

## Little Letters

### Week 2

### Titus 2

### Titus 2:1-15 (NIV2011)

Look at the beginning of this passage. Even at the first word,

You

How do we react when we see in the bible something like that.

Do we say “What me”? Or do we assume the author is just talking to someone in the historical narrative of the bible?

We have to decide how we take the word you in this context! Is it for you or is it just For Titus or is it just for pastors?

Keep that in the back of your mind.

#### 1. Pastors role.

<sup>1</sup> You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine.

Paul moves from elders to the overseer, pastor person. Now, I take that to be me. That is how I read it. You means me in this case. So I am to teach appropriate sound doctrine.

At this point, he doesn't give an expansive job description. My assumption is that if we must assume the same characteristics for an elder apply also to the pastor – to me. In some ways I feel that the characteristics for the Eldership, pastor, diaconate extend to all of us. I aspire to have the character we talked about last week. My assumption is that most of us aspire to that kind of character. What is spelled out here is teaching practice. Nearly giving a basis for the development of a curriculum.

## 2. What is to be taught?

<sup>2</sup> Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

Interesting, not much deep theology here. Its an interesting list of subjects.  
Temperate ( KJV uses the word sober) (nephaleos- abstaining from wine to a point of not drinking it at all)  
Worthy of respect ( semnos- honourable)  
Self controlled (sophron- not utilising things that alter the mind ie alcohol)  
Sound in faith- (pistis – conviction of the truth)  
In love ( agape- bog love)  
In endurance. (KJV uses patience hypomone- steadfastness or not waivering)

How do you teach all that? It's teaching character. Mmm, teaching what characteristics we read about last week. There is continuity here. Teaching people to be Christians not just do church.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

It appears, that the pastor is to teach character. Here it is nearly saying to teach personal skills.

But notice in the next verse – personal skills for a purpose.

## 3. Delegation. (Notice that last bit – but to teach what is good. )

<sup>4</sup> Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children,

<sup>5</sup> 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.

Notice this bit: It is passed on. Pastors and elders teach Christian character so they can pass it on to others to teach Christian character.

## 4. Delegate to delegate.

It is woman to woman then bloke to bloke. Look at this.

<sup>6</sup> Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.

Older women teach younger women, blokes teach young blokes- basically same process- teach character.

WE see the concept as well in 2 Timothy 2: 2

### **2 Timothy 2:2 (NIV2011)**

<sup>2</sup> And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

But here is a huge thing!

#### **5. Be the example.**

<sup>7</sup> In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness

<sup>8</sup> 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.

Act, live, be seen to be the right person, the right leader, in my case the right pastor. That is a tough gig for anyone.

Look at these words:

Integrity

Seriousness

Soundness of speech

#### **6. Teach at all levels.**

<sup>9</sup> Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them,

<sup>10</sup> and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.

Not only live integrity but teach integrity and notice Paul has said teach the blokes, teach the women, teach the young women and the young men and teach slaves. He covers the lot. Teach all at their level.

#### **7. Grace teaches us.**

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

<sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

Where is this coming from? When we realise that God’s grace has done it all for us, we respond and react. The presence of God in our lives gives us a different perspective. Not only in the what we teach but how we live and live out those beliefs.

One thing we need to do is reflect on God's Grace more often.

## **8. Live for the future.**

<sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

<sup>14</sup> 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.

A couple of questions for you to take home with you.

- a. What is the blessed hope?
- b. How does that blessed hope play out in your life?

## **9. The overview and conclusion.**

<sup>15</sup> These, then, are the things you should teach.

Encourage and rebuke with all authority.

Do not let anyone despise you.

Notice it says “with all authority”. So what authority does a pastor have? We live in a different world, in some ways church leadership have to convince and motivate yet do as this passage says and do so with total integrity.

Encourage and rebuke. Most of the time we'll take the encouragement but the rebuke is a different thing.

My grandfather once told me: listen to all advice. Use it if it is good, put it on a mental shelf in your brain if it might become useful later and smile nicely if it's useless.

I suppose we need to be willing to take rebuke. No matter who we are. It is difficult but there is a difference between rebuke and criticism.

A rebuke is a chastisement of a wrong, criticism doesn't need a wrong, it is based on opinion. (Some may disagree with this explanation but that is how it comes out from my looking at it)

Now this sermon some of you would think is addressed to me. Partly. But let's be clear here. We refer back to what I said at the beginning. It is addressed to Titus.

The first verse says “you, however”. How do you read that? Is that a personal you? Or have you just sat there and thought it's for the pastor.

Well, it says you. A pastor is a shepherd, someone who cares for people. You have heard me say before “it is all of our responsibility to care and serve” that means we are all pastors, or carers, or shepherds if you want to use that term. So if you thought it was just for me, go back over it and see what is for you.

Having said that, yeh it's for me. I need to take it on board and the good thing about preaching I get a lot of time to evaluate what I'm going to say and a lot of prep time to learn.

Encourage them, point out where they may be wrong but do so with integrity.

Notice the last bit: Don't let people despise you.

Where does that come from? Well there is a heads up on this next week.