

Connection to Titus 2

God's people are called to live out their faith in a way that brings God honor. One of the primary ways we do this is when we are active in our faith within the body and among the world.

Introduction/Opening

What happens when you encounter a group of people who are not influenced in any real way by what they claim they believe? Most of us immediately detect the hypocrisy and ignore them.

As believers, we must take seriously our responsibility to live out our faith as true disciples of Christ. But what should that look like? In Titus 2 we see a helpful blueprint to guide us.

Outline

1. The Foundation: Sound Teaching of the Word (Titus 2:1)
Titus was to teach the people he was ministering to soundly. "Sound" means healthy as opposed to unhealthy or dead. Healthy teaching helps to form healthy churches that are set on a solid foundation. Sound teaching is an absolute necessity for forming Christlikeness among God's people. A church without a solid foundation of the Word may fall to the danger Jesus warns of in Matthew 7:24-29.
2. The People: Everyone Has a Role (Titus 2:2-10)
Here, Paul mentioned five specific groups of people:
 - a) Older Men
 - b) Older Women
 - c) Younger Women
 - d) Younger Men (and Titus)
 - e) ServantsEach group of people in the church has a role to play. As Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, each person has been put into the church to serve various roles, and each person is needed. The church needs the ministry of young and old, men and women. Even people who society may disparage have a great deal to offer by their faithfulness to the gospel. A church that neglects the giftings of its members is one that deprives them of their opportunity to serve God and bring Him glory.
3. The Mission: Proclaiming God's Grace in Word and Deed (Titus 2:11-15)
 - a) The Grace of God has Appeared (v. 11)
God's grace appearing refers to Christ's life, death, and resurrection so that sinners can be saved through faith in Him.

Salvation in this instance is used as an adjective to the phrase “grace of God,” describing or detailing a key function of the grace of God. The grace of God is on display through the saving power of the gospel.

Salvation is a “churchy” word, but what does it mean? At its core, it’s a word that simply means deliverance. When applied to Christ and the gospel, it’s a deliverance from the deeper problems of mankind—that is sin and its consequences.

b) Salvation and Good Works (v. 14)

Salvation came because Christ gave Himself up for us, to redeem us and to cleanse us. Salvation is not something we can do for ourselves or earn. Only through believing in Christ do we secure salvation. The terms “redeem” and “cleanse” demonstrate well the realities of what Christ has done.

Yet Christ didn’t redeem us so we would be stagnate. He redeemed and purified us that we might be “eager to do good works.” Christians do good works out of love for God and neighbor, driven by a worshipful joy for what Christ has done for us. Our good works are a natural outflow of our faith.

Conclusion

By God’s grace, Christians can flourish together, bringing Him honor in how we live our lives. We must ask ourselves if we are fulfilling our responsibility of service to God within the church. Are we taking part in God’s mission to the world around us? Are we doing so fully?

Jacob Dunlow is pastor of Vassar Road Baptist Church in Poughkeepsie, New York. He is a graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Ed.D, M.Div.) and Old Dominion University (BS). Jacob also serves as an adjunct faculty member at Liberty University and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. Jacob and his wife, Laura, have two children, Elijah and Marcy.

All Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2019 by Holman Bible Publishers.