

## Titus 2

July 15, 2020

In verses 7-8, Paul gives Titus this advice: “Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.” Let’s look at some similar passages:

“In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame” (1 Peter 3:15-16).

“Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation” (1 Peter 2:12).

Here we have clear instruction for believers to guard their speech and behavior as a positive influence in the world. This connects naturally with

the rules for older men in verse 2. But verse 10 lays the same charge at those holding the lowest position in society, bondservants, or slaves. Having their labor and their very bodies stolen from them in a sense, they would be justified in defying their masters, talking back to them, and pilfering in petty ways. But by not doing so, they can “adorn” the teaching of Jesus. There is no Christian, no matter how poor or even oppressed, who does not have opportunity to glorify his or her Lord by humility in the face of injustice. (As an aside, nothing in Scripture prevents bondservants from being elders in the assembly.)

“God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God” (1 Corinthians 1:28-29).

### Notes

**2:14** Older translations have “a peculiar people,” implying that Christians should be odd. Modern English renders this better as “a people of His very own.” Still, Christians should be different than their unbelieving neighbors.

### Questions for study and discussion:

1. List what each of these should seek to be or do:

Older men:

Older women:

Younger women:

Younger men:

Leaders (such as Titus):

Bondservants/slaves:

2. The dictionary defines *adorn* as “make more beautiful or attractive.” How does verse 10 make fitting use of this word?
3. What type of lives are we to lead while waiting for the appearance of our Lord?
4. Two times in history a particular people have been called out from the general mass of humanity: the nation of Israel and the church. According to verse 14, what should characterize His people? What else?