

How to Make An Impact - Part 3

Howard Hendricks

Introduction.

Education is what you remember after you have forgotten the facts. Education in the church is essential. We need to make disciples, teaching them to obey Christ. If you want to make an impact on a secular society you need quality leadership. How do you develop quality leadership? Titus chapter 2 gives the answer, and what we believe determines how we behave.

I. We will deal with four groups of people; older men, older women,

A. Older men were between 38-40 and the primary reference in this passage is not to age but to spiritual maturity.

1. Some who have been saved late in life cannot compare themselves with others that have been saved early.
2. Comparing ourselves with others is unwise.
3. On my 50th birthday Tom Landry and Ray Stedman had a party for me with 500 people.
4. I decided to ask God how to spend the rest of my life.
5. The secret of how we spend our lives is what we say no to.
6. Paul delineates the characteristics of mature men.
 - a. Temperance, balanced from too many extremes.
 1. Making mid-course corrections is essential.
 2. Too much time on business or ministry can be harmful.
 3. Balanced men love long without getting into a cul-de-sac.
 - b. Worthy of respect.
 1. Are you making it easy or hard for your children to respect you?
 2. A friend retired from ministry after 47 years but blew it in one day by letting anger spill over on his final day.
 - c. Self-controlled, a fruit of the Spirit.
 1. Is there an area of life over which I do not have control?
 2. If so then the Spirit has much work to do in you.

3. A pagan society needs to see older men with self-control.

d. Conviction.

1. If you don't stand for something you will fall for anything.

2. Many Senators are fighting to support the war in Iraq after realizing the people support it.

3. Find out what God loves and love that; find out what he hates and hate that.

e. Sound in love—compassion.

1. Older people either get bitterer or more loving.

2. Some I avoid.

f. Sound in endurance.

1. This takes commitment.

2. Endurance is a military word, to hold up courageously under fire.

3. It's easy to be committed when no bullets are flying.

4. Under fire we discover our endurance level.

B. Older women is a category too difficult for me.

1. Many have raised children and loved their husbands for years.

2. A New Testament church implements the principles of Titus chapter 2 with respect to older women.

3. Four characteristics of older women.

a. Reverent.

1. This is opposite of those who deny God by their deeds. (Titus 1:16)

2. There must be congruence between deeds and belief.

b. Free from gossip.

1. Men are guilty of this also.

2. We all stumble in many ways but the mature keep the whole body in check, including the tongue. (James 3:2)

i. The tongue is a deadly fire.

ii. If the fire is contained it is helpful.

iii. I don't regret keeping quiet, but I regret speaking foolishly.

c. Not addicted to much wine.

1. This was a problem in the first century and so now.

2. Older women are prone to drink because of ill treatment by men.

3. One out of three women in America will have been sexually or physically abused in the growing up years.

4. A sexually abused girl came to Christ and is now called to ministry and she will be effective because she can relate to others.

d. Hold to what is good.

1. Some have much to contribute to the body of Christ yet are silent because others have said you have nothing to contribute.

2. Some of the best ministers are those who have made mistakes.

3. More young men and women are looking for mentors than older men and women willing to mentor.

e. Train younger women.

1. I completed a study recently of 246 young men in ministry that failed morally.

2. 83% of the man involved sexually did so in the process of counseling women.

3. Pastors are to raise up older women that can train the younger.

C. Discipleship is a process that instills these characteristics in people.

1. Characteristics for younger women.

a. Love their husbands

b. Love their children.

1. In the world today this is counter culture.

2. Husbands and children are not priorities today.

c. Self-controlled, prudent, not in bondage.

d. Pure, chaste, clean.

1. Prostitution was big then and now.

2. Divorce is caused by 15 to 20% of the problems in the relationship, while the remainder of the relationship is good.

e. Working at home.

1. This does not prohibit working out of the home but talks of the quality of work she does.

2. A good home requires work.

3. Don't lose priorities.

f. Kindness, or excellence (a better translation).

g. Subject to their husbands.

1. We have taught submission as if it's only the responsibility of the women.

2. But all believers are called to submission.

2. Characteristics of young men.

a. Encourage self-control.

b. Exemplify Christianity by the quality of your life.

1. Some of you worked hard to start businesses. Now you want to give it to your children so they won't have to work so hard. This is a bad decision. We need to work hard.

2. A man in college confronted me about the wrong use of my mouth and though I hated it he told me the truth I needed to learn.

D. If we implement this discipleship process we will see a change in our churches and our society.