

Five-Day Devotional

Titus 2:1-2, 6-8

Day 1: Every Man Is Being Formed

Read: Titus 2:1, Titus 1:15-16, Romans 12:1-2

Our culture is confused about what a man is. One voice says strength makes the man. Another says success, independence, sexuality, or self-definition. The voices disagree, but they share an assumption: each man can decide for himself what he should become.

Paul begins somewhere else. "But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine." God does not leave Christian men to invent manhood. He speaks. His Word gives us the standard and exposes every rival voice that wants to govern us.

That matters because no one develops in neutral territory. Culture forms us. Family history forms us. Success and failure leave their mark. Wounds, fears, comforts, and desires all compete for influence. Left alone, our appetites will gladly volunteer to lead. The question is not whether you are being formed. The question is what is forming you into the person you are becoming.

Sound doctrine is more than correct information. Paul expects healthy teaching to produce healthy Christians. The truth of God is meant to reach our judgment, desires, speech, relationships, and conduct. That is why Titus must keep teaching it. Godly character does not appear spontaneously.

This does not begin with self-improvement. Paul will soon remind us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation. Christ saves sinful people, then His grace trains those He has saved. We submit to God's Word because Christ has claimed us, not because good behavior can make us worthy of Him.

God's Word may confront the habits and assumptions that have shaped you for years. That confrontation is mercy. The Father is not leaving you under the rule of the loudest voice. Through His truth, He is forming you to live like someone who belongs to Christ.

Receiving that truth also means remaining teachable. Familiarity with a verse is not the same as submission to it. Ask God for a willing heart, not merely an informed mind.

Reflection Questions

1. Which voice most often shapes your view of a successful or mature life?
2. Where does your conduct resist something you already know from God's Word?
3. How does Christ's saving grace keep this examination from becoming self-condemnation?

Practical Application

Read Titus 2:1-14 slowly. Write down one area where God's Word is challenging the way you have been formed.

Prayer

Father, I confess that I often let culture, fear, comfort, and desire shape me more than Your Word. Thank You for speaking clearly and for sending Christ to save me. Show me where a rival voice has been governing my life. Give me grace to receive Your truth and submit to it today. **In Jesus' name, Amen**

Day 2: Grace Does What Age Cannot

Read: Titus 2:2, Psalm 92:12-15, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Paul tells Titus what older men are to be: sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, and sound in faith, love, and steadfastness. He does not assume these qualities arrive with age. He commands Titus to teach older men toward them.

Gray hair is not a means of grace.

Time gives a man experience, but experience can make him humble or proud. Disappointment can deepen his faith or harden him into cynicism. Responsibility can teach patient love or become an excuse to withdraw. Age creates an expectation of maturity, but it cannot produce the character Paul describes.

Grace does what age cannot. Over time, sound doctrine should form a man who is increasingly clearheaded, weighty, and governed. He is not ruled by panic, impulse, or whatever happens to be loudest. Eternal things carry real weight for him. His life shows ordered judgment.

Paul also describes spiritual health. Mature Christian men grow sound in faith, love, and steadfastness. Their trust in God deepens through disappointment. Their love becomes more charitable instead of more contemptuous. They continue faithfully under pressure rather than quietly disengaging.

Settled maturity does not mean the fight is over. Older men are still commanded to exercise self-control. They still carry responsibilities entrusted by Christ. A wife, children, grandchildren, younger believers, and the church may all be affected by whether an older man keeps following Jesus with humility and faithfulness.

If this portrait exposes gaps in you, do not hide behind personality or history. Do not despair either. Your standing with God does not rest on a spotless record of maturity. It rests on Christ's finished work. The same grace that forgives your failures continues training you. Return to sound doctrine. Ask the Father to make the years ahead increasingly fruitful.

Christ's return also gives steadfast people hope. The pressures of this season are real, but they are not final. Mature faith keeps looking ahead to Him.

Reflection Questions

1. Are you becoming clearer-headed and more loving, or more agitated and cynical?
2. Where have you confused years around Christian truth with growth under Christian truth?
3. What responsibility has Christ entrusted to you in this season?

Practical Application

Ask one mature Christian who knows you well where they see growth in your life and where they believe you still need to grow.

Prayer

Father, I confess that I can mistake age, experience, or familiarity with church for spiritual maturity. Thank You that my acceptance rests on Christ and not on my record. Keep forming me through Your Word. Deepen my faith, love, and steadfastness, and help me carry every responsibility You have entrusted to me. **In Jesus' name, Amen**

Day 3: I Belong to Christ

Read: Titus 2:6, 11-14, Romans 6:11-14

Paul gives younger men one comprehensive command: be self-controlled. He does not excuse immaturity as a harmless stage or tell the church to wait until young men eventually settle down. Titus is to urge them toward maturity now.

Self-control reaches farther than one temptation. It includes the mind, body, sexuality, speech, money, ambition, emotions, time, relationships, and use of strength. The question is bigger than, "Can I control myself?" The deeper question is, "What controls me?"

Desire says, "Do what feels good." Anger says, "Say it now." Lust says, "Take what you want." Ambition says, "Prove yourself." Comfort says, "Avoid responsibility." Each voice wants the right to govern the man.

Paul's answer is not autonomous willpower. A self-controlled Christian is not a self-made person. Titus 2:11-14 explains that the grace which saves us also trains us. Christ gave Himself to redeem us from lawlessness, purify us, and make us His own possession.

Christian self-control begins with a new identity: I am Christ's man. I belong to Him.

My desires do not own me. My anger does not own me. My sexuality, career, comfort, and reputation do not own me. Christ does. Because I belong to Him, those desires no longer have the right to rule me.

Grace also moves us from restraint to responsibility. Saying no to sin makes room to say yes to what Christ has entrusted to us. We keep our word, serve the church, work faithfully, protect rather than exploit, and use strength for the good of others. The exact responsibilities differ by calling and season, but Christ's gracious rule covers the whole life.

Where the struggle remains active, do not confuse struggle with abandonment. Grace is still training you. Bring the fight into the light, receive Christ's mercy, and keep submitting every part of yourself to the One who bought you.

Reflection Questions

1. Which desire most often acts as though it has the right to rule you?
2. How does belonging to Christ change the way you understand self-control?
3. What responsibility have you avoided because obedience felt inconvenient?

Practical Application

Name one active struggle to a trusted Christian today and ask that person to pray with you and follow up this week.

Prayer

Father, I confess that I often let desire, anger, comfort, or reputation rule me. Thank You that Christ gave Himself to redeem me and make me His own. Train me by Your grace. Help me say no to sin and yes to the responsibilities You have placed before me. **In Jesus' name, Amen**

Day 4: A Pattern Worth Following

Read: Titus 2:7-8, 1 Corinthians 11:1, Philippians 3:17

Paul moves from what Titus must speak to what Titus must show. "Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works." Titus cannot merely explain sound doctrine. He must embody it.

The word translated "model" describes a pattern that leaves an impression. Younger men need to see what sound doctrine looks like in an actual life. They need more than definitions of integrity, dignity, and self-control. They need someone whose choices make those truths concrete.

Godly manhood must become visible if it is going to be reproduced. Paul does not command every older man in this passage to begin a formal mentoring program. He does give us a clear principle: truth that shapes a life can be followed by another person.

That presses a personal question. Where would a younger believer end up if he followed your pattern?

He would notice how you speak when you are frustrated. He would learn from the way you treat women, handle money, admit sin, keep promises, carry responsibility, and respond when no one applauds. A pattern is formed in ordinary moments long before anyone calls it mentoring.

This does not require pretending to be flawless. A believable Christian pattern includes repentance. When failure is exposed, the Christian man does not hide, excuse, or manage appearances. He confesses sin, receives mercy, submits again to God's Word, and returns to the grace that is still training him.

Christ is the only perfect pattern. Every faithful human example is following Him and depends on His grace. That protects us from both pride and despair. We do not invite people to admire us. We want our lives to help them see what it looks like when Christ truly rules a person.

You are already leaving an impression on someone. Ask the Father to make it one that helps others follow Jesus.

Reflection Questions

1. What would someone learn about following Christ by watching your ordinary week?
2. Does your response to failure model honest repentance or careful image management?
3. Who has shown you a faithful pattern, and what did you learn from that person?

Practical Application

Thank one Christian whose visible faithfulness has helped you follow Christ, then identify one younger believer you can encourage this week.

Prayer

Father, I confess that my life does not always match what I say I believe. Thank You for the mercy Christ gives when I repent. Make my conduct a faithful pattern rather than a stumbling block. Help me follow Christ openly enough that others can see what His grace produces. **In Jesus' name, Amen**

Day 5: Give Them Nothing Legitimate to Say

Read: Titus 2:7-8, Titus 1:16, 1 Peter 2:11-12

Titus lives before two audiences. Younger men are watching because they need a pattern. Opponents are watching because they want a contradiction. The same life must give the first group something worth following and the second group nothing legitimate to condemn.

Paul has already described false teachers who profess to know God but deny Him by their works. Their mouths and lives contradict each other. Titus must embody the opposite. His teaching says Christ is Lord, and his life should increasingly say, "Christ is my Lord."

The doctrine must survive contact with the man teaching it.

Paul then widens the stakes. He wants the opponent to have nothing evil to say "about us." Titus's integrity affects the credibility of the whole Christian community's profession. Our conduct cannot make the gospel true, but it can adorn what we profess or contradict our profession of it.

That is why supposedly private sin rarely stays private. It forms the person who enters a marriage, family, friendship, church, workplace, and community. Other people eventually live with what we have allowed to govern us in secret.

This matters to the whole church. Women need Christian men who live under Christ's rule instead of domination or passivity. Children need fathers and older men whose lives show godliness. Congregations need qualified men who carry responsibility without making leadership about themselves. A watching world encounters the church's profession through the lives of its people.

Integrity is fruit, not the ground of assurance. God does not receive us because critics cannot find a flaw. He receives sinners through Christ's finished work. Grace forgives the people we have been and trains us to live increasingly like those who belong to Him.

When your profession and practice disagree, bring the contradiction into the light. Repent. Receive mercy. Return to the Word. Christ saves sinful people and makes them His own.

Reflection Questions

1. Where is there a settled contradiction between what you profess and how you live?
2. Who else is affected by the habits you consider private?
3. How does Christ's finished work give you courage to repent honestly?

Practical Application

Take one concrete step to close a known gap between your profession and practice. Confess it to God and, when appropriate, to someone affected by it.

Prayer

Father, I confess the places where my conduct contradicts what I say I believe. Thank You that Christ's finished work, not my flawless performance, is the ground of my acceptance. Give me courage to repent honestly. Produce visible integrity in me for the good of Your church and the witness of the gospel. **In Jesus' name, Amen**