



Becoming Titus 2 Men and Women

Teaching Sound Doctrine

Questions for Discussion

- What is doctrine?
- What is the significance of the word “sound” in relation to doctrine?
- What role or responsibility does every believer have in relation to sound doctrine?

Titus 2:1-15 (ESV)

¹ But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.

² Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. ³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. ⁶ Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. ⁷ Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, ⁸ and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. ⁹ Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, ¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. ¹⁵ Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

What is Doctrine?

- **Defining Doctrine**

- In the broadest terms, doctrine is a body of information that is received and subsequently transmitted to another.
- The use of the term in Scripture, however, is broader than a simple reference to information passed on from one person to another or from one generation to the next. Christianity is a religion founded on a message of good news rooted in the significance of the life of Jesus Christ. In Scripture, then, **doctrine refers to the entire body of essential theological truths that define and describe that message [the gospel]** (1 Tim 1:10; 4:16; 6:3; Titus 1:9).¹
- The message includes historical facts, such as those regarding the events of the life of Jesus Christ (1 Cor 11:23). But it is deeper than biographical facts alone. As J. Gresham Machen pointed out years ago, Jesus' death is an integral historical fact but it is not doctrine. Jesus' death for sins (1 Cor 15:3) is doctrine. Doctrine, then, is scriptural teaching on theological truths.²
- Doctrine is indispensable to Christianity.
 - Believers, in general, are instructed to stand firm in sound doctrine (2 Tim 1:13-14).
 - Pastors in particular are admonished to cling to sound doctrine (1 Tim 4:6).
- The use of "doctrine" in Scripture is important for at least three reasons.
 - It affirms that the early church was confessional.
 - The use of the term reflects development of thought in the early church. By the time of the pastoral epistles, the apostolic message had become traditional teaching.
 - It affirms the indispensable link between **spirituality** and **doctrine**. Christianity is a way of life founded on doctrine (more next week).³

- **Sound Doctrine in the Local Church⁴**

- Doesn't doctrine divide?
 - In one sense, yes.
 - But what is the purpose of sound doctrine in a particular local church?

¹ Sam Hamstra Jr., "Doctrine," in *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, electronic ed., Baker Reference Library (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1996), 185.

² Hamstra "Doctrine," 185.

³ Hamstra "Doctrine," 185–186.

⁴ See Bobby Jamieson, *Sound Doctrine*, 15–26, 73–82.

- How does doctrine unite?
 - Doctrine is God's Road Map for the Christian Life
 - **Psalm 119:105** *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*
 - **Ephesians 4:1-3** ¹ *I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*
 - **2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17** ¹⁵ *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. . . . ^{3:16} All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*
 - Doctrine is Meant for Life Together
 - **Romans 12:3-8** ³ *For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.*
 - **1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11-14** ⁴ *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. . . . ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apports to each one individually as he wills. ¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many.*

- We Cannot Separate Ourselves from The Body
 - **1 Corinthians 12:15** *If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.*

- We Cannot Live Autonomously
 - **1 Corinthians 12:21** *The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."*

- We Must Care for All the Other Members
 - **1 Corinthians 12:24-25** ²⁴ *which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.*

- Our Lives Are Interwoven with the Rest of the Body
 - **1 Corinthians 12:26** *If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.*
 - **Romans 12:15** *Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.*

Teaching Sound Doctrine

- **How Do We Teach What Accords with Sound Doctrine?**
 - Study Deeply (You Are a Theologian)
 - **Ezra 7:10** *For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.*

 - Handle Rightly (You Are a Worker)
 - **2 Timothy 2:15** ¹⁵ *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.*

- Memorize Consistently (Out of the Overflow)
 - **Psalm 119:11** *I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*
 - **Luke 6:45**⁴⁵ *The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.*
- Meditate Continually (Think Over what God Says)
 - **2 Timothy 2:7** *Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.*
- Think Holistically (How Does This Fit?)
 - **2 Timothy 3:16-17** ¹⁶ *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,* ¹⁷ *that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*
- Live Accordingly (How Then Shall We Live?)
 - **Romans 12:1-3** ¹ *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.* ² *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.* ³ *For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.*
- **Some Final Thoughts**
 - **Ephesians 4:29** *Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*
 - **Galatians 6:10** *So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

Where We're Headed

- **Modeling Gospel Application: Titus 2 Lives in a Genesis 3 World (2:2-15)**