

Titus 2

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Grace Teaches us

You're living the Christian life
& you've come to a T-junction.

You can turn right... and disobey God
Or you can turn left - go the *other* way to obey him
you can do good

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So what's your motivation for doing good??

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Now...

Many people stoically say no
by telling themselves

BUT people might find out

or I'll hate myself in the morning
or other people will get hurt
or it will crush my self esteem
or I might be caught & punished
or it's against my principles
or we just don't do that kind of stuff around here...
or I will look bad...

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& some... or all of these may be true
They might well stop you doing something wrong

but Titus tells us they are all inadequate reasons.
they don't finally work long-term.
they don't actually change you.

Titus says that

Only the grace of God will work.

Only a heart saturated with grace.

Only a life built on grace

will then grow forth new actions

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The story so far in Titus is that...

- He's finishing off what Paul started...
 - the gospel has flourished on Crete -
 - people have started following Jesus
- But the church needs strengthening.....
 - it needs strengthening because
 - Crete itself was generally a pretty nasty place
 - & there are false teachers causing damage
- So Titus is to strengthen these little church seedlings
 - by appointing elders
 - elders who **know** & **show** that
 - the knowledge of the truth leads to godliness**
 - it leads to doing good
- To changed lives. The gospel *really* works
- & I guess our question is.

How?

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The answer.

Chapter 2v11-14.

Now if chapter 2 of Titus is a tree.

v11-14 are the roots

& we'll see v1-10 is the fruit

v11-14: The roots of changed lives

- ¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation
has appeared to all people.
- ¹² It - [Grace] - teaches us
to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and
to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives
in this present age,
- ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—
the appearing of the glory
of our great God and SAVIOUR,
Jesus Christ,
- ¹⁴ who gave himself for us
to redeem us from all wickedness and

to purify for himself a people that are his very own,
eager to do what is good.

So v11 **Grace**

Grace – the free gift of God that brings salvation

it's God's undeserved kindness

his not giving us what our lives warrant

& grace

is about the way into the Christian life

but it turns out – it's not just about

the way into the Christian life

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It's the life jacket we need to grab to be rescued

Rescued from the perfectly Good God's

right anger against our sin

& yet grace is not just a life jacket we need once

it's the way we continue & grow in the Christian life

it's all about grace

Everyday is a repentance day

Everyday is a lifejacket day

Grace is the way in & the way on.

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& so – Paul says

Grace teaches us – as we live the daily Christian life

to stop & to start...

See? it teaches us to say no

to ungodliness and worldly passions...

& to live self-controlled

upright

& godly lives

in this present age

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Grace "teaches" us.

The word means to train you

to discipline you

to coach you

over a period of time.

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& I take it – what’s going on is...

Overtime

as we apply God’s grace to the everyday
into *every little* nook & cranny of our life

so who we are
our identity
our self-worth
our self-image is altered...

we don’t feel such a need
to be respected
to be impressive
to justify ourselves

Bit by bit

we’re not quite so captivated
by what others think any more...
& so now we’re freed to live for him...

It’s not about others & what they think
& living in a way that impresses them

It’s about the security of what he’s done
& living for our king
empowered by him

Grace trains us

At the T-junction –

we decide to turn left – to obey God
not because we’re scared
of being caught
not because we don’t want to be
looked down upon

But because we know who we are
We’re freed to be who we were made to be
to live in the relationship we were created for

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I don’t know about you 😊

I find this **liberating**...

It's just the kind of thing we can get all muddled about

Too *many* people think that grace is only for non-Christians
& once we get into the family

well then we move on from it.
we start with a life-jacket
but then try & take it off
& try & swim by ourselves

It almost seems to be the default option of our hearts
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But as someone's said
& I think this is right...

Grace is not just
the abc of the Christian life
it's the a to z of the Christian life

It's the only way to be born

& also the only way to grow up.

& that truth underpins the changed lives that Titus talks about

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Now onto that though
There are other motivations
for godly living
for 'doing good'
that Paul stacks up for us...

We live these kind of lives
1) knowing that he'll come back
That's there in v13

This - isn't - it.
It might feel like it...
But this world is not all there is.

Jesus will return one day

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& when we doubt his return?

then go back to the resurrection.

Every promise was fulfilled
We can trust him.

He said he'd be raised again.

He was

He said he'll come back

He will

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Our future reality

should shape our present priorities

it shapes how we stop things like

- ungodliness & worldly passions

& how we start things like

- self-controlled, upright, godly lives.

We know he'll come back

& we also

2) know he gave himself for us

v14 who gave himself for us

to redeem us from all wickedness and

to purify for himself a people that are his very own

eager to do what is good.

Notice again

the negative & positive outworking of the cross

Redemption is the language of being bought & freed

We're to live as - who we are -

- redeemed from wickedness

that is - we stop doing some things

& - purified a people to do good

we start doing some other things.

we live self controlled, upright & godly lives

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God gives himself to redeem & purify a people

who will live good lives

that show the world what he is like

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Note that it's this way around

& not vice versa!!

It's not you live like this... get the grades
& God will accept you

It's through the cross -
through his grace
God has accepted you

& so..... live like this

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Lots of people get confused by that
& it's a dangerous confusion to get into...

Coz we're constantly working harder
But never quite sure if we've done enough
have we tipped the scales...?!

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I guess the question then floats up but

what... what do these lives look like...?!

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Which is - I think - what we find in v1-10
as he focuses in on groups within the church family

This grace - saturated truth underpins
what Titus is to tell us
we're to do
How as a church we're
to live
to function
& to relate to each other.

So if **v11-14 are the roots of changed lives**

Then
v1-10 is the fruit

& he spells it out to 5 - different - groups
within the church family

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Before we look more carefully

at those verses –

at the fruit

just a few thoughts

1) This is the **antidote** to last week

Remember last time?

false teachers had ruined whole households

Like a wall with holes in it

Christians were wobbly & confused...

damage had been done

& so I take it – this is stuff getting put back together again

Titus is teaching & rebuilding & patching

& repairing the holes

The church is like a first century household

a unit with a family & usually slaves

& so each group in the household

receives some words

from Paul

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2) The church is a very rare institution for our culture

whereby the generations must mix.

I find that fascinating

& attractive

He's is to teach the younger men & older men & older women

But the older women...

are then to teach the younger women

We like

to just hang around with people like us

to keep ourselves to ourselves

but actually the older generation

have a very important job to do

in helping the younger to be godly

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3) The other thought to ponder

is again -- why Paul says – it – matters so much.

Why does it matter if you live a certain way?

Why does how you spend you money matter?

Why does it matter what you talk about?

- Or how you speak to your kids?
- Or whether you love your husband?
- Or how you relate to your boss?

And the answer... we'll see a few times

Is so

end of v5 **that no-one will malign the word of God.**

end of v8 **that those who oppose maybe ashamed...
because they have nothing bad
to say about us**

or again

end of v10 **so that in every way
they will make the teaching about God our savior
attractive**

You see Godliness is about mission.

It matters because people ARE watching you.

& they are.

& they're storing it away...

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Of course

It presupposes you're not hiding away like a hermit

but living lives in among them.

rubbing shoulders with real people each day

& They're watching & asking - does it work??

Do you mean what you say you believe?

How does this gospel of grace you talk about

& IT DOES ASSUME THAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT IT

How does it

trickle down into the nitty gritty stuff of daily life?

when life is good.

when life is bad

Does - it - **work?**

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So these... 5 different groups

&... as we look at each one

they speak to all of us

but some verses

to some of us

more than others

1) v2 Older Men

All listening in

But particularly the older men among us...

You are to be

- temperate
- worthy of respect
- self controlled
- sound in faith – love & endurance

Why?

because God's **grace** teaches us

& to say no to ungodliness & worldly passions
 & to live self-controlled upright & godly lives

But what do these mean?

I take it the overall **portrait** is one of

someone who's an **example**
& who doesn't **overindulge**

– They're **temperate** –
 that is literally sober & sober-minded

– Each bit of their life demands **respect**
 from others looking in

– They're self-controlled –
 so

 not like the rest of the Crete

liars – evil brutes – lazy gluttons
 careful & measured

 in what they do & don't do.
 able to draw the line

& then sound in
 faith & love & endurance

What they believe – their faith – is **sound** – or healthy
 as opposed to the false teaching again
 we heard about last time

How they treat others... is **sound**
 they love...

they're active in caring for others
they're others centred Christians...

& they are **sound** in the way they endure
Even though things might be slowing down...
they persevere
they press on going
they keep going

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If you're an older man 😊

Hear what Paul says to you

Take it &
talk about it &
pray about it this week

A life with roots in grace
forms fruit of older men who look like this.

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Paul's focus then moves to

2) v3 Older Women

And the first word & in many ways the key word
there is **reverent**.
Reverent in the way they live.

The word was originally used of priests & priestesses
performing religious duties
& it developed to simply mean godly or holy.

Someone who inside & out – **in public & private**
is living the kind of life
that shows what God is like
– set apart for him
– useful
– different

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v3

Not to be **slanderers** –
so reverent – holy – in the way they speak about others

when the rest of the world is
verbally assaulting & gossiping...
when the staff room or office or is full of it.
you hold your tongue

Not to be addicted to much wine –

so reverent – holy – in how they consume alcohol.
different from others
not **addicted**
that's not enslaved to wine...
or any other alcohol

It doesn't say you can't drink it
It does say wine – alcohol must not master you

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& as you live in THAT sort of a way
then you're to teach what is good.

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Now that could be the content of what you are to teach
we'll look at that in a moment

Or it could be – & I'm more persuaded by this –
through how you live – you teach

so not so much a verbal content of what is taught
but actually the kind of life you model

As you live the Christian life
Your life tells a story

You teach others what is good

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Again if you're an older women
I'd love you to

Hear... what Paul says to you

Take it & think about it & pray about it

A life built on grace

forms older women... who look like this.

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Although... we're not done with you yet
The jobs not finished

Because the older women are to teach the younger women!

with the air that we breathe.

3) v4-5 Younger Women

It's worth knowing a bit of the background here
that Paul seems to be dealing with as he writes

& that is - there's good evidence
of a kind of progressive cultural movement
at the time
that sought to 'liberate' women

There was no doubt lots of good in that.
But it seems the pendulum had swung too far...

Because along with it - came
a kind of renouncing their roles
within the household
& a kind of freedom to pursue extramarital sex

& it doesn't take a moment to see there are
some clear parallels

A *culture* of sexual liberation

Voices that shout - if you can get away with it - then go ahead!

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& so Paul turns now to younger - married - women
Those esp - it seems - who were being sucked in.

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The *older* woman are to train the younger women

to love their husbands & children

that is - your focus is to be

towards your spouse

& your kids

There will always be cultural pressures

To have a focus elsewhere.

But... however hard

however alluring those other things might look

love your husband & love your children

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& again younger women are to be self-controlled & pure

The language in the context

again seems to be in regards to sexuality

how you relate to men

I take it

- your language
- you conduct
- your clothes

it's all to be quite different
from the culture around us

Self-controlled & pure

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Again - within their cultural pressures

you can see why he needs to say

busy at home

kind

subject to their husbands - even...

It's because the younger wives were going with the flow &
ripping apart their families

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One writer put it that

This instruction for younger wives
was designed to stabilize the household
by calling them back from promiscuity
to godliness and respectability¹

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Again - I say this because my default mode is to forget it

this kind of long-term living can only be built on **grace**

this isn't a

I must try harder & work more & try & change

- it's God loves me

I can be who I was made to be

- I don't have to try & impress others

I'm not captive to what they think

¹ Towner pg 729

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Grace teaches us to stop & to start

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These verses

also must – I think – act as an introductory service
between older women & younger women
in the church

I'm slightly new in town & I don't know how much you mix!
So I'll just jump in with 2 feet & say that you must!!

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Older women take the initiative in grabbing a coffee
with a younger woman
help them as they live in the culture we do
as they battle to be godly
& pure & self controlled.

Their lives are your business

Many of them are crying out for someone to meet with them

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Younger women

look for older mentors – ***hunt them down!***
someone who's been through it before
someone who's built on grace

Be brave

ask them if they'll meet up
give them a call this week!!

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Cross generational relationships
are vital in building healthy churches!

& I think by Paul's comments to Titus

we must realize
they ought to come quite high up on your list

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The church I've come from

...some of you will know is a 4 year old church plant
we planted –

we appointed elders

But we were young

our average age @ the start was probably 27

I was 29 when we launched

We needed an older generation

& in the Lord was very patience & very kind

we ended up taking on an aging congregation

& suddenly we had older men & women

MANY of whom have & are investing

fruitfully in the lives of younger Christians

Cross generational relationships

are vital in building healthy churches!

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Let's look at younger men

4) v6-8 Young Men

*As we looked at in the shed a couple of weeks ago -
the men's group*

Basically Paul says

younger men!

...Be self controlled.

& that's it.



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The only direct command.

Be self-controlled -

Because God's grace teaches us

to live self-controlled upright & godly lives

We saw it last week too with elders

It's in arena of what we think about

& how that impacts what we do

& You will know the main arena that this applies to you in

You have young man issues

It could be the books you read

the people you speak to
the places you go
the things you spend time thinking about

It could be what you watch or
the kind of websites you look at
that might be pornography
that might be the ebay website

It will vary.

But – because of **grace** – be self-controlled

Before you click
Before you open
Before you speak
Before you go
Before you... linger

Because of grace –
Because of who you are & the sufficiency of the gospel
– say no

Choose -- not to

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Now to be fair Paul does say about more to you
& to me...

Because we hear how he encourages Titus
to minister among us
& from **that** we can see
more of what he's to concentrate on
perhaps more of what self-control looks like for Titus

& for him – as you can imagine as a teacher – v7
he's to speak well.

- with integrity
- with seriousness
- with soundness of speech

Again in contrast to last weeks dangerous teachers

It's particularly pertinent
for younger bible teachers – who like banter

I guess many of the Spurgeons group perhaps?

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We need to know

when to draw the line

when having a laugh becomes inappropriate

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What we say normally in normal situations

has an impact on what ppl hear

when we're teaching

whether people trust us

whether people actually listen

do our other words on Wednesday
undermine what we say on Sunday??

Grace teaches us self-control

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The final group then – are slaves

5) v9-10 Slaves

& they are to **show** that Christ has transformed them.

There's to be obvious fruit

The basic role of a slave

doesn't really track with our culture in the UK so much

Although...

the employees & employers r'ship isn't far off...

But Paul says we need to

- to obey our masters – our bosses
- to work hard & try to please them
- to not answer back
- to not steal
- to be trustworthy...

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Simon the slave is a Christian.

Sam the slave is not.

& if you were to follow them around for a week

you **should** see that Simon

is very different from Sam

Slaves often had the reputation of being lazy good for nothings
& yet ... not the Christian slave.
not the slave who is building on grace

Why?

Well we've said it already
But it's explicit here - v10

so that in every way
they will make the teaching
about God our SAVIOUR attractive.

The Gospel leads to changed lives... fruit
Which leads to mission.

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It's so... when people are watching you
& asking does what he keeps going on about
- actually work

They see it does.
They see you change...
your values &

your priorities &
your identity &
conversations &
internet surfing
TV watching
drinking of alcohol
your love for people
transformed by GRACE.

They look at you - a changed you
& see the gospel at work in daily living.

to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and
to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives

& That's the kind of church that Paul wants Titus to plant

A church founded on grace
with everyday lives seeking to adorn
the message it proclaims
with transformed lives

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Let's pray