse for taking the woman out of the house and let her become hard, exposed her to the tough competitive world out there. She's changed her role. As a result, kids don't see that.

6. this woman is to be "kind"

You know I love that word. I guess it's because for 26 years I've lived with it. You know if there's anybody who displays kindness, it's my wife. She's one of the most beautiful people in this area.

She's writing a devotional book now. She and I have kind of had a goal this year that we're going to go to press. And her book just epitomizes her and she doesn't even realize it. It's a verse from the Psalms that says: "Thy kindness hath made me great." (Psa. 18:35)

Speaking to the fact that God's kindness has worked in her life and I see it. It's beautiful to behold it with the children. It's beautiful to behold it in our relationship. Kindness—what

a quality of a godly woman. It's kindness in action and in attitude.

7. "being in subjection to their own husbands"

And you girls didn't even want to look at that because there's been so much misunderstanding about it.

And now girls, when the Bible says something once you pay attention, right? When it says something twice, you really listen. When it says it three times, it's underlined. It says this four times.

You're going to find it in:

Titus 2,

1 Peter 3,

Colossians 4, and

Ephesians 5.

Two, three, four and five—in those chapters in those four different books.

Now I've been around long enough with my hardened concepts of submission. And one girl I can remember in my first class

when I was teaching First Peter, just after I started this ministry. As I was teaching First Peter chapter 3, she was heard in the audience—loud enough for everybody to hear—saying “Oh my God, there must be a better way.”

And I know maybe sometimes you feel that when you hit this subject of submission. So I’m tempering it with FOUR CONCEPTS:

1. Submission in the marriage relationship is to be mutual.

Ephesians chapter 5 and verse 21 says:

Ephesians 5:21

...submitting yourselves one to the other.

2. Submission means you can express your feelings and opinions.

Submission means you can express your feelings and opinions. And if you’ve got a godly husband, he will not make a decision until both of you are one.

I make it a practice in our marriage never to move ahead until both of us are agreed that this is the direction we should go.

Submission means you can express your feelings and your opinions.

3. Submission should never involve sin.

“Tell them I’m not here.”

You’ve got conviction about lying, say “He’s right here. He’ll be here in just a minute.” And you’re not violating submission.

4. It should never involve physical or psychological abuse.

It should never involve physical or psychological abuse.

It is Gene Getz who says:

Submission is really an attitude of teachableness. (source unknown)

Women, you need to realize that the husband has the responsibility before the Lord and there’s a rest and there’s a peace in that.

The condition of your spiritual life and the condition of your family, it rests in his hands before the Lord. That’s where the buck stops. He’s going to be held accountable.

His should be loving leadership and yours should be an attitude of teachableness—a completer, one who submits to his leadership. And it’s easy to do that if you’ve got the other requirement.

Now would you underline with double lines the last phrase in verse 5 because I'm going to come back to it in just a minute and tie one other phrase into it?

The phrase is:

“in order that the word of God may not be dishonored.”

You can corrupt the truth with your conduct. You can dishonor the Word by your deeds. And we'll come back to that in just a minute.

Alright, let's go to the young men—Group #3—or Group #4, excuse me. The young men.

Now I'm merging together what he says to Titus and the young men here, aware of the fact that Titus is a young man so the things all apply.

Verse 6.

v. 6 Likewise be urging the young men to be exercising self-control (sensible);

“Likewise be urging the young men to be exercising self-control;”

First Timothy chapter 4, verse 12. Be an example:

1 Timothy 4:12

Don't look down, let anyone look down on you because you are young. But be an example for the believers in your speech, in your life, in your love, in your faith and in your purity.

How does a young man “exercise self-control”?

John, when he writes to the young men, says over in 1 John chapter 2:

1 John 2:14

...I write to you, young men, because you are strong in the word of God lives in you...

Their strength comes from the Word of God so they are able to “exercise self-control” in these critical areas:

1. in their spiritual life,
2. in their social activity, and
3. in their study habits.

If you were to tell the young men how to “exercise self-control”:

1. SPIRITUAL,

2. the SOCIAL, and
3. his STUDIES.

Verse 7.

v. 7 in all things showing yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity of doctrine, dignified,

A second thing is to:

2. “show yourself as an example of good deeds” in all things.

Underline that.

In the SACRED, in the SECULAR—in all things—you’re setting the pace. You’re showing a good example.

It was William Barclay who said:

The greatest compliment a teacher can ever receive is “First he wrought, and then he taught.” (source unknown)

He showed by his life the principles that he was teaching.

Third, it is:

3. “with purity of doctrine”

And I just put Second Timothy 2:15 right there. He is a student of the Word:

2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

1. “self-control,”
2. setting “an example,” and
3. study.

If you want to put it with D's:

1. DISCIPLINE,
2. DEEDS,
3. DOCTRINE,

and the fourth one:

4. he is also “DIGNIFIED.”

Now how come a young man is serious? Well a young man is serious because he realizes he's going to have to stand before God. He realizes he's a steward of the life that he's investing. And he realizes it's his responsibility to speak the truth.

He's going to STAND.

He's a STEWARD.

He's responsible to SPEAK THE TRUTH.

I think the best illustration that I ever got of what it is to be "dignified" or serious came when I went to the University of Texas football game with Jim Saxton one time. You know, he used to play for the University of Texas and he took me to the game and he's a very vocal and personable person.

But just as we got ready for the kick-off he all of a sudden got very serious. It was like he had frozen in his seat and he wasn't going to talk, wasn't going to say anything.

And I said "What in the world is wrong with you?"

And he says "I hope they got their game faces on."

And I said "Well, what's a game face?"

He says "That is serious business. They're wearing the uniform of the Texas Longhorns and everything is at stake on that field right now and I hope they recognize it."

Well in a few minutes they recognized they blew Arkansas out. That was the second shootout down in Memorial Stadium and he relaxed in a few minutes.

I'm just saying, a young man needs to recognize whose uniform he's got on and the ballgame he's playing, and so he too manifests this quality of being "dignified." He is serious, has a serious stewardship before God.

Verse 8 gives you the next one:

v. 8 sound in speech which is beyond reproach, in order that the opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

5. He is "sound in speech which is beyond reproach,"
 1. So he's "self-controlled,"
 2. he sets an "example,"
 3. he's a student,
 4. he's "serious," and
 5. he's "sound in his speech,"

"which is beyond reproach, in order that the opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us."

Alright, hasten on now to verses 9 and 10 and I'm going to tie this all together.

Here is the EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE relationship in the fifth

group.

You know you've got it there as a "bondslave" and "master."
"How does godliness look on the job?"

v. 9 Be urging bondslaves to be in subjection to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative,

Alright, I'm going to give you FIVE S's here to describe this relationship in verses 9 and 10:

1. he is to learn how to be SUBMISSIVE to the authority that is over him.

You know in Second Kings chapter 5, Naaman steps before us. He's a leper and he wants to be cured of his leprosy and he comes before Elijah. But you know there's a little phrase in chapter 5 verse 1 that I'd always skipped over. It says:

2 Kings 5:1

Naaman was a man who was great with his master.

How does a man become great with his master? He's learned how to be submissive and supportive and how to be a servant under authority. And he is great with his master because he's able to do that.

One of the things we learned and which prepares us for chapter 3 is how to live comfortably with authority over us.

Secondly it says “to be well-pleasing,” that means to be:

2. SINCERE—that you are really involved.

Genesis 39 with Joseph in Potiphar's house is a great illustration of how to be a real servant. How to be a real employee.

I always shared with kids in camp on the staff who had real problems cleaning the johns and emptying the waste baskets and carrying out the garbage and doing all the menial things behind the scenes. And they always have a tendency to say “can't I do something that's more upfront?”

And I always gave them Colossians 3:22 and 23. And maybe some of you guys are having a real problem with corporate structure and relating to authority over you. This verse really helps:

Colossians 3:22, 23

Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything. And do it not only when their eye is on you to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, and not for men.

Put the Lord in the place of that authority over you. It sure can get you a lot more excited about the fact that what you're

doing this for and who you're doing it for that changes the whole perspective.

3. “not argumentative,”

In other words, you're supportive.

You are submissive, sincere, supportive. You don't talk back. You don't criticize. You don't argue. You're supportive of him.

And verse 10 gives you the rest of them—two more.

v.10 not pilfering but showing all good faith in order that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

4. “not pilfering”—in other words, stealing is a no-no.

You don't embezzle funds from the corporation.

I guess the other letter, the letter to Philemon that I told you about in the first study is the greatest illustration of that.

Here Onesimus gets really mad because the whole family's Christian and every time he falls out of bed, he falls into another Bible class. They met at their house and so he steals what he can and goes to Rome with 60 million citizens thinking that's the safest place to be.

But there in the city of Rome, when he gets picked up and put

in prison, who's he sitting next to but the apostle Paul. And it just blows his mind because Paul's the one who started the whole thing back over there in Laodicea. And he writes back this letter to recommend Onesimus be received back and the debt be assumed by the apostle or be forgiven by Philemon.

And then last it says:

5. "but showing all good faith"

And I just put down:

showing you can be trusted.

Fifth, showing you can be trusted. You are in fact a real servant.

And Genesis 39 is beautiful on that. Potiphar's wife wants an affair and relationship. Joseph shows he can be trusted. He says:

"I cannot sin and do this great wickedness against God. The only thing Potiphar has withheld from me is his wife" (Gen. 39:8)

And he has every right to do that. And he rejects it on the basis, he shows that he can really be trusted in the situation.

Now the ultimate purpose behind all that, and here's the second phrase you underline's right there in verse 10:

“in order that you may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.”

Now ladies and gentlemen, why are we godly in our relationships with each other?

Two REASONS for it:

1. in order that I might not bring dishonor upon the Word of God, and
 2. that I might beautify the teachings of the Word of God.
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1. That I might not bring dishonor upon the Word of God, and
 2. I beautify the teachings of the Word by my godly life.

Now you say, how do I do that though? I think by the way you dress, I think by your speech, by the appearance of your house, the organization of your office, the way you do business, your disposition and your attitudes toward others, your love, your enthusiasm, your spirit of positive affirmation, cheerfulness, obedience, integrity.

All of these things manifest the things which “adorn” or beautify the teachings of the Word of God.

This is why we're godly in relationship. So in fact, that we don't dishonor the Word. And so in fact, POSITIVELY, we "adorn" the Scripture—the teachings of the Word of God.

Alright, now these are the FIVE things I got out of that passage.

Here are the lessons that I draw from the verses that we've just looked at.

Lesson #1: The godly life is for everybody. The godly life is for everybody.

We've seen everybody included in the group. We've seen the leaders, the followers, the old and the young.

Whosoever will may come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. And by taking truth into your life, you begin to develop these qualities of godliness that we've looked at.

Lesson #2: Sensibility and self-control seem to be the dominant factors in the godly life.

We have come back to that several times.

Sensibility and self-control seem to be the dominant factors in the godly life.

It's been there so many times. When you start counting that

word and the derivation of it, in chapter 1 and chapter 2 you run into it five or six times already.

Sensibility and self-control seem to be the dominant theme in the godly life.

Lesson #3: Older women have the responsibility to teach the younger.

Older women have the responsibility to teach the younger. You need to see that girls as a stewardship before God.

Older women have the responsibility to teach the younger. That's part of your life and your productivity.

So many ladies that I meet now, you know, their kids get gone and they feel like they're going to fold up and their husband's going to leave them and everything's bad and they get so depressed because they aren't worth anything. You see, we need to teach this.

Once your kids are gone, you've got a responsibility now to begin to train the younger women on how to do these things that were described.

[Lesson] #4: ;Godliness is a necessity so that the Word is not dishonored.

Godliness is a necessity so the Word is not dishonored.

[Lesson] #5: Godliness is a necessity so the teachings will be beautified.

Godliness is a necessity so the teachings will be beautified.

You know, nothing is more thrilling than to see somebody whose life has been changed by the Lord Jesus Christ, but whose life is continually being changed.

I wanted so badly Monday to go to Fort Worth and I could have since my flight was cancelled, to hear Chuck Colson. He was speaking for about 500 businessmen, many of whom have been classes that I've been involved in over there. And I wanted so badly to hear him. Because if there's ever been a guy who has been under the gun, it's been Colson.

And when he wrote the book everybody was suspicious about his "Born Again" experience. And boy I'll tell you, he made a fantastic impact upon the community of Fort Worth. I've just come from there—a noon luncheon—where 500 men heard him Monday morning as he shared his witness and his testimony for Jesus Christ.

He also told the story of his second book *Life Sentence*, which he has gone back to the place where he was incarcerated and is now carrying on a fantastic ministry among the rehabilitation of prisoners.

The man knows Jesus Christ. And his life is changing and the more people resist it, the more they find they can't because

something really happened that night when he bowed his head over the steering wheel and there invited Jesus Christ to come into his life.

What I'm saying to you is that wherever you are and wherever this study finds you, it finds you with a responsibility before God to get your life right with Him right now.

“Now is the accepted time. Now is the day of salvation.” (2 Cor. 6:2)

And frankly with the way things are going on in the world, I wouldn't want to ever be finding myself in a situation without Jesus Christ these days.

I believe the Lord Jesus is soon coming and I hope, if you don't know Him, you realize I don't pressure you—I don't bug you or bother you about it—present the truth and let the Spirit of God speak to you.

But if I can help you, boy, I'll stay up with you all night. I'll help you come to faith in the Lord Jesus.

**A Practical Study of TITUS:
Growth Toward Godliness**

“Beginning to Look More Like Jesus”

STUDY NUMBER FOUR – THE PARISH AND GODLINESS
– TITUS 2:1-10

NOTES

v. 1 But as for you, be speaking the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.

v. 2 Older men are to be temperate, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, in patience.

v. 3 Older women likewise are to be worthy of reverence in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved too much wine, teachers of that which is good,

v. 4 in order that they may encourage (train) the young women to be loving their husbands, to love their children,

v. 5 to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being in subjection to their own husbands, in order that the word of God may not be dishonored.

v. 6 Likewise be urging the young men to be exercising self-control (sensible);

v. 7 in all things showing yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity of doctrine, dignified,

v. 8 sound in speech which is beyond reproach, in order that the opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

v. 9 Be urging bondslaves to be in subjection to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative,

v.10 not pilfering but showing all good faith in order that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Titus 2:1-10 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What is Titus's assignment, according to verse 1?

3. Outline the qualities of the older men.

4. Outline the qualities of the older women.

5. Outline the qualities of the younger women.

6. Outline the qualities of the younger men.

7. Outline the qualities of the bondslaves.

8. What is the purpose behind this godly living, according to verse 10?

9. Which verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

LESSON #1: The godly life is for everybody—the leaders, the followers, the old, and the young. Whosoever will may come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. By taking truth into the life and being obedient to it, godliness will result.

LESSON #2: Sensibility and self-control seem to be the dominant theme in the godly life.

LESSON #3: Older women have the responsibility to train younger women in specific areas.

LESSON #4: Godliness is a necessity so that the Word of God may not be dishonored.

LESSON #5: Godliness is a necessity so that the doctrine of God may be adorned.

LESSON #6: Are you bringing honor to the Word? Are you beautifying the teachings of the Word? This is godliness in relationship.