

How to Age Gracefully Titus 2:1-3

Introduction:

1. Aging is part of life. Time never stands still - it just keeps moving right along.
 - The older people in this room were once young people. The young people in this room will one day be old. It's part of life.
2. While we have no choice over this aging process, we do have a choice as to **how** we will age. The question is not, "What kind of person were you in your past?", but the question is, "What kind of person are you **becoming**?"
3. Our young people desperately need some role models worth looking at. They need somebody they can look at, and see the grace life in action. They need to see some Christian maturity **lived out** in the circumstances of daily life.
4. Paul knew that this was vital and he knew that the local church was the ideal place for this to happen. That is what this text is about.
5. If people have been saved for a number of years, there are some godly attributes (graces) that their lives **should** reflect. There should be some deep spiritual maturity in the older saints that those who are younger in the Lord can draw from.
6. That is what this text is all about - aging gracefully (not physically, but spiritually) - The grace life being seen and evidenced.

Aging gracefully begins with the speaking and receiving of God's truth. vs. 1

1. The kind of lives described in verses 2-10 are not built through entertainment, stories, activities, and "staying busy for the Lord."
 - This is why Paul begins with the conjunction "but". He is making a comparison with the false teachers of Chapter 1 and what their teaching produced. 1:16
2. They are built by receiving, digesting and applying God's truth. Jesus was full of **grace and truth**. Aging gracefully (full of grace) will not happen apart from truth.
3. Paul calls this truth "sound doctrine." In order to see the spiritual maturity of verses 2-10, Paul told Titus to "speak the things which become sound doctrine." There are no shortcuts to building spiritually mature lives. **Titus 2:1, 15**
 - Paul didn't tell Titus to use drama, music, personality profiles, town hall type meetings, or sensitivity training. He said, "*Speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.*"
 - You teach God's Word and God's Word will do the work that everybody else is trying to get done another way.
4. There must be people who are willing to patiently **teach** sound doctrine and those who will long for it and **receive** it. **1 Thessalonians 2:13**
5. As believers get some spiritual years on them, there should be a demonstration of this sound doctrine evidenced in their lives. Truth must be **learned**, but should then be **lived**. Just because you have grown old doesn't mean you have grown up.

Aging gracefully - for men. vs. 2

1. Paul turns his attention to the aged men. This doesn't mean men that are shuffling around on a walker with one foot in the grave. It is speaking of men that have some **spiritual** age on them - some years of walking with the Lord.
2. When they were younger they invested in the development of their inner man, and now that they are older, the crown and glory of the grace of God is demonstrated in their lives.

3. Old age strips the body of its glamour, so that the beauty of your inner man (your spirit) can shine forth.
4. How is the grace of God demonstrated in these older men?
 - **Sober** - they think clearly and Biblically about life. They exercise sound judgment that brings stability, even in a chaotic world.
 - **Grave** - they have **earned** the respect of others because of their Christian character.
 - **Temperate** - they do not allow anything in life to control and dominate them (too much eating, working, sleeping, playing, sports, television, etc.).
 - **Sound in faith** - they live lives of reliance on God's Word. They are experienced in **using** their faith and applying sound doctrine to the details of life.
 - **Sound in charity and patience** - they demonstrate the graces of the Spirit in their dealings with others. They are loving and patient with people, not using their age as a weapon to always be chewing somebody out, blowing off steam, or getting their way.

Aging gracefully - for women. vs. 3

1. Paul now describes some characteristics of the spiritually mature women. How do they demonstrate the grace life?
 - **Behavior as becometh holiness** - they live lives that beautify the identity they have in Christ. They live lives that are consistent with who God has made them in Christ. The inner identity they have in Christ flows forth in their actions.
 - **Not false accusers** - they refuse to partake in slander and gossip. "False accusers" is translated "devil" in other places. Ladies who spread gossip are doing the devil's work.
 - **Not given to much wine** - they live in the sufficiency of Christ, not alcohol or any other substance. They don't sublimate problems artificially, but face them head on through Christ. They can successfully deal with the problems of life through God's Word.
 - **Teachers of good things** - they have a teaching ministry among the younger ladies. The role of young women in the home, marriage, and life in general is to be exemplified and taught by the older women in the church (not Dear Abby or Oprah).
2. There is nothing more beautiful than a spiritually mature lady who ages gracefully, full of grace and truth, and willing to teach and invest in other young ladies.
3. This doesn't happen by accident. It is because she built these things into her life when she was young in the Lord.

In Conclusion:

1. What a shame that so many aged saints get the attitude, "I did my Christian duty. Let the younger saints do it now."
2. Here are saints who have been around the block. They know Bible truth, they understand how God works and Satan works. They have made mistakes, but grown in the Lord through those mistakes.
3. At a time when they could be having their greatest impact for Christ, they basically retire from the Lord's work and spend life in front of a TV, on a golf course or shuffle board court. What a waste!
4. We need you! We need you involved in teaching our children and teens. We need you involved in teaching single moms and dads, married couples, etc. We need you!
5. At a time when you can have your greatest influence - **use it!** Use it to build people and impact lives.