

13. Learning to Develop People for Ministry

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to deal with false teachings in the church. Sometimes, these are false teachings because people do not know the Word of God. Other times, they are taught by false teachers who are trying to develop people who will follow them instead of the Word of God. A key way to prevent the first kind of false teachings is to have a plan to develop people for ministry so that people grow to spiritual maturity. That will be the focus in this topic.

In order to help our children learn to help other people develop and become equipped for ministry, we want to help them learn to teach sound doctrine. Titus 2:1-2 says, “But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience.” Here, we see that Titus was to teach six things to older men, which would help to develop sound doctrine. Sound doctrine speaks of teaching that is pure and does not have errors mixed into it. This will only happen as men develop godly character and learn to teach from the Word of God instead of giving their own opinions. Five of the six things relate to godly character and the sixth to making sure the teaching is what the Word of God teaches.

The word for “older men” usually spoke of those over the age of sixty and is different than the word for “elder.” First, the word that is translated “sober” means *one that is free from the influence of alcohol*. Here, we see that a person must have a clear mind in order to teach sound doctrine. Second, the word that is translated “reverent” means *honorable or noble*. Philippians 4:8 translates it “noble” when it says, “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.” We could also say that it describes a person who is spiritually healthy.

Third, the word that is translated “temperate” means *one who exercises self-control so that he does not yield to sinful desires*. This same word will be used in verse five for the younger women. We are able to exercise self-control as we yield our human spirit to the Holy Spirit moment-by-moment. Fourth, the word that is translated “sound in faith” is the same word that was used in the previous verse for sound doctrine. In order to be sound in faith, a person must know and understand the Word of God so he can obey it in his daily life. In Titus 1:9, we see that elders are to be, “Holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.” We want to help our children learn to help others learn to use the Word of God to teach others and to answer the questions of those who contradict.

Fifth, the word that is translated “love” is the word that is used in the new commandment to describe the love that we are to have for one another. 1 John 4:7-8 says, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” In these verses, we see that the word is used twice. First, it is used to describe the love we have for one another; and second, it is used to describe the character of God. Sixth, the word that is translated “patience” means *endurance or perseverance*. Romans 15:4 says, “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that

we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” We see that as we study and apply the Word of God to our lives we develop patience and hope. As we look at these six things, we see that Titus, as a young man, was told to help older men develop these six characteristics. We want to help our sons learn to do the same.

As we go on to Titus 2:3-5 we read, “The older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things--that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.” In these verses, we see that Titus was also to teach the older women how to develop godly character so they could teach the younger women. Like older men, older women were to learn to be reverent in behavior. We saw in verse two that this describes a person who is spiritually healthy. Older women were also to be taught not to slander others. The word that is translated “slanderer” is used to speak of those who accuse others falsely and is also used as a name of the devil. Those who slander others are doing the work of the devil. We also see that older women are to be free from the influence of alcohol because the older women are to teach the younger women.

Titus was to teach the older women how to become teachers of good things so they could teach the younger women. We see that older women are to teach the younger women in seven areas. First, the older women are to teach the younger women to love their husbands. In many cultures, marriages were arranged by the parents and a young bride might not even know the husband. The word for “love” comes from the word for family love rather than God’s love. Second, they are to teach younger women to love their children. Again, this word comes from the word for family love. 1 Thessalonians 2:7 says, “But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing *mother* cherishes her own children.” Here, we see the love of a nursing mother.

Third, the older women are to teach the younger women to be discreet. The word translated “discreet” was translated “temperate” in verse two and means *one who exercises self-control so that she does not yield to sinful desires*. Fourth, the word translated “chaste” means *pure from sinful living*. Fifth, the word translated “homemakers” means *taking care of household affairs*. A related word is used in 1 Timothy 5:14, where we read, “Therefore I desire that *the younger widows* marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.” Here, we see that wives are to learn how to rule or manage the house.

Sixth, the older women are to teach the younger women to seek those things which are good. The word that is translated “good” means *those things that are good in their nature and beneficial in their effect*. Galatians 6:9-10 says, “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.” The older women are to encourage the younger women to look for opportunities to do good. Seventh, the older women are to teach the younger women to be obedient to their own husbands. The word that is translated “obedient” is usually translated “submit” or “to subject oneself” in the New Testament and means *to place our full potential at the disposal of another*. In Ephesians 5:21, this word is used and we see that husbands and wives are to submit themselves to one another. That verse says, “Submitting to one

another in the fear of God.” This is explained for wives in Ephesians 5:22-24 and for husbands in Ephesians 5:25-33. This keeps the Word of God from being blasphemed.

Titus 2:6-8 says, “Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself *to be* a pattern of good works; in doctrine *showing* integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.” First, we see that Titus was to encourage young men to be sober-minded. The word that is translated “sober-minded” means *to think in such a way that it causes us to exercise self-control in the things that we do*. Second, since Titus was a young man, we see that by his life he was to be an example to other young men. The word that is translated “pattern” means *to be an example that others can follow*. Paul also used this word when he said to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” Just like Timothy, Titus was told to be an example that others could follow.

In his teaching, Titus was to model certain characteristics. Titus was to show integrity. The word translated “integrity” is used only here in the New Testament and means *soundness of mind*. The next two words are closely related. The word “reverence” means *to live a life that is honest and worthy of respect*. 1 Timothy 2:2 tells us that we should pray “for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.” The word translated “incorruptibility” means *that which is pure and will not corrupt (rot)*. Usually, it speaks of our lives after the resurrection such as in 1 Corinthians 15:54 where we read, “So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’” Titus was to show young men, by example, what it meant to teach in such a way that their teaching would be pure and in agreement with the Word of God. Such sound teaching cannot be condemned.

As young men learn how to teach sound Biblical teaching, their teaching cannot be condemned. Teaching will be sound as young men are shown how to share the Word of God instead of sharing their own opinions. The Word will have a powerful effect when those who are listening see that young men are teaching from the context of the whole chapter and book. The most powerful effect will be when others see that young men are living in their daily lives the things that they are teaching from the Word of God. Such teaching will cause any who might oppose to be ashamed because they realize that the things such young men are teaching are being lived out in their lives. As a result, any opponents will have nothing evil that they can say. We want to help our physical and spiritual sons learn how to teach the Word of God so that they will be able to show others how to teach the Word with power. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to develop people for ministry.