

The Elderly

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Titus 2:1-8

1. It is just as natural to be old as it is to be young!
 - A. In this congregation, about 3/4 of our members are over 60 years of age.
2. The elderly, who have been Christians most all their lives, possess spiritual and earthly knowledge that we can learn from.

The Elderly:

1. The elderly should never be ashamed of growing old.
 - A. Some people do get overly concerned with the fact that they are growing old and even try to hide their age.

1) Solomon wrote:

Prov 20:29 The glory of young men is their strength, and the splendor of old men is their gray head.

- 2. Normally, the elderly person can not do as much physically as the younger person.**

John 21:18 Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.

- A. The young are able to come and go without any help, but when one becomes advanced in years, it becomes harder and harder to do the things that only a short time ago seemed so simple.**

The Elderly Men

- 1. The spiritual elderly men have a way that they ought to conduct themselves in this life. The apostle Paul wrote:**

Titus 2:2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;

- A. It is such a refreshing sight for me when I see an elderly men in a congregation conduct themselves in a godly manner, in reverence for the almighty God. What a great example that is for everyone in attendance!**
 - 1) On the other hand, it is so sad to see older men who have become an alcoholic, gambler, or who even uses vulgar language.**
 - 2) Young people need to see the elderly as good examples, showing that they are living their lives faithfully.**

The Elderly Women

1. The spiritual older women have a grave responsibility that God has given them. Notice:

Titus 2:3-5 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.

- **Admonish:** "to warn; caution against certain faults; to advise; to remind."
- A. This is telling the older women that they are to teach the younger women how to raise their families and live pure and holy lives!
 - 1) You do the younger a great service when you do and the younger women are only hurting themselves when they don't seek good advice from older Christians.

How the Young People Should Treat the Elderly Men

1. The Lord gave instructions along this line many many years ago.

Leviticus 19:32 You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the LORD.

- A. Young people should be taught to always respect and honor older men, because of their experience and wisdom.

2. The young should learn from King Rehoboam. Ask the older men for advice and be ready to put into practice their words of wisdom.

1 King 12:6-8 Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, and he said, "How do you advise me to answer these people?" And they spoke to him, saying, "If you will be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever." But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him.

3. Young people, be careful what you say to the elderly. God has chosen to give them many years of life on this earth. Remember Elisha?

2 Kings 2:23-24 Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up the road, some youths came from the city and mocked him, and said to him, "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!" So he turned around and looked at them, and pronounced a curse on them in the name of the LORD. And two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths.

4. Peter gives some good advice to young people concerning the elderly. Whether elders of the church or elders in age the responsibility of the youth is the same.

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

How the Young People Should Treat the Elderly Women

1. **Young people are not to despise their mother. Despise means to “look down on or to scorn.”**

Proverbs 23:22 Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

- A. **Also the young are to care for their mothers when they are old. They cared for you when you were young, care for them when they are old.**

1 Timothy 5:4 But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to **show piety at home and to repay their parents**; for this is good and acceptable before God.

- B. **Treat all the elderly women as if they were your own beloved mother.**

Conclusion

1. **Many times the young people are emphasized in the church. And this is necessary because they are learning and need to be taught as they are growing into adulthood.**
 - A. **But we should never forget how necessary the older people are to the church.**
2. **We need both the enthusiasm and work of the young and the wisdom and counsel of the elderly.**
3. **May God grant the younger people many years of faithful service so that they too can grow to be old in the Lord and to teach the younger by their word and example!**

Place

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]

Richie Thetford, January 1996 – Reworked November 2025