

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Titus 2

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Titus chapter two is a call for Titus to set up the organizational structure of the churches in Crete. He is instructed to teach both older men and older women what they should be doing concerning the next generation. Paul uses the word that we have become familiar with, the word brought over into English "Hygienic" having to do with "health" in this case, "**healthy doctrine/teaching.**" When Paul refers to older men and women, he is more than likely talking about men and women who are mature and over fifty years of age. There is something to be gained as we walk with God and live life. There are some things that you simply do not take to heart until you have lived enough life to experience them. I heard Chuck Swindoll say years ago that most men need to wait until at least the age of fifty before writing a book that has to do with serious subjects. Men in leadership need to be sober, this is the word that simply means to be free from life-dominating influences that are negative. This is not just talking about alcohol or other drugs, but being around people that are not clear headed and negative. Who you are around will influence you at any age. I have said it over and over again hundreds of times to young and old, "*Show me your friends and I will show you your future.*" Men are to be dignified, self-controlled,

and healthy in body, soul, and spirit. Men of God need to watch what they eat as well as what they drink. Gluttony is likened to drunkenness as far as the ruining of a life. It is hard to speak with authority about discipline and self-control when we engage in indulgence with drink or food. Finally, Titus is told to look for men to be examples in **agape**, and **patience**. The word patience is a compound word combining abiding and under. The concept is to remain under the load that produces endurance and stick-to-itiveness. Likewise, the older women should be dignified in their behavior, not she-devils, translated slanderers, self-controlled, and teaching good and appropriate attitudes and actions to the younger women. They must teach the younger women to **philos** their husbands and children. This is the Greek word for "love" that has to do with a choice to grow fond of someone or to like them. Women need to be taught that love is not just a feeling, but a choice. The younger a woman is and the earlier in life she understands that a husband and children are where her life should be focused if she is married. If she does not want to truly love a man and raise children and invest her life into them, then she should reconsider ever getting married, to begin with in life.

Prayer and Action Steps

Lord, Help me as an older man or woman to live in a way that my attitudes and actions could be a guide for those younger than me to follow. Lord, please help me as a younger man or woman to give deference to those godly men and women you have placed in my life, so that I could follow their examples as they follow you.

Amen