

92# Sermon @ Little Hocking, OH 4/8/2007 p.m.

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Men are to be role models

Text: Titus 2:1-2; 6-8

Purpose: To teach the men of the church to be godly role models.

### Introduction

- A. “Children without strong role models in the home are going to become hopelessly confused by today’s conflicting cultural messages. Weldon Hardenbrook cites an article in People magazine: “A psychologist recently asked his 7-year-old nephew, ‘Is Michael Jackson a boy or a girl?’ The boy thought for a moment before replying, ‘Both’” (Point Man, by Steve Farr, 204).
- B. One of the clear teachings of the Bible is that God designed men to men and women to be women. As stated is very confused by today’s culture. Although what could be said of men tonight is true of woman we going to spend time looking at how men are to be godly role models to their children and others. Men are very important to the home for the teach what is to be a man and what is to be woman. I learn this with my girls. They need to learn from me as well as there mother what the responsibilities of males and female.
- C. Paul is instructing Titus to teach Christian attributes to different groups, according to age and male and female. He makes the distention that males are to be males and females are to be females. The terms used in Titus 2:1-8 are for men and women are not for special offices but all the members that make up a congregation.
- D. As we continue our study not only are men to be godly leaders in the home and in the church but as they lead they have to remember that they are to be godly role models. Notice what Titus 2:1-2;6-8 teach.

### Body

#### I. Older Men Titus 1:1-2

- A. Sober-minded, means temperate, self-controlled, especially in respect to wine. Used metaphorically, meaning sober-minded, watchful, circumspect. It is that state of mind which is free from the excessive influence of passion, lust or emotion – (The Complete Word Study Dictionary). Clear minded.
- B. Dignified- reverend, It represents not only earthly dignity, but that which is derived from a higher citizenship, a heavenly one, which is the possession of all believers. There lies something of majestic and awe-inspiring qualities in which does not repel but rather invites and attracts.
- C. Self-controlled- Temperate, sensible, discreet, sober, of a sound mind. Self-disciplined in one's freedom, self-restrained in all passions and desires. Older men are to set the tone of a congregation in their home by their sobriety, reverence and temperate nature.
- D. Sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness- Aged men may be unhealthy in body due to physical infirmities, but they are to be spiritually sound through an ever-increasing faith, love, and patience. Older men often think their age is an excuse to let younger ones take over in regards to the service of Christ and His church. Yet God's Word reveals otherwise. We need the older men’s pattern and leadership.

#### II. Younger Men Titus 1:6-8

- A. Self-controlled-as the older men.
  - B. Model of good works, or example of good works. "copy" "representation" a pattern, young see and do only what they are taught by the older men. It stands to reason if we do not like what the young men are doing in the congregation whether it is how they lead in worship, lead in the home, or how they are conducting themselves then the problem lies in part with the older men. This doesn't mean the younger men do not make the excuse not to change, but they can better change when the older men are teaching and leading the way. It also reminds us that there is work to be done in the home and in the church. We just cannot sit by and let things slide.
  - C. Teaching show integrity, dignity. This reminds that every Christian is a teacher, we may not teach in a public way such as Bible Class or from the pulpit but teach in the home and by the way we live in our daily life. This teaching was not to mix in anything that would in any way deprive Christian teaching of its eternal value and cause it to be relegated to second place.
  - D. Sound speech- Using speech that imparts grace to the hearers. Ep. 4:29, "Let not any filthy word go out of your mouth, but if any *is* good to building up *in respect of need*, that it may give grace to the ones hearing." Young men are to also set the pattern in the kind of speech they use.
    - i. Such is conduct becoming of young men. Youth is no excuse for loose conduct or careless speech. On the contrary, young men are to set the pattern for all Christians as we see in
    - ii. 1 Ti 4:12, "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example of the believers, in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."
- IV. Men who are you leading?
- A. Paul teaches us as men (women) how to lead and be godly role models. It is true all of us as Christian are role models for someone, a child, grandchild, or the children here at church or in the neighborhood. We are role models by what we say, do, and place we go. So it is we have a great responsibility. It is one thing to know it another thing to do. This responsibility is mine; not someone else because I do not where they will lead my children or others. (Someone is going to lead your child.)
    - 1. Someone has said, "Do not follow where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail!"
    - 2. I cannot help but think about our children, paths that are waiting to be made in their lives. What kind of trail will we leave?
  - B. So often it appears we just sit on our hands and wait for someone to lead us. We sort of have the idea that a leader is always someone voted on or appointed to take charge of the rest of us. Such thinking is false. No one appoints you or votes for you to be the leader of your home, your children, or spouse. We have to lead by following God's word. Truly, we need good leaders to guide the church, and family.
    - 1. We must remember there are people following you and I today as their leader. It may have never been discussed. It might even make you uncomfortable to think about it.

2. The one following you might be your mate, your son or daughter, your neighbor, coworker or even someone that you don't even know.
  3. What does it mean to be a leader, even an un-appointed one? Tom Landry, former head coach of the Dallas Cowboys said, "Leadership is a matter of having people look at you and gain confidence, seeing how you react." What a great illustration of a role model.
  4. It's check-up time. Do the people around you find greater self-confidence by knowing and following you? We need to remember that we are either leading others up or down! (By Tom Butterfield).
- C. Our ultimate role model, leader and pattern for life is Jesus (1 Peter 2:21). He is an example to all of us. Yet as Paul often noted "follow me as I follow Christ." We need men fathers, husbands, older men, and younger men to lead by showing the how and why in following Christ. We need to be able to say to our mate, children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors follow me as I follow Christ.
1. As men we are a pattern, example, role model for someone.
  2. What kind of a pattern are you?

#### Finally

- A. When James Ryle was 2 years old, his father was sent to prison. When he was 7, authorities placed him in an orphanage. At 19, he had a car wreck that killed a friend. He sold drugs to raise money for his legal fee, and the law caught up to him. He was arrested, charged with a felony, and sent to prison.
- B. After he sought out his father to reconcile with him, and when they got together, the conversation turned to prison life. James's father asked, "Which prison were you in?" James told him, and his father was taken aback. "I helped build that prison," he said. He had been a welder who went from place to place building penitentiaries. James Ryle concluded, "I was in the prison my father built."
- C. You know, a father's example builds a place to live for his children.
- D. Will it be a home, or a prison? (Larry Pillow, Conway, Arkansas. Leadership, Vol. 16, no. 3).
- E. Jesus said in John 14:2-3, "In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, so that where I am, you may be also."
- F. Jesus is building us a home, an eternal dwelling place of peace how are you helping your spouse, children, grandchildren and others get there?
- G. Jesus is building a home, are you going home with him when Jesus returns? I hope so, but if your not prepare then get prepared tonight by confessing your belief in Christ, repenting of your sins, and putting Christ on in baptism, and continue in the faith so you can go home. If you need to respond do so as we stand and sing.

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