

Exhortations For Young Men

John Isaac Edwards

Paul instructed Titus, “Young men likewise exhort...” (Titus 2:6). As there are some things young women need to be taught, young men also need to be exhorted. Let me call your attention to some exhortations for young men as revealed in Titus 2:6-8.

1) *Be Sober Minded (v. 6).*

To be sober minded is to be in one’s right mind; to exercise self-control; to put a modest estimate upon one’s self, think of one’s self soberly; to curb one’s passions. Paul wrote the Romans, “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith” (Rom. 12:3).

2) *In All Things Shewing Thyself A Pattern Of Good Works (v. 7).*

“In all things” shows the extent to which the young man is to be a pattern. It only takes one thing to undermine one’s good example. “Shewing thyself” is individual responsibility. As a young man, ‘the buck stops here.’ The exhortation to show yourself a pattern is a responsibility that cannot be passed to someone

else. You set the example by doing what is good! “A pattern” is an example to be imitated. Be a man worthy of imitation! The young man Timothy was admonished, “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12). “Of good works” will keep you from being marred or tarnished by “...the unfruitful works of darkness...” (Eph. 5:11). Jesus Christ “...gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” (Titus 2:14). In the words of Paul to Titus, “This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men” (Titus 3:8). And again, “...let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful” (Titus 3:14). Keep up the good works so as to sustain the good example!

3) *In Doctrine Shewing Uncorruptness, Gravity, Sincerity (v. 7).*

Doctrine is teaching. When it comes to the teachings of the Lord, be

characterized by incorruptibility, soundness, integrity. “Hold fast the form of sound words...” (2 Tim. 1:13). Don’t be “...as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity...” (2 Cor. 2:17). The word of God is entitled to reverence and respect, dignity, majesty, sanctity. Exhibit great honor, probity and purity for it in your life! “Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity” (Eph. 6:24).

4) *Sound Speech, That Cannot Be Condemned (v. 8).*

In connection with doctrine, *sound speech* is teaching which does not deviate from the truth, the word of God (Jn. 17:17). *Sound speech* is speech that is wholesome, fit, wise. When one speaks “...the things which become sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1), his speech will be “Sound speech, that cannot be condemned...” (Titus 2:8). “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good...” (Eph. 4:29). “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man” (Col. 4:6).

Such will shame your opponents and render them speechless, “...having no evil thing to say of you” (Titus 2:8)!

Q & A

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Q- *'If a family pulled into the parking lot Sunday AM, w/ a flat and had no spare tire and no money, would it be OK to help them? Did the church cease to be the church when they went out on the porch? OR, is it simply about weekly collection, that the church can buy the tire, just not from the money collected during worship, or from the church bank account?'*

A- Yes, it would be OK to help them. It would be unneighborly not to help them (Mt. 22:39).

Saul "persecuted the church" (1 Cor. 15:9; Gal. 1:13), "...entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison" (Acts 8:3). So, the church did not cease to be the church when they went out on the porch.

It is simply about authorized use of the first-day collection. Paul wrote, "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have

given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come" (1 Cor. 16:1-2). Please observe that the collection is "for the saints". Where is Bible authority for using the collection for the saints to meet non-spiritual needs of non-saints?

(Scripture)

Now this illustration: The 4-H Sheep Club has regular meetings and a treasury. The Sheep Club is accountable to the 4-H extension office concerning contributions and expenses of the Sheep Club account. 'If a family pulled into the parking lot during one of the Sheep Club's weekly meetings, w/ a flat and had no spare tire and no money, would it be OK to help them? Did the Sheep Club cease to be the Sheep Club when they left the 4-H building?' Members of the Sheep Club recognize that such is not an expense to be taken out of the Sheep Club account, but good-

hearted individuals who belonged to the Sheep Club would see to helping this family in need out of their own pockets.

If the family was at the parking lot of a department store, could the cashier take the money out of the cash drawer? Suppose the family pulled into the bank parking lot. Would it be OK for the teller to take the money out of your account?

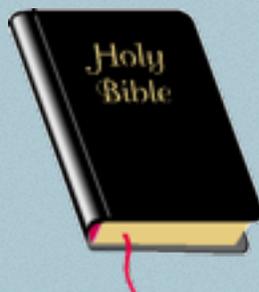
There is a difference between what we may do with money in our own pockets as individuals versus what the church may do with money laid at the apostles' feet. As Peter said to Ananias, "Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power?..." (Acts 5:4). 1 Timothy 5:16 shows a distinction between what an individual may do and what the church as such may do. "If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed."

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