

ALL IN THE FAMILY



WEEK 3 - GOD'S INVITATION TO THE ELDERS OVERVIEW

Every generation in human history has had its own version of elders bemoaning “kids these days” and discounting their passion and new ideas as nothing more than youthful exuberance. Never before, however, has such a deep and profound level of disrespect for *older* generations become so accepted among the young. Into this context we seek the wisdom of God about how the older generations of Grace can become “worthy of respect,” as Paul exhorts Titus to teach, even when elders no longer have the implicit respect of the culture at large. Perhaps, through the humility and self-giving love of Grace’s elders, we can demonstrate even in our modern world that there is another way for different generations to live together.

*Teach the older men to exercise self-control, to be worthy of respect, and to live wisely....
Similarly, teach the older women to live in a way that honors God.*

Titus 2:2-3

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think of some examples from your life of positive or negative experiences with someone from another generation. Describe what that was like, whether you were the elder or you were the younger person (or maybe you have seen interactions of others that impacted you).
2. Considering the world behind the text, what was Titus’ job in Crete, and what challenges did he face there? ([Titus 1:5](#))
3. Read [Titus 2:1-5](#).
 - a. What could Paul have been referring to when he said “exercise self-control”?
 - b. Why do you think Paul started with older men when he gave instructions?
 - c. Describe what older men should and should not be doing, according to these instructions.
 - d. Describe what older women should and should not be doing, according to Paul’s instructions.
 - e. Why were Paul’s instructions for teaching older women different than those for the men?
 - f. In what ways might Paul’s instructions apply differently to elders today, because of cultural differences?
4. What traits or behaviors lead you to respect someone who is older than you?
5. Name one suggestion from Paul that you want to implement when you are an elder.
6. What would you say is God’s invitation to the elders?

PRAY

Pray for the elders in your group. Pray for the elders at Grace Church. Pray for the elders in your family, your neighborhood, your place of work.