

Marks of a Mature Church

Titus 2:1-8

Introduction

1. Everyone wants to be involved with mature organizations.
2. What are the marks of a mature church?

I. There is sound preaching – v.1

A. He is instructing

1. He is to speak
 - a. Matt 13:3 – Jesus spoke parables
 - b. Acts 11:14 – He shall tell thee words..
 - c. Matt 12:46 – while he yet talked...
 - d. Acts 14:25 – when they preached...(all of these include “speaking”)
2. He is to speak sound doctrine
 - a. Sound – true, incorrupt, of good health
 - b. Doctrine – teaching, instruction, precepts

3. He is to school the younger men
 - a. Teach them to be sober minded (curb one’s passions)

B. He is influencing

1. Pattern of good works – figure formed by a blow or impression
 - a. Teaching
 - b. Uncorruptness – integrity
 - c. Gravity – dignity, reverence, respect
 - d. Sincerity – incorruption, perpetuity
 - e. Sound speech – true speech
2. By doing this, it shames him of the contrary part.

II. There are Seasoned Male Saints – vs. 2, 6-7

A. Male Saints are to be influenced through instruction

1. Sober – temperate, abstaining from wine
2. Grave – to be venerated for character, honorable
3. Temperate – curbing one’s desires
4. Sound in faith – healthy in faith
5. Sound in charity – healthy in love
6. Sound in patience – healthy in steadfastness

B. Importance of Seasoned Males

1. Many of the same qualities are needed for men to become elders.

III. There are Seasoned Female Saints – vs. 3-5

A. Female Saints are to be influenced through instruction

1. Holiness – suited to a sacred character that is befitting of persons belonging to the LORD.
2. Not false accusers – prone to slander
3. Not given to much wine – to be enslaved by wine or anything.
4. Teachers of good things – teachers of goodness

B. Female Saints are to be instructing younger saints

1. Sober – Curb one’s passions
2. Love husbands – affectionate to husbands
3. Love children – affectionate to children
4. Discreet – Curbing one’s desires and impulses (same as temperate)
5. Chaste – to excite to reverence, purity, move away from carnality
6. Keepers at home – caring for the affairs of the home
7. Good – good, pleasant, agreeable nature
8. Obedient to husband – arranged under husband

C. Why? – So God’s word will not be blasphemed.

Conclusion

1. What are we doing to help the local church become mature?