

GENERAL EXHORTATIONS

Golden Text

“In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness” (Titus 2:7).

Useful Practice

The Word of God has exhortations of great value to all believers everywhere.

Scripture Reading

Titus 2:1-8

- 1** - You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine.
- 2**-Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, love and in endurance.
- 3** - Likewise¹, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers² or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.
- 4** - Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children,
- 5** - to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.
- 6** - Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.
- 7**- In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness
- 8** - and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

¹ Da mesma forma, igualmente

² Caluniadores

General Objective

To show that the biblical ideal is for the local pastor to set a good example of life.

Specific Objectives

- I. To explain** that a leader must speak according to sound doctrine.
- II. To explain** the four pieces of advice in the treatment by Titus toward the older men, women, young men and servants.
- II. To make** students aware that the leader should set a good example in everything.

Introduction

In this lesson we will study the second chapter of the Epistle to Titus. We will see various practical pieces of advice by Paul about the older men, women, young men and servants. We will also see that a gospel minister should set an example of righteous living in the church

I. A LEADER'S CORRECT WAY OF SPEAKING

1. "You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine" (v. 1). The leader must have his speech always grounded in the Word of God, and therefore he needs to know it and meditate on it daily. He must recognize and value the Bible, knowing that it is special to the formation of Christian character. The Bible study contributes for the pastor and the worker to always have a good speech. Jesus once said that the mouth speaks what the heart is full of (Matthew 12:34). Then a heart full of God's Word will always speak what is good.

2. Knowing how to speak and how to listen. James, an apostle of Jesus, left a precious teaching about how to speak: "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19). There are people in the churches who talk too much. And they say what they should not, causing relationship problems. Being "slow to speak" and "quick to listen" is a sign of wisdom, emotional and spiritual maturity. Whoever is in a leadership position must develop the ability to listen to people, even if they do not agree with them.

3. Integrity of speech. The worker must always show soundness of speech that cannot be condemned (Titus 2:8). Jesus taught, "All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." (Mt 5:37). When someone in the local church says one thing and does something else, or when they lie, distort the message, for personal reasons or to please someone, they are being used by the evil one. They "come from the evil one". This is not appropriate to sound doctrine. Integrity is about doing what James 2:12 says. What we speak must contribute to building up lives (Ephesians 4:29).

II. EXHORTATIONS TO OLDER PEOPLE, YOUNG PEOPLE AND SERVANTS

1. How older people should conduct themselves. "Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance" (v. 2). A believer must remain faithful to the Lord and give a good testimony until the last days of their life. Many individuals believe that just because they are already over sixty years old, they can do and say whatever they please in the church. Older men should be role models to the young. That is why Paul says that they should be moderate, worthy of respect, sensible, sound in faith, in love and hope. The Psalmist said about older believers, "...planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, 'The LORD is upright; he is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in him'" (Psalm 92:13-15). The younger people must learn from older ones, therefore the latter must be an example in everything.

2. Older women must be an example to younger ones. "Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good" (v. 3). Older women have knowledge and experience, whether as mothers and wives, or as servants of God, therefore they can teach the younger sisters. They must be holy women, "reverent in the way they live", who do not behave improperly and set a bad example in the church or outside of it. They should not be slanderers (Gr. *Diabolos* - διάβολος), or be used to the carnal habits of speaking evil of others, of criticizing or murmuring.

3. Young Christians (v. 6). Paul calls attention to the young people's behavior by urging the young to be "moderate", that is, self-controlled. Young Christians must be moderate in speech, in action and in all areas of their lives, seeking to exalt and glorify the name of the Lord in everything.

4. The behavior of Christian servants (vv. 9-10). Paul wrote at a time when there was human slavery. In Crete, as well as throughout the Roman Empire, there were many slaves. There were masters and slaves in the church who had converted to Christ, therefore Paul shows how the relationship, the conduct of servants and masters should be. The apostle shows that servants should please their masters "in everything", because a Christian master would not give orders that were inconsistent with the Christian faith and the Word of God. Those slaves whose masters were believers should maintain an attitude of submission.

III. A GOOD EXAMPLE IN EVERYTHING

1. Good example (vv. 7,8). The leader must set an example. If God has entrusted the authority and responsibility over a flock³ to you, you need to have a blameless life. Being blameless does not mean being perfect, otherwise, nobody would be able to take this position. To be blameless means to have a high and mature standard of conduct, according to biblical principles. The conduct of a leader cannot undermine the trust of the flock.

2. Incorruption of the doctrine. Titus would have to be very careful about the doctrine, so that his preaching and teaching could go in the right direction, based on the Word of God, on the "the apostles' teaching" (Acts 2:42). Jesus warned his disciples to be on their guard against the "teaching of the Pharisees" (Mt 16:6,12). Nowadays⁴, we have seen churches that 'sell' blessings for cash; use psychological manipulation to take more money from the people; perform "healings" and miracles in exchange for "precious metal".

3. Integrity and sincerity. These are attitudes that are equivalent to seriousness. A worker must be serious, honest, with a posture that can honor God and his ministry. To complete the list of recommendations, Paul says that Titus should have "soundness of speech that could not be condemned, so that those who opposed might be ashamed, having no evil thing to say". It is the exemplary conduct required of all those who want to be workers, dedicated to the work of the Lord.

CONCLUSION

Paul's exhortations to Titus are of great value to workers, everywhere

³ Rebanho

⁴ Hoje em dia

and at all times. He specifies how to treat people in their different age groups. He highlights the value of Christian example, as a way of avoiding scandals that so badly compromise the good name of the gospel and the Church of Christ. They are perfectly updated teachings, despite having been written so long ago.