

Trinity Reformed Church of Northwest Connecticut

Biblical, Traditional, Congregational

Lord's Day Worship for
March 10, 2024

*"You shall rise up before the grayheaded and honor the aged,
and you shall revere your God; I am the LORD." - Leviticus 19:32*



“*” = Please stand if you are able.

Welcome, Greeting & Announcements

Call to Worship – Psalm 51:10-15

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

People: And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Leader: Do not cast me away from Your presence

People: And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Leader: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation

People: And sustain me with a willing spirit.

Leader: Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,

People: And sinners will be converted to You.

Leader: Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation;

People: Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness.

Leader: O Lord, open my lips,

People: That my mouth may declare Your praise.

Prayer of Invocation and Confession

Gospel Absolution Text – Luke 1:76-79

***Hymn #1** (red hymnal) – *“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”*

Scripture Reading – 1Corinthians 16:13-14; 1Peter 5:1-7

Ancient Creedal Reading – Apostles' Creed (pg#845 in the red hymnal)

Offerings Presented

[Please put your tithe/offering in the plates before or after the service – Thank you!]

***Doxology #731** (red hymnal)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Sung Psalm #108A** (see insert below) – *“God, My Heart Is Steadfast”*

Prayers of the Church & Lord's Prayer (sins)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Reformation Creedal Reading – Westminster Larger Catechism (1647 AD), Q124

Leader: *Who are meant by father and mother in the Fifth Commandment (which is “honor your father and your mother”)?*

People: **By father and mother, in the fifth commandment,**

Leader: *Are meant, not only natural parents,*

Prov 23:22,25; Eph 6:1-2

People: **But all superiors in age**

1Tim 5:1-2

Leader: *And gifts;*

Gen 4:20-22; 45:8

People: **And especially such as,**

Leader: *By God's ordinance, are over us in place of authority,*

People: **Whether in family,**

2Kgs 5:13

Leader: *Church,*

2Kgs 2:12, 13:14; Gal 4:19

People: **Or commonwealth.**

Is 49:23

Ministry of the Word

Prayer of Illumination

***Sermon Text** – Titus 2:2

***Gloria Patri #735** (red hymnal)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Sermon – “Older Men”

A Sermon Series from the Letter of Paul to Titus

***Hymn #570** (red hymnal) – “Faith of Our Fathers!”

***Benediction** – Numbers 6:24-26

[After service, until 12:30 PM, there is coffee hour fellowship downstairs – Everyone is welcome!]

Announcements

- The church would like to thank the **Gabelmanns** for hosting the pizza/movie night last Friday and all those who attended, it was an enjoyable time.
- The elders would like to get the congregation's opinion about what time they would like **church to start in the summer** (There will be no Sunday School). There are a poll-sheets near the collection plates. If you could fill one out and put it in a collection plate it would be helpful.
- The church is organizing an **Internet Prayer Chain**, which will be coming soon.

Schedule & Upcoming Events

- **Wednesday Night Study** this week (March 13th) is **canceled**.
(There *will be* Tuesday Morning Study on March 12th.)
- On **Easter** (March 31st) new members will be joining the church.
There will be *no Coffee Hour* on Easter.
- Pastor Doug will be starting a **new Adult Sunday School Study** on April 7th
going through the great Congregational catechism the Larger Westminster.

Normal Weekly Schedule

Sunday

9:00-10:15 AM

Sunday School for All Ages

- Younger Children's Class (Vika Winters)
- Older Children's Class (Mason Goodell)
- Women's Study (Verna Aldrich)
Taking Hold of God: Reformed & Puritan Perspectives
on Prayer edited by Joel R. Beeke & Brian G. Najapfour
- Adult Study (Pastor Jon Haulenbeek)
Introduction to the Psalm for March 3rd - 24th.
- New Member's Class (Pastor Doug Aldrich)
For March 3rd - 24th.

10:30 AM

LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

(Lord's Supper on the 1st Sunday)

c.11:40 AM

Coffee Hour

Tuesday

10:30 AM – Noon

Christian Classic Study (Pastor Doug's house)
Augustine's City of God

Wednesday

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Study (Pastor Doug's house)
Book of Genesis

Friday

6:30 PM

YADG – Young Adult Discussion Group (Pastor Doug's house)
1st & 3rd Fridays

Saturday

[*morning*]

Prayer Group – Meets at the Decker-Gabelmann house.
If you are interested please contact Sheryl Gabelmann.

Contact Information

Worship: Every Sunday at 10:30 AM at the Winchester Grange
100 Newfield Rd, Winchester Center, CT 06098

Church's Mailing Address: Trinity Reformed Church; P.O. Box 343; Riverton, CT 06065

Pastor Doug: (860) 379-1147; douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net

Online Resources

Church's Facebook Page: facebook.com/people/Trinity-Reformed-Church/61554974150922/

Church's Webpage: TrinityReformedCT.org

Church Youtube Channel: youtube.com/@TrinityReformedCT

Pastor Doug's Youtube Channels:

Simply Reformed: youtube.com/simplyreformed

Pilgrims of Plunder: youtube.com/@PilgrimsofPlunder

*Liking, Commenting, Sharing
facebook posts and Subscribing,
Liking, Commenting on youtube
helps boost TRC's online
outreach.*

Leadership

Teaching & Preaching Elder: Pastor Doug Aldrich
(860-379-1147; douglas_aldrich@sbcglobal.net)

Ruling Elders: Bob Ensminger
(860-485-8738; robert.ensminger@arthurgrussell.com)
Rich Gabelmann
(860-605-7852; rgabelmann0415@gmail.com)

Deacons: David Mattson (*chair*), Carl Bierce, Caleb Goodell,
Mason Goodell, Dean Winters

Music Coordinator & Treasurer: Cindy Rines

Clerk: Sheryl Gabelmann

Sunday School: Verna Aldrich, Mason Goodell

Sermon Notes

Titus 2:2 - "Older Men"
A Sermon Series on Titus
March 10, 2024

Introduction

- 1) Titus is one of the "Pastoral Epistles" from the New Testament (NT) which are letters from the Apostle Paul to pastors on how to organize and govern the church.
 - a) In chapter 1, Paul commands Titus to appoint elders (*presbyteros*) in the churches in Crete and then spends the rest of the chapter describing what makes a good elder and their purpose.
 - b) In chapter 2, Paul now turns his focus to other critical groups in the congregation.
- 2) *Question:* After focusing on the leadership, what group would you next focus on to make sure that the church is strong?
 - a) For modern Evangelicals, who base their thinking on business growth & entertainment philosophies, the most important group to cater to is young families.
 - i) Family is very important and more about them in future sermons.
 - ii) However, to pander to groups based on growth philosophies is not trusting in God or following His word.
 - b) Our militant, secular, "woke", culture says the focus should be on "intersectional" groups, i.e. those who are viewed as oppressed: Secularists, feminists, certain race groups, the sexually immoral, non-Western (i.e. non-Christian) cultures, etc.
 - i) This is crazy.
 - ii) It is based on the anti-Christ ideology of Cultural Marxism.

- 3) The answer the Apostle gives is: “Older men.”
 - a) Many in our modern culture would hate this answer.
 - b) Paul is not focused on church growth, or social justice, but on godliness and faithfulness.
 - c) Let us follow the biblical pattern and ponder the importance of older men today.

Older Men

- 1) What is an “older man”?
- 2) I am assuming everyone in this audience knows the difference between a man and a woman. Gen 1:27; Matt 19:4; Eph 5:21-33; Col 3:18-21; Titus 2:2-5; 1Pet 3:1-7
- 3) The phrase in Titus for “*older men*” is actually one word and is similar to one already used.
 - a) Titus 1:5 – “*For this reason I (Paul the Apostle) left you (Pastor Titus) in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders (πρεσβύτερος, presbyteros) in every city as I directed you,*”
 - b) Titus 2:2 – “*Older men (πρεσβύτης, presbytēs) are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.*”
- 4) “Elder” means two different things: It’s a description of age and also a title.
 - a) It can mean someone who is simply older than you, though it usually refers to someone who is old and not young or middle aged.¹
 - b) It also refers to a title of a position of authority held by an older man,² in both the OT and NT church.
 - i) In the Old Testament Church. Num 11:16-17,30
 - ii) And, also in the New Church. Titus 1:5; 1Peter 5:1-2a,5
- 5) Clearly, from the context, “elder” in Titus 2:2 means “older men.”
- 6) What does “old” mean?
 - a) This is a general term not dealing with a specific number.
 - b) There is a general biblical pattern, however:
 - i) Roughly around the age of 20 a man is considered an adult.³
 - ii) At 30 he is considered “mature”.⁴
For example, the Lord began His earthly ministry around 30. Luke 3:23
 - iii) After 50 a man is considered an “elder”.⁵
Levitical (OT) priests began their full service at the age of 30 and retired at 50.⁶

¹ Gen 19:4; Ex 10:9; Ezra 3:12; Ps 148:12; Zech 8:4; Luke 15:25; Acts 2:17; 1Tim 5:1-2; Heb 11:2

² Deut 19:12; 21:2-6; 22:15-18; 25:7-9; Josh 24:1; Ruth 4:2,4; 1Kgs 12:6; 2Kgs 19:2; Ezra 10:8,14; Is 37:2; Matt 26:3,47,57; Acts 15:2,4,6,22-23; 20:17; 1Tim 5:17,19; Titus 1:5; James 5:14; 1Pet 5:1,5. 1Timothy calls the committee of elders the govern a local church as literally the “board of elders” (presbyterion).

³ Exodus 30:14; 38:26; Numbers 1:45; 26:2,4. By the way, the Jewish “age of accountability” (or coming of age) at the age 13, as found in the tradition of bar/bat mitzvah is not in the Bible but seems to be a later medieval Jewish tradition. John 9:21,23 speaks of being “of age” but doesn’t give a number. While Genesis 37:2 calls the 17-year-old Joseph “still a youth.”

⁴ Gen 41:46; Num 4:3,23,30,35,39,43,47; 1Sam 13:1; 2Sam 5:4; 1Chr 23:3; 2Chr 31:16; Luke 3:23. It also appears 25 years old might be considered a time to apprentice. (Num 8:24; 2Kgs 14:2; 15:33; 18:2; 23:26; 2Chr 25:1; 27:1,8; 29:1; 36:5)

⁵ Num 4:3,23,30,35,39,43,47; 8:25; John 8:57.

⁶ Num 4:3,23,30,35; 8:24; 1Chr 23:3,24,27; Ezra 3:8. (The base age seems to be 30, while apprentice was allowed at 25 and David lowered it to 20.)

- 7) As a man matures in Christ, by work of the Holy Spirit, he will produce fruit, which Paul commands Pastor Titus to proscribe and encourage.

Qualities of an Older Man

- 1) **Temperate** (νηφάλιος) – To be sober, restrained. 1Tim 3:2,11; Titus 2:2
- a) This in general is about having a state of mind that is free from the excessive influences of passion, lust and/or emotion.
- b) Especially, with regards to the use of alcohol.
- i) The Scriptures frequently warn about the dangers of drunkenness and strong drink (which would include drugs too). Prov 20:1; 23:20-21,29-30; 31:5-7; Is 5:22; 28:7; Hos 4:11; Matt 24:49; Luke 21:34 Rom 13:13; 1Cor 6:10; Eph 5:18; Gal 5:21; 1Tim 3:3,8
- ii) Scripture does not forbid having some alcohol, the key is about moderation. Ps 104:15; John 2:3-10; 1Tim 5:23
- 2) **Dignified** (σεμνός) – To be honorable, noble. Prov 8:6; 15:26; Phil 4:8; 1Tim 3:8,11; Titus 2:2
- a) This is about showing respect for what is good, proper, worthy, awe-inspiring and due reverence – As defined by God and not the world.
- b) Philippians 4:8-9 – *“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable (σεμνός), whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”*
- 3) **Sensible** (σώφρων) – To be moderate, self-controlled, prudent, sound, sober-minded and/or discreet. 1Tim 3:2; Titus 1:8; 2:2,5;
- a) This is about having self-discipline with regard to one’s freedom.
- b) And self-restraint in all of one’s passions and desires.
- 4) **Sound in faith** (ὕγιαίνοντας τῇ πίστει) – To have healthy, accurate trust in God.
- a) True saving faith has three things:
- i) To intellectually **know** the facts about Christ and His Gospel. Acts 8:30-35; Rom 10:14-15
- ii) To intellectually **assent** (or **agree**, or **believe**) to the knowledge about Christ and His Gospel. John 6:28-29; Heb 11:1; Rom 1:16-17; 5:1-2
- iii) To daily willfully **trust** and place one’s life in Christ and His Gospel. Rom 4:16-22; 10:10; Eph 3:12; Heb 4:16; 10:38; 11:7-10; James 1:6
- b) This is required for, and defines all, true Christians.
- i) Remember the Lord Jesus’ first words of public ministry: *“Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe (i.e. to have faith) in the gospel.”* - Mark 1:14b-15
- ii) This is why in Titus 1:13 Paul commands Titus to reprove heretics severely.
- Why? To secure their repentance and bring them to Christ.
 - *“So that they may be sound in the faith.”* - Titus 1:13b
- iii) Paul’s final general command to Titus about appointing elders is: *“as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.”* - Titus 2:1

- iv) Just as Paul commanded Pastor Timothy: “*Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.*”
- 2Timothy 1:13
- c) Remember, for leadership there are levels of faithfulness:
- i) Deacons are to hold “*to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.*” - 1Tim 3:9
 - ii) Elders are to be able to teach the faith and “*to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.*” - Titus 1:9
 - iii) Pastors are to “*work hard at teaching and preaching*” the faith. - 1Tim 5:17
- d) Yet all Christian men, especially the older men who should know better, are to be “*sound of faith.*”
- i) To have a healthy, active, accurate, faith.
 - ii) This is what it is to be a mature Christian man.
- e) Christian faith will always produce love. Gal 5:6; James 2:18-22
- 5) ***In love*** (noun, agapē, ἀγάπη) – To will the other’s good according to God’s Law.
- a) Unlike in English, Greek has several different words for love.
- i) “*Philia*” – This is friendship love. James 4:4
 - For many ancient writers this was the highest form of love.
 - Think of “a band of brothers” in a martial context.
 - It is where we get our word “Philadelphia”, Rom 12:10; 1Thes 4:9; Heb 13:1;
the city of “brotherly-love” from. 1Pet 1:22; 2Pet 1:7
 - ii) “*Storge*” – This is love of family, especially between Rom 1:31; 2Tim 3:3
parents and children.
 - iii) “*Eros*” – This is romantic, male-female love. Prov 7:18; 30:16
Where we get our word “erotic.”
- b) This is “*agapē*” love.
- i) The word “*agapē*” did exist before the New Testament but it was a rare and vague general word.
 - ii) Christ, and His followers, revolutionized this word.
 - iii) This is divine love, self-sacrificing love.
 - iv) 1Corinthians 13:4-8a – “*Love (agapē) is patient, love (agapē) is kind and is not jealous; love (agapē) does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love (agapē) never fails.*”
 - v) Older Bibles translate “*agape*” as “charity.”⁷
 - vi) This is not an emotion but an act of the will, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that does good (i.e. what is pleasing to God’s revealed will) to those around us.
- c) True faith will produce love which will lead to perseverance.

⁷ 1Corinthians 13:4-8a, in the KJV, is “*Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the struth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth.*”

6) **In perseverance** (ὕπομονή) – To be steadfast, to have endurance and patience.⁸

a) Luke 8:15 – “*But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.*”

b) Romans 5:3-5 – “*And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*”

7) Is there a logical flow to Paul’s list of virtues?

a) If one is **temperate** in the things of life (including about alcohol), that will make you **dignified** – being able to show respect and be respected, which will make you **sensible**, self-controlled & prudent.

b) These things must to be rooted in, and defined by, the Word of God, however, and not the world.

c) This requires one to be **sound in faith**, true biblical faithfulness in Christ will always produce **love**, the faithful love of God will cause one to **perseverance**.

d) This might be reading a bit too much into the text, however, throughout Scripture, faith hope and love, are frequently put in order.⁹

i) These are the greatest of Christian virtues.

1Corinthians 13:13 – “*But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.*”

ii) Pastor Doug firmly believes one builds on the other.

iii) To have true love, one must have hope. To have hope, one must have faith/trust in the Triune God.

1Peter 1:21-22 – “*who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart”*

Conclusion

1) Why does Paul, after talking about elders, focus on older men?

a) It is the biblical pattern.

i) The Twelve Tribes lead by the sons of the Patriarch Jacob defined the organization of ancient Israel.

Gen 35:22ff; 49:28ff;
Josh 4:2ff; Rev 7:5ff

ii) Jethro wisely instructed Moses to appoint elders to help govern ancient Israel.

Ex 18:12ff

iii) The Lord Jesus chose Twelve Apostles.

Matt 10:1ff

iv) And in Titus we have read that Paul commands Pastor Titus to appoint elders in the churches in Crete.

Titus 1:5ff

⁸ Luke 8:15; 21:19; Rom 2:7; 5:3-4; 8:25; 15:4-5; 2Cor 1:6; 6:4; 12:12; Col 1:11; 1Thes 1:3; 2Thes 1:4; 3:5; 1Tim 6:11; 2Tim 3:10; Titus 2:2; Heb 10:36; 12:1; James 1:3-4; 5:11; 2Pet 1:6; Rev 1:9; 2:2-3,19; 3:10; 13:10; 14:12.

⁹ Ps 31:23-24; 119:42,47-49; 146:3,5-6,8; John 5:42,44-47; Rom 5:1-5; 12:5,9-12; 1Cor 13:4,7,13; 2Cor 5:7,11,14; Gal 5:5-6; Eph 1:12-13,15,18-19; 2:4,8,12; 4:2,4-5; Col 1:4-5,23; 1Thes 1:3-5; 5:8; 2Thes 2:13-16; 1Tim 1:1-2,4-5; 4:10-12; Titus 1:1-2,4,6,8-9; 3:4,7-8,15; Heb 10:23-25; 1Pet 1:3,5,7-9; 1:20-23.

- b) With age, hopefully, comes experience and wisdom. Job 12:12; 32:7-8; Prov 16:31
- i) We are commanded to respect our elders. Lev 19:32; Prov 23:22; Lam 5:12; 1Tim 5:1; 1Pet 5:5
 - ii) The very first of the “love your neighbor commandments” (i.e. the second tablet of the Law) is the 5th Commandment – “*Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.*” - Ex 20:12
 - We first learn to respect authority, a very godly thing, from the very beginning of life.
 - Note the promise to society, that a godly society that respects family and authority will bring longer life.
 - iii) This is rooted in creation itself.
- c) Men are created to provide, protect and lead, as it was from Adam onward. Gen 1:27-30; 2:15; 3:20; 1Cor 11:8ff; Eph 5:22-24; Col 3:18; 1Tim 2:13-15; Titus 2:3-5
- i) In the church, in the family and in society.
 - That is why the first way Paul tells Titus to judge an elder is by how he governs his family. Titus 1:6; 1Tim 3:5
 - That is why Paul starts with “older men” in Titus 2:2.
 - ii) 1Timothy 5:8 – “*But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*”
 - iii) The church is not a business. It is like a household, an army, a priesthood, and those are governed by men. Matt 21:12ff; John 2:16; Eph 2:19; 2Tim 2:3-4; 1Pet 2:5,9; 4:17; Rev 1:6
- c) It is unnatural, and contrary to Scripture and the created order, to twist this around, which will only lead to chaos and wickedness.¹⁰
- 2) Paul sums this up wonderfully in 1Corinthians 16:13-14 – “*Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.*”
- a) This rejects woke secular feminism.
 - i) The church needs men to “*man up.*”
 - ii) To “*be on the alert*”, to “*stand firm*”, to “*act like men*”, to “*be strong.*”
 - b) It also rejects pagan barbaric masculinity.
 - i) Because men are to “*stand firm in the faith.*”
 - ii) That faith which teaches the second greatest commandment is to love your neighbor, which even includes your enemies. Matt 22:39-40; Matt 5:43-44; Rom 12:20
 - iii) As Paul proscribes: “*Let all that you do be done in love.*”
- 3) This strength is rooted in the Gospel: Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁰ Gen 2:19-24; 3:16,20; 1Sam 4:9; 2Sam 10:12; Ps 48:6; Is 3:8,12; 6:24; 13:7-8; 19:16; 21:3; 26:16-18; Jer 4:31; 30:6; 48:41; 51:30,37; Mic 4:9-10; Nah 3:13; John 16:21-22; 1Cor 11:5,13; 14:34; Eph 5:22-24; Col 3:18; 1Thes 5:3; 1Tim 2:9-15; 4:7; Titus 2:3-5; 1Pet 3:1-7