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Exactly what Does it Take to be Godly?

Titus 2:12: (NASB) "Instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age;"

The world that we live in is tough. It is not only full of challenges to our convictions; it is full of diversions and distractions as well. We are overwhelmed with input, advertisement, chatter, emails, Facebook, Twitter, blogs, sports, entertainment, politics, work, leisure, holidays, events, traffic, weather, style, fashion, home repair, friends, family and life in general that to step away from it all and focus on pure and simple Godliness seems almost impossible. Yet, we as Christians are to pursue Godliness as a primary objective for our lives! Okay, now what? How do we do that? Stay with us as we examine the secret (well it's really not so secret, it's in the book of Titus), this formula for being Godly in an ungodly world!

How do we live in a Godly manner in this present age?

We will be spending a lot of time in the book of Titus, which was a letter to Titus from the Apostle Paul. First of all, who is Titus? Let's summarize some commentary:

(Source: *Albert Barnes, Notes: Explanatory and Practical, 1832-72*) The History of Titus: Of Titus nothing more is certainly known than what we find in the epistles of Paul. It is somewhat remarkable that there is no mention of him in the Acts of the Apostles; nor does his name occur in the New Testament anywhere except in the writings of the apostle Paul. From his incidental allusions to him, we learn the following particulars respecting him. 1. He was by birth a Gentile. In Galatians 2:3, he is called a Greek, and it is certain from that passage that he had not been circumcised;...Galatians 2:3 2. He had been converted to Christianity by the instrumentality of Paul himself....Titus 1:4 3. Titus went with Paul to Jerusalem when he was deputed by the church at Antioch with Barnabas, to lay certain questions before the apostles and elders there in reference to the converts from the Gentiles, Acts 15... It is possible that he was taken with him to Jerusalem because his was a case in point in regard to the question which was to come before the apostles and elders there. Galatians 2:1 4. After the council at Jerusalem, it seems probable that Titus returned with Paul and Barnabas, accompanied by Silas and Judas, Acts 15:22; and that afterwards he attended (to) the apostle for a considerable time in his travels and labours. 2 Corinthians 8:23 5. There is reason to believe that Titus spent some time with the apostle in Ephesus; for the First Epistle to the Corinthians was written at Ephesus, and

was sent by the hand of Titus. 2 Corinthians 8:6 6. We next hear of him as being left by the apostle in the island of Crete. Titus 1:5 7. He was with Paul in Rome during his second imprisonment there. 2 Timothy 4:10

Our First Lesson on living in a Godly manner: "Setting the table"

To successfully pass the message of Godliness on to others, it must be put into the hands of those who are Godly. In this case, Titus was obviously of such a character!

The first chapter of the letter to Titus states Paul's reason for

leaving him on the island of Crete: Titus 1:5 Paul then gives Titus guidelines for the finding of these elders: Titus 1:6-9 An elder is an overseer as God's steward, one who takes care of goods owned by another. Titus is to find Godly shepherds to watch the flock. The necessity for Godly shepherds is magnified by the presence of ungodly leaders! Titus 1:10 Titus 1:13-14: The "they" here spoken of seems to refer to those who are subjected to the deceivers and not to the deceivers themselves as exhibited at the end of verse 14 - "men who turn away from the truth."

Titus 1:15-16: A key revealing process is observing the deeds of a man - those pure in heart will produce a pure in heart attempt and even though imperfect, they are blessed - the efforts of the defiled mind will result in defiled and self-serving deeds. Intention breeds revelation (eventually!). It is like preparing the ground in a garden, getting it ready to plant the seeds. Godliness can't flourish in an ungodly environment. It needs great care.

Our Second Lesson on living in a Godly manner: "Setting the table"

To successfully prepare for a Godly environment, there must be shepherds in place who have habitually exhibited strong, stable and mature characters to thoroughly overcome the ungodly and worldly influences surrounding the true church.

Now on to the second chapter of Titus and the key lessons of Godliness:

Titus 2:1: (NASB) "But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine."

Make sure that the words you speak are wholesome enough on a spiritual level that they will accomplish something.

Our Third Lesson on living in a Godly manner: "Setting the table"

To successfully attain a Godly environment there must be a context of the Word of God as the basis for all teaching.

What is fitting to speak? 2 Timothy 3:16-17 2 Timothy 4:1-5: Truth has to rise above what you want to hear so you can learn what you need to hear. 2 Peter 1:19-21: The Scriptures must be our basis of Godliness.



Now that the environment has Godly preparation, let's look at those in the environment:

First the aged men - the male senior citizens, more mature church members

Titus 2:2: (NASB) "Older men are to be **temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.**"

Temperate (NASB)/Sober (KJV): Strong's #3524 nephaleos (nay-fal'-eh-os); or nephalios (nay-fal'-ee-os); sober, i.e. (figuratively) circumspect: having restraint

1 Timothy 3:2: "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, **vigilant <3524>**, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;"

Dignified (NASB)/Grave (KJV): Strong's #4586 σεμνος semnos sem-nos'; venerable
Greek-English Lexicon: to be venerated for character, honorable

Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are **honest <4586>**, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Sensible (NASB)/Temperate (KJV): Strong's #4998 sophron (so'-frone); safe (sound) in mind, i.e. self-controlled (moderate as to opinion or passion): Greek-English Lexicon: 1) of a sound mind, sane, in one's senses 2) curbing one's desires and impulses, self-controlled, temperate

The only uses of this word are in describing examples to be followed:

1 Timothy 3:2: "A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, **sober <4998>**, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;"

Titus 1:8: "But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, **sober <4998>**, just, holy, temperate;"

Can people count on you to be strong and stable?

Sound in Faith: Assurance, conviction

Sound in Love: Agape - benevolent selfless love

1 Timothy 1:5 Hebrews 11:1 1 Corinthians 13:13: You can't have Godliness without faith and love.

Perseverance: Strong's #5281 υπομονη hupomone hoop-om-on-ay' in the New Testament the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings

Be focused on the purpose of your Christianity.

Romans 15:5: "Now the God of **patience <5281>** and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:"

2 Corinthians 6:3-10: (NKJV) "We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much **patience <5281>**, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

The Apostle gives an example of an older man doing these things. He was utterly focused on accomplishing the mission of the Gospel.

Now the aged women - the female senior citizens:

Titus 2:3: (NASB) "Older women likewise are to be **reverent in their behavior <2412>**, not malicious gossips nor **enslaved** to much wine, teaching what is good,"

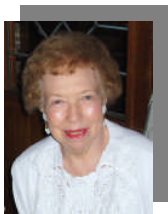
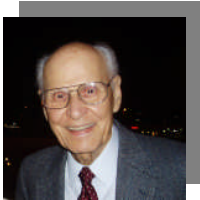
Reverent in their behavior: Strong's #2412 hieroprepes (hee-er-op-rep-ace'); reverent

Romans 16:1-2: (NKJV) "I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also."

Phoebe was a helper and gives a sense of a high level of integrity.

1 Timothy 5:9-10: (NKJV) "Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number, and not unless she has been the wife of one man, well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work."

Not malicious gossips: Strong's #1228 diabolos (dee-ab'-ol-os); a traducer; specially, Satan prone to slander, slanderous, accusing falsely





This same word is translated "devil" 35 times in the New Testament!

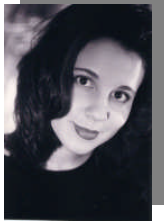
A Godly steward will be both observant and concerned. Godliness may not be natural to us through holy conduct, holy thoughts and holy actions, so we need to examine ourselves carefully.

1 Peter 5:8: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the **devil** <1228>, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"

Be a "teacher of goodness" instead of a malicious gossip. Have your tongue focused on teaching that which is good, because you are an example.

Our Fourth Lesson on living in a Godly manner: "Partaking of the Meal"

To successfully proceed with Godliness from within, it is important to see its transformational effects on those who have the wisdom of years.



To the Young Women:

Titus 2:4-5: (NASB) "so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵to be **sensible** <4998>, **pure** <53>, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored."

The older women are supposed to encourage the younger women to love their husbands and their children.

This shows us that Godliness is not something that can be draped over your life to make you look good; on the contrary, it comes from deep within and has its beginnings expressed in the most basic relationships.

As with the older men, the younger women are admonished to be sensible/ discreet.

Sensible (NASB)/Temperate (KJV): Strong's #4998 *sophron* (so'-frone); safe (sound) in mind, i.e. self-controlled (moderate as to opinion or passion): Greek-English Lexicon: 1) of a sound mind, sane, in one's senses 2) curbing one's desires and impulses, self-controlled, temperate

Pure (NASB)/Chaste (KJV): Strong's #53 *αγνος* *hagnos* hag-nos' exciting reverence, venerable, sacred

Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are **pure** <53>, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

It is an interesting order here - love your family, be of a sound and self-controlled mind and be clean, exciting others to reverence.

Continuing with the admonishing to the young women: Titus 2:5: (NASB) "to be **sensible**, **pure**, **workers at home**, **kind**, **being subject to their own husbands**, so that the word of God will not be dishonored." The focus is to keep the home environment one of Godliness. This principle is still relevant today, even though women often work outside the home. Proverbs 31:10-21 Ephesians 5:22-24: There is a marvelous lesson here for young Christian women. How many people search for a way to make their lives exciting and meaningful? How many people spend their efforts ever searching and never finding? Here the Apostle is showing the way to a vital and exciting life! It is the way of Godliness. It is in this way all of one's desires can be fulfilled, because these young women have the opportunity to love and build up their families. They also have the opportunity to do the will of God and thereby to be obedient to His holy way.

Now, on to the young men:

Titus 2:6-8: (NASB) "Likewise urge the young men to be **sensible**; ⁷in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, **dignified**, ⁸sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us."

Sensible (NASB)/Temperate (KJV): Strong's #4998 *sophron* (so'-frone); safe (sound) in mind, i.e. self-controlled (moderate as to opinion or passion): Greek-English Lexicon: 1) of a sound mind, sane, in one's senses 2) curbing one's desires and impulses, self-controlled, temperate

Romans 12:1-3: (NASB) "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have **sound judgment** <4993>, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith."





"in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds," King James says, "a pattern of good works." The word for pattern carries the thought of a figure formed by an impression, like a stamp or a King's wax seal.

Galatians 6:7-10: (NASB) *"⁷Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. ⁸For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. ¹⁰So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."*

"With purity in doctrine:"

2 Timothy 2:11-19: *There is strength in the admonition given to the young man, Timothy. Know why you believe what you believe - prove it for yourself.*

Dignified: Strong's #4587 σεμνότης semnotes sem-not'-ace: the characteristic of a thing or person which entitles to reverence and respect, dignity, majesty, sanctity

Respect is drawn automatically to the dignified.

"sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us." Matthew 5:33-37: A young man seeking Godliness should be clearly focused on saying those things which are uplifting and edifying. Our words ought to reflect God's will and His word. The mission of Titus was to put that in place. Godliness is built on integrity.

Our Fifth Lesson on living in a Godly manner: "Partaking of the Meal"

To successfully perpetuate Godliness from within, we, no matter what our station in life is, must seek the very foundation of human goodness and integrity so as to build upon it with a view to please God.
All other aspirations will fall away if this foundation is secured and this motivation is adopted.

Now, on to Servants: Titus 2:9-10: Thrive in a spiritual manner in the context in which you live.

In conclusion: Titus 2:11-12: We are told to live sensible and soberly! Some form of this word was used in the admonishing for the older men, young women and young men.

Hebrews 2:9 Romans 6:4-6 Romans 15:1-6 1 Timothy 4:6-11 Titus 2:13-15

Our Sixth Lesson on living in a Godly manner: "Partaking of the Meal"

To successfully perfect Godliness from within, we AS A BODY, realizing the gift of Jesus as the Ransom for all, must apply his character to our own. We must have his priorities, his devotion, his focus, his discipline and his heart within us, so as to attain unto this privileged calling that has found us.

Our Seventh Lesson on living in a Godly manner: "Partaking of the Meal"

To successfully protect Godliness from within, see its value, speak its value and stand firm for its value!

*Exactly What Does it Take to be Godly?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*