

Sermon Based Discussion

Sermon Title: "Old Folks: Respectable Men and Reverent Women"

Sermon Series: Putting the Church in Order (The Book of Titus)

Sermon Text: Titus 2:1-4a

OPENING QUESTION

1. How do movies and TV usually portray older men and women?
2. Would you say these portrayals of older men and women are more often positive or negative, and what does this suggest about how our culture views older men and women?

INTO THE BIBLE (Read Titus 2:1-4a)

3. What are the various expectations for older men? What do they practically involve?
4. What are the various expectations for older women? What do they practically involve?
5. Based upon these instructions for older men and women, what can we infer about how older Christians are to interact with younger Christians?
6. How reasonable are these expectations? Do you see many people living up to these or not?

GOING DEEPER

7. Of the traits for older men and women, which traits have you seen in older Christians? Which traits have you not seen as much in older Christians?
8. Is there a Christian man or woman around 60 years or older that you personally know and respect? Describe the person and your relationship with that person. (If you are over 60, you can still answer this question! But you can also talk about someone younger that you personally know.)

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Are you in a relationship with someone older (or younger if you're an older person)? How can you cultivate such relationships? In many cases, such intergenerational relationships are within families. But in a place like Boston and in a culture like ours, that's less common. Will you begin praying how you can relate to someone of a different generation? Ask God to help you prioritize developing such relationships.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love, and in endurance. Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women... (Titus 2:1-4a, NIV)