

Testimony

Scripture

“But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself [to be] a pattern of good works; in doctrine [showing] integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you. [Exhort] bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all [things], not answering back, not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.” (Titus 2:1-10 NKJV)

Commentary

God being a glorious and good God, has given His children endless grace. How wonderful He is to love such vile creatures. Given our condition, it is a marvelous testimony to God’s mercy that we live and breathe to do His bidding.

Therefore, because we stand in such a blessed position, Paul exhorts Titus to speak sound doctrine that the Word of God may not be blasphemed. He gives a shopping list of proper behavior for several groups of people. Older men are to be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, love, and so on. The Older women are to admonish the young women. He was to exhort the young men to be sober-minded.

Again, this is to be done that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you. Our lives should be lived in such a way that no one could realistically point an accusing finger at us and have it stick. Those who go before the courts give testimony to the facts in their particular case. If we were to enter court and be tested based on our testimony, the verdict should be not guilty.

Our testimony is a precious and fragile thing. It is precious because we are ambassadors for Christ. It is fragile because it is easily damaged. To bring insult to Christ for our sinful lusts is a crime of unimaginable proportion. Oh, take a moment and realize how many times you have given the world opportunity to blaspheme the name of God. Lay hold of that thought, and guard your heart against any further wickedness. Protect your testimony like a piece of fine china because if it ever is broken people will always see the cracks.

Prayer

Father, have mercy upon us, and keep us from evil. Teach us to walk in the light as you are in the light. We know that if we walk in darkness we are not yours. Remind us moment by moment if necessary how precious and fragile our testimony is, amen.