

Be a Man!

Live Like a Man – October 2/3



Texts: Titus 2:1-8; John 10:10; 1 John 2:6

Gather: As you gather, reflect on what is your favorite food or beverage? Talk about “the best meal ever” and then ask the group if they can think of something better. As you get ready for study, begin to imagine a full life, one that is beyond the fullest life we thought possible.

Pray: If it works, ask one of the men in your group in advance to pray for your time together. Ask God to bring a submissive heart to the group, especially to the men. Have him pray a prayer committing all the men in the group to the Spirit’s teaching and to a full life in Jesus.

Icebreaker: Do you find thunderstorms soothing or scary? Briefly tell the story of a memorable thunderstorm.

Focus: If men are going to experience full life at home, in their marriages, and at work, they are to love like Jesus.

Introduction: **Titus 2:1-8** - Titus was a pastor in Ephesus. In the last two studies we centered on one of Paul’s two letters to Pastor Timothy in Ephesus. Now we read Paul’s instruction to Titus. Titus was a pastor in the same environment as Timothy. Ephesus was a city that was primarily dominated by women and it was an environment where men were devalued. In Titus 2:1-8, Paul ties good doctrine – principles and beliefs – to the proper behavior of men and women in Jesus’ church. Over the next two months we will walk through this passage together and learn how to apply it in a way that is freeing and not limiting or archaic.

OLDER MEN are to be the model of living like Jesus. These character traits of older men are designed to give leadership to entire cities and countries so that men can guide cultures on safe and prosperous paths.

<p>TEMPERATE not given to extremes of emotion & practice WORTHY OF RESPECT seen as a mentor & guide SELF-CONTROLLED able to say yes and no to the right thoughts and actions</p>	<p>SOUND IN FAITH Trusting in Jesus for everything at all times SOUND IN LOVE known for sacrificially loving and giving SOUND IN ENDURANCE never gives up</p>
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YOUNGER MEN are addressed in this passage also. It also appears that Titus may be in this “younger man” group because Paul seems to move from “younger men” to “your” without a transition. A man does not have to wait until he is “older” to be a leader of consequence nor are younger men disqualified from leading older men.

<p>SELF-CONTROLLED able to say yes and no to the right thoughts and actions DO GOOD (a younger love) the end result of actions is to be good for those around INTEGRITY (part of a younger “worthy of respect”) the same on the inside as the outside, in private as in public</p>	<p>SERIOUSNESS (a younger version of “temperate”) – understanding of consequences and responsibilities SOUNDNESS OF SPEECH (part of a younger “worthy of respect”) – truth telling and building up</p>
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John 10:10 - In this short verse, Jesus gives us the result of His life here on Earth, His death, burial, and resurrection. He contrasts it with the result of following the evil one and his selfish agenda. A life of selflessness made possible by being complete in Jesus brings full, fuller, fullest life. Jesus wants to lead us to our potential!

1 John 2:6 - This simple verse of instruction gives us an unmistakable template for full life – live life as Jesus did and as we see it in the Gospels.

Study:

1. What “extreme” emotions and actions cause those around a man to feel unsafe and un-provided for? How can a man avoid those emotions and actions and how can a woman help? (Titus 2:2,7)
2. What kind of older or younger man is worthy of respect? What “speech” comes out of the mouth of that kind of man? (Titus 2:2,7,8)
3. When is self-control the hardest and how can a man set himself and others up for success? (Titus 2:2)
4. What kind of man do you consider “loving” and what behaviors tell you that love is his motivation? (Titus 2:2,7)

Call to Action:

5. Think – Read Titus 2:1-8, John 10:10, and I John 2:6 every day and ask Jesus to make those truths happen in your life that day.
6. Love – In your quiet time this week, compare your temperament to the qualities of the “older” or “younger” man in Titus 2:1-8. What do you need to do to change and move one step closer to full life? How can you ask the other men in your small group to hold you accountable to this new direction?
7. Serve – Having made the above determination, take action on the change. Is someone in your group one step ahead of you? Ask them to lead you as you make this commitment. Is there someone who is one step behind you? Serve that brother by agreeing to journey with them as they commit to change.
8. Live – At the end of each day, thank God for the man he has made you to be and ask for the appropriate characteristics to be magnified in your life the next day.

Sharing and Prayer: Share prayer requests, both from this discussion and from other areas of life.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Closing Prayer: If it works, ask one of the women to close this study out by praying over all the men in the group, asking God to reveal in them all the traits in Titus 2:1-8 in increasing measure. Ask her to also pray that the women in the group would be empowered by God to affirm men when they see these traits and to encourage men to be fully “man” and enjoy full life!