
Maturity in your Home

Titus 2:1–10

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Why is our talk this evening utterly necessary?

The Simpson's as an example of maturity in the home:

The series is a satirical parody of a working class American lifestyle epitomized by its eponymous family, which consists of Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa, and Maggie. The show is set in the fictional city of Springfield, and lampoons American culture, society, television and many aspects of the human condition.

What do you think?



Because we are not far from the world in which Titus lived and the people of Crete to whom he was being sent. Listen to the verses just before our text this evening in which Titus is charged and the elders are challenged: Titus 1:9–16 (ESV):

⁹ [The Elder] He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

¹⁰ For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. ¹¹ They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach. ¹² One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." ¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴ not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth. ¹⁵ To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. ¹⁶ They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

The Bible provides a framework for developing personal maturity. It is a process of teaching and transmission. I want us to consider a familiar text and make application from it in our own personal and corporate households.

Its Required Teaching**(v.1, 15)**

¹ But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.

The passage is wrapped in the responsibility of God's men to tell the truth to the church in such a compelling way that the church hears and heeds.

What is taught is to be drawn from sound doctrine.

It is to be developed into specific applications.

Its Responsible Transmission**(v.2-9)**

² Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. ³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

Notice that the emphasis on discipleship; on those experienced in Christian living mentoring those who are younger in the faith. In both, there is an important focus on developing maturity.

Believers who are Older**(v.2-3)**

Develop specific areas of character so that they will be able to disciple or train others. Growing in wisdom and maturity prepares them for being able to help younger believers grow in practical obedience. The list here is illustrative of what characterizes the maturity of older believers. These particular issues in this list probably are where the people in Crete struggle. This maturity will develop in the home and be demonstrated in the church. This is what parents ought to be developing in their own lives.

Let's think about these qualities together. First, for the older men:

Sober minded – understands the seriousness of serious things.

Dignified – conducts themselves appropriately to the situation.

Self-controlled – has learned self-discipline and impulse control.

Sound in belief, love and steadfastness – is balanced, strong and healthy in their relationship with God, their relationship with others and their endurance in life.

Then, for the older women:

Respectful –examples of respecting their husbands, not only in their words but also in their conduct (See. Ephesians 5:33).

Not slanderers – has learned to control the tongue and does not misrepresent or destroy others verbally.

Not enslaved (addicted) to wine – has learned self-control in their eating and drinking.

Teach what is good – committed to teaching and being an example to the younger women of what is good, both morally and practically.

Believers who are Younger

(v.4-6)

Cultivate specific areas of obedience so that they bring no dishonor on the Word. Now understand what I am after here. *We should not be waiting until our sons and daughters are in college or married to begin training.* Certainly, we must start with those who are being converted. But we must begin developing these qualities of wisdom and maturity in our sons and daughters while they are growing up in our homes.

Let's think about these qualities together. First, the younger women who will be disciplined by older women *who themselves exhibit these mature qualities.*

Taught and trained – willingness to submit to the teaching and training of mature women. There is so much to say here about these two verbs.

Teach – this is verbal instruction from the Word and from life. Talking through situations, explaining the why's and what's.

Train – here is where we tend to fail. Training only comes when people are put into life situations where they can practice what they are learning.

Love their husbands – interesting that this must be taught and trained? Natural human affection is not enough – selfless, sacrificial, Christ-like love is something that is transmitted.

Love their children – natural maternal affection for our children has to be directed into Biblical love lest it becomes idolatrous. So, mothers must be taught to love their children with Biblical love.

Self-controlled – growing in self-discipline in every aspect of life. For all our sons and daughters, we must begin very early to teach both impulse control and willingness to stay at tasks until they are completed.

Pure – in all aspects to develop decorum in heart and action. In this erotic, sex-saturated society, mature Christian ladies need to teach and train young ladies to be chaste in their thoughts, demeanor and dress.

Workers at home – this often misconstrued phrase means that ladies are to be committed to doing the work their homes require. It does not mean that they cannot work outside the home – but it does mean that the work at home is their first priority. This means that young ladies are to be taught to prize and perform the work of the home including cooking, cleaning, child rearing, shopping, financial management, time management and so on.

Kind – young women are to be taught and trained to be kind – so often young women, beginning in upper elementary, are vicious and savage with their tongues.

Submissive to their own husbands – older women who are respectful of their husbands are to teach and train younger women in submission. What submission is, how it works itself out, how to appeal and finally how to entrust themselves to God are key components to heart submission. Our daughters (and our sons, for that matter) must be taught and trained to be in submission

to authority. A habit of authority to parents will often translate well into submission to husbands, just as the opposite will as well.

In all these qualities, we must teach all to grow in maturity by prizing, pursuing and practicing them. We will do this if we embrace the over-arching purpose. We strive for maturity in the home and church so that the Word of God is not reviled. What does this mean? It means that we do not create a disconnect between what the Bible says, what we believe and how we live. But it is even more critical than “a disconnect”. We are to grow into maturity God’s way in order to keep the world from reviling, scorning or disparaging the Word of God.

In a transitional statement, the young men are challenged to also be self-controlled. Because he has given the qualifications for elders in chapter 1, he has already outlined what maturity looks like. Young men are to grow up in the qualities that mark a man qualified for the eldership. Those are given in Titus 1:5-9.

⁵ This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— ⁶ if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. ⁷ For an overseer, as God’s steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. ⁹ He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

Let’s think through these as goals for the growing up and maturing of our sons.

Above reproach – our young men should strive to have a reputation that is above question, to be blameless. Our sons’ moral and spiritual reputation should.

Husband of one wife –sons should be reared by example and by training to be “a one-woman man”, meaning, faithful to the woman he will be married to. Their dating and engagement should begin to cultivate a loving focus on a single person.

Faithful or believing children – This text points our older children to being faithful and not open to the charge of being wild (drunken parties) and disobedient. We want them to grow up to be men who are actively involved in the rearing of their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Not arrogant – maturity means rearing our sons to not be stubborn or self-willed. Maturity means learning not to always demand his own way, to become a man who is balanced, sensible, reasonable and sound of judgment. They should avoid becoming a man who has an inflated view of himself, his opinions or his accomplishments (Romans 12:3).

Not quick-tempered – May our sons grow up to be peaceable and reasonable men. Teach them not to be a brawler, not quick tempered, not someone who loves to fight.

Not a drunkard – Sometimes translated, not given to wine but also, not addicted to wine. Thus, we should rear our sons to be slaves to alcohol or any

addictive substance or practice. This is a prohibition is against the abuse of alcohol or any other substance that would cause a man to act in an uncontrolled or unbecoming way. It came to mean, metaphorically, a person who demonstrated good mental, behavioral and spiritual sobriety. May our son become men who are self-controlled and not controlled by outside circumstances or substances.

Not violent – Literally, this means “not a giver of blows”. So many influences press our sons to physically violent, pugnacious and quick-tempered. We want them to mature into people who are not easily drawn into a physical confrontation.

Not greedy for gain – We should rear our sons not to be covetous, not to be a lover of money, not materialistic. Whether he comes to be poor or to have lots of money is not the issue. Being in love with money is the issue.

Hospitable – May our sons grow up to be “a lover of strangers”. They should become a man who is caring and considerate of people. His heart and his home is open to them and he reaches out to them.

A lover of good – Our sons should be taught to do good and love good people even at the cost of self-denial. He will always be ready to do what is beneficial for God and others even at personal sacrifice. He will be devoted to everything that is best.

Disciplined – Teach your sons to be self-controlled, self-mastered. Their physical desires are kept in check by his consistent self-restraint. Start early, work hard, challenge and correct failure.

Upright – Raise your sons to be stable and reliable, a man who can be counted on to make wise, fair, righteous judgments for the church.

Holy – Possibly meaning, devout, rear your son to become a man who carries out his obligations faithfully because of a passion for Christ. He is loyal, holy and humbly pious.

Holding fast the faithful word according to doctrine – Teach your sons to be clear in what he believes. He should pursue growing in knowing the doctrines of the Word of God as articulated by the church. He should learn to be tenacious and teachable in his doctrine.

O, that God would enable each of you who have sons to become men like this, personally and spiritually mature.

Believers who are Leaders

(v.7-8)

Now to Titus directly as one of the young men who is to show maturity in his leadership.

⁶ Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. ⁷ Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, ⁸ and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

Develop in the areas you are responsible for:

Rear your sons and daughters to prize being an example of a godly life.

Rear your sons and daughters to love truth and strive to hold fast to untarnished doctrine,

Rear your sons and daughters to, within the limits and scope of their gifts and abilities, to be able to communicate their faith. Three important words shape that: integrity, dignity and healthy ways of speaking.

May our young people grow into mature leaders who will shame the opponents of the gospel and the kingdom of God.

Believers who are Employees

(v.9-10)

Finally, in a critical area for Christians, we want to be mature in how we serve whether in our jobs, ministries or any other like area. For our sons and daughters, this text applies to them in their school and education.

⁹ Slaves are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, ¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

Cultivate integrity and honesty in your employment putting the security of your future in God's hands so that truth is beautified by your conduct. We can teach and train our sons and daughters to be godly at work by helping them to develop these habits of virtue and grace in school.

Teach them to be submissive to those they are accountable to, whether bosses or teachers and staff.

Teach them seek to please those they are accountable to and not to constantly arguing with them.

Teach them to be honest, thrifty and do not pilfer or steal in the little things. Kids who cheat in school will steal at work. They must learn to get their grades, their pay, their promotions, their recognition honestly.

Teach them to live by truth and principles, not by the impulses and desires of the moment. Help them to want to demonstrate what doctrine means in duty.

May we all, as parents and as children, seek to beautify, to adorn, to make attractive, the truths we hold dear. This aim and purpose ought to deeply affect us and motivate us to grow in all these areas. So here are marks of maturity that we want in our homes and in our church.

Its Responsive Probing

From these texts, then here are some exhortations, examples and practical steps to bring everyone to in the home to personal and spiritual maturity.

Maturing as Adults

Parents and older singles, please take an honest look at yourself.

If you were not reared this way, have you built godly maturity and practical wisdom into your life?

In what ways do these virtues characterize you? What are you doing sustain and strengthen them?

Are there glaring weaknesses or even failures in any of these areas? If so, will you repent of them, confess them and begin to put off sin and put on practical righteousness?

Do you need to go to your spouse or sons or daughters and ask for their forgiveness where you have sinned and failed them?

Are you willing to identify the areas of immaturity, of areas where you do not live with wisdom, and put together a working plan for growth and change?

Maturing our Children

What I am going to say is first to parents, but also to teens. Parents, you should be working with your sons and daughters to help them grow, even if they don't like it, don't want it and actively resist it. Children and teens, you should be working on growing in maturity even if your parents are not involved. Recognize, all of you, that there may be some changes that will need to take place in your homes as a result of these words from the Lord to you.

Are you teaching your sons and daughters the Bible in the way the Bible intends? Are you resisting just using the Bible as a moral handbook of behavior?

Are you helping your children to see how you are growing in wisdom as you connect the Bible to your own life in decision making? Do you make those connections?

Do you help your sons and daughters to make the connection between the choices they make and the consequences that follow? This begins with spanking and the Biblical use of the rod. This follows with imposing direct chastening of other kinds. This means that teens will often simply have to live with the consequences of their choices. Stop protecting them and shielding them – if they make a bad choice, let them suffer

Do you give your sons and daughters the tools to make wise decisions with? Do you talk to them about how they are thinking – about what they believe and what they want? Do you talk through major, life-changing decisions with your children? This, not necessarily to have them approve or veto the decision, but to learn how (and maybe in some cases, how not) to make decisions that are pleasing to God.

Over the next two weeks, review these texts and see if they are shaping the standards, expectations, directions, correction and goals for yourself and your sons and daughters.

Maturing in Relationships

God has placed us in relationships in order to cause us to grow and mature. From that, let's think through our hopes for maturity in our relationships:

Are you working to help your spouse grow in maturity? Wives, are you learning the skill of help while in submission? Husbands, are you learning the skill of leading while love sacrificially?

Are you cultivating the kind of relationship with your sons and daughters that fosters their maturity? Do you try to be their friend instead of their parent? Do you want your children to like you more than you want your children to please God?

Children, and especially teens, are you cultivating relationships that actually help you to be submissive to authority, to work hard in school, to hold you accountable for pleasing God? Are your friends just as immature as you are? Are the people you hang with helping you grow up? Or are they tearing you down?

Parents, are you seeking older, wiser, more experienced parents to help you mature? Or do you primarily seek out people your own age with the effect that you complain together not counsel together?

To the older Christians – are you available, more than that, are you actively seeking mentoring, discipling relationships with the real aim of helping younger Christians grow up? How many of you who have walked with the Lord are spending any time with a teen or a single seeking to help them theologically and practically to grow in wisdom?

Who here is actually in a Titus 2 relationship?

Will you connect with someone who will intentionally help you to grow and change, to mature in specific concrete, measurable areas?

Maturing by Serving

Finally, we grow and mature most into leadership by sacrificially serving.

Parents, are you teaching your children to be servants by your own example?

Do you teach your children to serve others in your home?

Do you encourage your children to serve in the church? Do they put others first at flock? Can they get out and put away chairs? Do they pick up after themselves? Do they put toys away?

Children and teens who are believers: where are you serving at church? What ministry team are you on? Choir? Media? Set up crew? Yard crew? Do you jump in to help when we tear down the auditorium? Do you volunteer to help gather up the garbage? Have you asked if an older person needs their yard raked, their garage cleaned, their car washed?

Does your heart primarily desire to be served by others or to serve others?

May the Lord grant us grace to grow up into maturity and wisdom.

Reflect and Respond

Which will it be?



May the Lord grant us grace to grow up into maturity and wisdom.

Notes