

Basic Instructions

Titus 2:1-10

Introduction

In Titus, Paul gives Christians in six different places in life basic instructions for living. Those places in life are: older man, older woman, young woman, young man, minister, and employee. All of us will find ourselves addressed in at least one of the sections, but some might be in two or even three. The instructions are absolutely practical and easily applicable. Let's see what God says to us through Paul.

Background Passage:

Titus 2:1-10 – ¹But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.

²Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance. ³Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, ⁴that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored. ⁶Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; ⁷in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, ⁸sound in speech which is beyond reproach, in order that the opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us. ⁹Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, ¹⁰not pilfering, but showing all good faith that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect. - NASB

¹As for you, Titus, promote the kind of living that reflects wholesome teaching. ²Teach the older men to exercise self-control, to be worthy of respect, and to live wisely. They must have sound faith and be filled with love and patience. ³Similarly, teach the older women to live in a way that honors God. They must not slander others or be heavy drinkers.[a] Instead, they should teach others what is good. ⁴These older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children, ⁵to live wisely and be pure, to work in their homes, to do good, and to be submissive to their husbands. Then they will not bring shame on the word of God. ⁶In the same way, encourage the young men to live wisely. ⁷And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching. ⁸Teach the truth so that your teaching can't be criticized. Then those who oppose us will be ashamed and have nothing bad to say about us. ⁹Slaves must always obey their masters and do their best to please them. They must not talk back ¹⁰or steal, but must show themselves to be entirely trustworthy and good. Then they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way. – NLT

Let's break down this passage into the six different constituencies Paul mentioned and investigate his instructions to each.

Basic Instructions for Older Men:

Titus 2:2 – ²Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.

Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. – NIV

«2:2» πρεσβύτεας νηφαλίους εἶναι, σεμνοὺς, σώφρονας, ὑγιαίνοντας τῇ πίστει, τῇ ἀγάπῃ, τῇ ὑπομονῇ·

Old man – Older than the people who were younger.

Temperate:

3524 νεφαλεος nephaleos {nay-fal'-eh-os}

AV - sober 2, vigilant 1; 3

1) sober, temperate

1a) abstaining from wine, either entirely or at least from its immoderate use

1b) of things free from all wine, as vessels, offerings

Temperate means **moderate**. There is debate about if this is specifically about wine, or about his passions, words, and actions in general.

How can a man demonstrate being temperate? _____

In what areas can a man become immoderate? _____

Dignified:

4586 σεμνος semnos {sem-nos'}

AV - grave 3, honest 1; 4

1) august, venerable, reverend

2) to be venerated for character, honourable

2a) of persons

2b) of deeds

Dignified means worthy of respect. Honorable. **Good reputation.**

How can a man demonstrate being respectable? _____

How can a man fail to be honorable? Respectable? _____

Sensible:

4998 σοφρον sophron {so'-frone}

AV - sober 2, temperate 1, discreet 1; 4

- 1) of a sound mind, sane, in one's senses
- 2) curbing one's desires and impulses, self-controlled, temperate

Sensible means **self-controlled**. What are examples of a man not being self-controlled? _____

Sound:

5198 υγιαينو hugiaino {hoog-ee-ah'-ee-no}

AV - sound 6, be sound 1, be whole 1, whole 1, wholesome 1, be in health 1, safe and sound 1; 12

- 1) to be sound, to be well, to be in good health
- 2) metaph.
 - 2a) of Christians whose opinions are free from any mixture of error
 - 2b) of one who keeps the graces and is strong

Sound means **healthy**.

In Faith:

4102 πιστις pistis {pis'-tis}

AV - faith 239, assurance 1, believe + 1537 1, belief 1, them that believe 1, fidelity 1; 244

- 1) conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the NT of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervour born of faith and joined with it
 - 1a) relating to God
 - 1a1) the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ
 - 1b) relating to Christ
 - 1b1) a strong and welcome conviction or belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God
 - 1c) the religious beliefs of Christians
 - 1d) belief with the predominate idea of trust (or confidence) whether in God or in Christ, springing from faith in the same
- 2) fidelity, faithfulness
 - 2a) the character of one who can be relied on

Faith is their **belief**.

How can a man demonstrate his healthy faith? _____

Do you know any men who are sincere, but sincerely wrong? _____

What's the problem? _____

Does it matter? _____

In Love:

26 αγαπε agape {ag-ah'-pay}

AV - love 86, charity 27, dear 1, charitably+2596 1, feast of charity 1; 116

- 1) brotherly love, affection, good will, love, benevolence
- 2) love feasts

Love is their **relationships with others**.

How can a man's relationships become unhealthy? _____

In Perseverance:

5281 υπομονε hupomone {hoop-om-on-ay'}

AV - patience 29, enduring 1, patient continuance 1, patient waiting 1; 32

- 1) steadfastness, constancy, endurance
 - 1a) in the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings
 - 1b) patiently, and steadfastly
- 2) a patient, steadfast waiting for
- 3) a patient enduring, sustaining, perseverance

Perseverance is their **steadfast loyalty to their beliefs, no matter what**.

How can a man demonstrate steadfast loyalty to their beliefs? _____

Men, will you stand up for the faith, no matter what? _____

Basic Instructions for Older Women:

Titus 2:3-4a – ³Older women **likewise** are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, ⁴that they may encourage the young women ...

³**Likewise**, older women are to show their reverence for God by their behavior. They are not to be gossips or addicted to alcohol, but to be examples of goodness. – ISV

Older women **likewise** are to exhibit behavior fitting for those who are holy, not slandering, not slaves to excessive drinking, but teaching what is good. - NET

«2:3» πρεσβύτιδας ὡσαύτως ἐν καταστήματι ἱεροπρεπεῖς, μὴ διαβόλους
μηδὲ οἶνω πολλῷ δεδουλωμένας, καλοδιδασκάλους, «2:4» ἵνα σωφρονίζωσιν
τὰς νέας ...

Older women – Older than the women who were younger.

Likewise – like the older men.

2412 ἱεροπρεπες hieroprepes {hee-er-op-rep-ace'}

AV - as becometh holiness 1; 1

1) befitting men, places, actions or sacred things to God

2) reverent

Best translation: Behave in ways that are appropriate for someone who is set apart for God. Most of the translations focus on the behavior (reverence) instead of the real root of the issue, the reason for the behavior, which is that they are holy, set apart for God.

Specifically:

(Note that these instructions are both negative. Paul seems to be telling Titus to instruct the older women in two areas he has seen easily, frequently, and/or disastrously derail Christian women.)

Not Gossips:

1228 διαβολος **diabolos** {dee-ab'-ol-os}

AV - devil 35, false accuser 2, slanderer 1; 38

1) prone to slander, slanderous, accusing falsely

1a) a calumniator, false accuser, slanderer,

2) metaph. applied to a man who, by opposing the cause of God, may be said to act the part of the devil or to side with him

Note the word used here – diabolous – one of the names of the devil = the accuser.

This word is most often translated **gossip**.

Gossip is one of the sins that are perfectly acceptable for good Baptists. (Along with gluttony and pride.)

What is a gossip? _____

How does this instruction pertain to your activities on Facebook? _____

In the style of “You might be a redneck if...”:

If you know more about your friends and fellow church members than anyone else they know, you might be a gossip.

If you know more about what’s going on in the lives of your married friends than their spouses do, you might be a gossip.

If everyone goes to you to find out anything about anyone, you might be a gossip.

If you spend more time talking about people than you do praying for them, you might be a gossip.

Prov. 16:28 – A perverse man spreads strife, And a slanderer separates intimate friends.

How practically can you stop yourself or others from gossiping? _____

It’s no surprise that Paul has this on his short list of warnings for women in the church. There are few things that can cause strife, conflict, and division in the church than slandering, gossiping lips. And when that happens, the enemy has accomplished his goal, to distract the church from its mission of winning people to Christ, reinforcing again the connection of the root of the word we have here with our adversary.

Not Addicted to Alcohol:

1402 δουλοο doulōo {doo-lo'-o}

AV - become servant 2, bring into bondage 2, be under bondage 1, given 1, make servant 1, in bondage 1; 8

1) to make a slave of, reduce to bondage

2) metaph. give myself wholly to one's needs and service, make myself a bondman to him

δεδουλωμένας (Perfect passive participle accusative feminine plural) The root of this word means to be a slave. In this form, it is best translated **“(not) having been enslaved (to wine).”**

Give your description of what would be acceptable within this instruction.

What would be unacceptable? _____

Teacher of the Younger Women:

Why are those qualities important, given their responsibilities in verse 4? ____

2567 καλοδιδασκαλος kalodidaskalos {kal-od-id-as'-kal-os}

AV - teacher of good things 1; 1

1) teaching that which is good, a teacher of goodness

This word is best translated, “one who teaches that which is good.”

If a young lady were to watch you, what would she learn?

Ladies, who are you training? (You are, whether you want to or not.)

Discipler of the Younger Women (v. 4)

4994 σοφρονίζω sophronizo {so-fron-id'-zo}

AV - teach to be sober 1; 1

1) restore one to his senses

2) to moderate, control, curb, disciple

3) to hold one to his duty

4) to admonish, to exhort earnestly

σωφρονίζωσιν This word has the same root as the word used earlier to instruct the men to be sensible, or self-controlled. But it is a subjunctive present active third person plural verb in this case. It means “(in order that) they [the older women] might make (the younger women) be self-controlled...” The best word in English I can find to translate it is, “disciple.”

This verb, σωφρονίζω, denotes teaching in the sense of bringing people to their senses, showing what sound thinking is. (NET Bible comments)

What is required for an older woman before she can “make” a younger woman do anything??? _____

Basic Instructions for Young Women:

Titus 2:4-5 – ...⁴that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.

⁴Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, ⁵to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no-one will malign the word of God. – NIV

⁴In this way they will train the younger women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵to be self-controlled, pure, fulfilling their duties at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the message of God may not be discredited. – NET

⁴They should encourage the younger women to be lovers of their husbands, lovers of their children, ⁵sensible, pure, managers of their households, and kind, and to submit themselves to their husbands, lest the word of God be discredited. – ISV

«2:4» ἵνα σωφρονίζωσιν τὰς νέας φιλόανδρους εἶναι, φιλοτέκνους «2:5» σώφρονας ἀγνάς οἰκουροῦς ἀγαθὰς, ὑποτασσομένας τοῖς ἰδίοις ἀνδράσιν, ἵνα μὴ ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ βλασφημῇται.

Have you ever thought about the fact that this was the first generation of Christian families??? As a point of reference, Father Knows Best started its seven year run in 1954. (60 years ago!) That was three generations ago.

This is an entirely new world view for many of them, and the family structure and individual roles are foreign to most families.

Lover of their husband:

5362 φιλάνδρος philandros {fil'-an-dros}

AV - love their husbands 1; 1

1) loving her husband

If you were on trial, would you be convicted of loving your husband? _____

What would loving your husband look like? _____

Lover of Their Children:

5388 φιλοτέκνος philoteknos {fil-ot'-ek-nos}

AV - love (one's) children 1; 1

1) loving one's offspring or children

Why in this culture would this be a big deal? _____

Do you think there is any significance to the order of these two instructions? _____

Why would it matter? _____

What are some examples of getting these two things flipped? _____

Self-controlled:

4998 σοφρον sophron {so'-frone}

AV - sober 2, temperate 1, discreet 1; 4

1) of a sound mind, sane, in one's senses

2) curbing one's desires and impulses, self-controlled, temperate

(See under “older men” above.) “Disciple them to be disciplined.”

I’m seeing a trend here. Paul seems to place some value in the church members being self-controlled!

We've talked about what it might mean for an older man to be self-controlled. How could we apply this to a younger woman? _____

Pure:

- 53 ἁγνός hagnos {hag-nos'}
- AV - pure 4, chaste 3, clear 1; 8
- 1) exciting reverence, venerable, sacred
 - 2) pure
 - 2a) pure from carnality, chaste, modest
 - 2b) pure from every fault, immaculate
 - 2c) clean

How would a "pure" young woman look and act in our culture today? _____

Managers of Their Homes:

- 3626 οἰκὺρος oikouros {oy-koo-ros'}
- AV - keeper at home 1; 1
- 1) caring for the house, working at home
 - 1a) the (watch or) keeper of the house
 - 1b) keeping at home and taking care of household affairs
 - 1c) a domestic

This single Greek word means to watch over the household. It includes her presence, domestic support, management, and caring for the household.

How might a young woman today fail to follow this instruction? _____

Kind:

- 18 ἀγαθός agathos {ag-ath-os'}
- AV - good 77, good thing 14, that which is good+3588 8, the thing which is good+3588 1, well 1, benefit 1; 102
- 1) of good constitution or nature
 - 2) useful, salutary
 - 3) good, pleasant, agreeable, joyful, happy
 - 4) excellent, distinguished
 - 5) upright, honourable

Probably the best word to use here would be, "pleasant."

Think of a woman who comes to mind when you think of the word "pleasant."
How would you describe her? _____

Subject to Their Husbands:

- 5293 ὑποτάσσο hupotasso {hoop-ot-as'-so}
- AV - put under 6, be subject unto 6, be subject to 5, submit (one's) self unto 5, submit (one's) self to 3, be in subjection unto 2, put in subjection under 1, misc 12; 40
- 1) to arrange under, to subordinate
 - 2) to subject, put in subjection
 - 3) to subject one's self, obey
 - 4) to submit to one's control
 - 5) to yield to one's admonition or advice
 - 6) to obey, be subject

A Greek military term meaning "to arrange [troop divisions] in a military fashion under the command of a leader". In non-military use, it was "a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden".

ὑποτασσομένης (Present passive participle accusative feminine plural) It is best translated "being subject."

Being subject to someone else is a choice. It is not a matter of worth, status, intellect, skills, experience, or anything else like that. It is a matter of position. One of the most Christ-like things one can do is to become subject to someone else, especially one who by many (or all) accounts should be your subordinate.:

Phil. 2:5-8 – ⁵Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Ladies, you shouldn't need anyone to say this, but I will. Look around. It is not news to anyone that you often are the more spiritual, godly, holy, sensitive, obedient, keel down spouse in the marriage. But God has ordained for you to do the same thing that Jesus did, and subject yourself to a man who is in many ways inferior. I don't know why. And I know it's not easy. But it is His will.

What stands in the way of your being subject to your husband? _____

What can you do to overcome those obstacles? _____

What would be the outcome? _____

Basic Instructions for Young Men:

Titus 2:6 – ⁶Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; ...

Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. – NIV

⟨2:6⟩ τοὺς νεωτέρους ὡσαύτως παρακάλει σωφρονεῖν

Self-controlled:

4993 σοφρонеο sophroneo {so-fron-eh'-o}

AV - be in right mind 2, be sober 2, be sober minded 1, soberly 1; 6

1) to be of sound mind

1a) to be in one's right mind

1b) to exercise self control

1b1) to put a moderate estimate upon one's self, think of one's self soberly

1b2) to curb one's passions

This is an infinitive (present active), “to control themselves.”

What does that look like? _____

Why was there only one instruction for young men? _____

Basic Instructions for Ministers:

[I did not teach this part of the lesson due to time constraints. Therefore, I have only included the background Greek notes. There are few questions or comments included in this section.]

Titus 2:1, 7-8 – ¹But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.

...⁷in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, *with* purity in doctrine, dignified, ⁸sound *in* speech which is beyond reproach, in order that the opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

¹You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine. ... ⁷In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness ⁸and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us. – NIV

⁷Always set an example of good works. When you teach, show integrity and dignity. ⁸Use wholesome speech that cannot be condemned. Then any opponent will be ashamed because he cannot say anything bad about us. - ISV

⟨2:1⟩ Σὺ δὲ λάλει ἃ πρέπει τῇ ὑγιαίνουσῃ διδασκαλίᾳ.

⟨2:7⟩ περὶ πάντα, σεαυτὸν παρεχόμενος τύπον καλῶν ἔργων, ἐν τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ ἀφθορίαν, σεμνότητα, ⟨2:8⟩ λόγον ὑγιῆ ἀκατάγνωστον, ἵνα ὁ ἐξ ἐναντίας ἐντραπῇ μηδὲν ἔχων λέγειν περὶ ἡμῶν φαῦλον.

Why are there higher standards set for ministers? Seriously? Shouldn't we all strive to attain the highest standard possible?

Speak Sound Doctrine (vs. 1):

5198 υγιαينو hugiaino {hoog-ee-ah'-ee-no}

AV - sound 6, be sound 1, be whole 1, whole 1, wholesome 1, be in health 1, safe and sound 1; 12

1) to be sound, to be well, to be in good health

2) metaph.

2a) of Christians whose opinions are free from any mixture of error

2b) of one who keeps the graces and is strong

Speak. A primary job of a minister. We'll talk more about sound doctrine in verse 7.

Set an Example:

3930 παρεχο parecho {par-ekh'-o}

AV - trouble + 2873 5, give 3, bring 2, show 2, do for 1, keep 1, minister 1, offer 1; 16

1) to reach forth, offer

2) to show, afford, supply

3) to be the authors of, or to cause one to have

3a) to give, bring, cause one something either favourable or unfavourable, to occasion

4) to offer, show or present one's self

5) to exhibit or offer on one's own part

5a) to render or afford from one's own resources or by one's own power

2570 καλος kalos {kal-os'}

AV - good 83, better 7, honest 5, meet 2, goodly 2, misc 3; 102

- 1) beautiful, handsome, excellent, eminent, choice, surpassing, precious, useful, suitable, commendable, admirable
 - 1a) beautiful to look at, shapely, magnificent
 - 1b) good, excellent in its nature and characteristics, and therefore well adapted to its ends
 - 1b1) genuine, approved
 - 1b2) precious
 - 1b3) joined to names of men designated by their office, competent, able, such as one ought to be
 - 1b4) praiseworthy, noble
 - 1c) beautiful by reason of purity of heart and life, and hence praiseworthy
 - 1c1) morally good, noble
 - 1d) honourable, conferring honour
 - 1e) affecting the mind agreeably, comforting and confirming

2041 εργον ergon {er'-gon}

AV - work 152, deed 22, doing 1, labour 1; 176

- 1) business, employment, that which any one is occupied
 - 1a) that which one undertakes to do, enterprise, undertaking
- 2) any product whatever, any thing accomplished by hand, art, industry, or mind
- 3) an act, deed, thing done: the idea of working is emphasised in opp. to that which is less than work

What does that look like? _____

Pure Doctrine:

861 αφθαρσια aphtharsia {af-thar-see'-ah}

AV - incorruption 4, immortality 2, sincerity 2; 8

- 1) incorruption, perpetuity
- 2) purity, sincerity, incorrupt

What are some doctrinal areas where ministers seem to leave pure, sound doctrine? _____

Dignified:

4587 σεμνοτης semnotes {sem-not'-ace}

AV - gravity 2, honesty 1; 3

- 1) the characteristic of a thing or person which entitles to reverence and respect, dignity, majesty, sanctity
- 2) honour, purity

What does that look like? _____

Sound in Speech:

5199 υγιες hugies {hoog-ee-ace'}

AV - whole 13, sound 1; 14

- 1) sound
 - 1a) of a man who is sound in body
- 2) to make one whole i.e. restore him to health
- 3) metaph. teaching which does not deviate from the truth

What does that look like? _____

Why?:

1727 εναντιος enantios {en-an-tee'-os}

AV - contrary 6, against 2; 8

- 1) over against, opposite
 - 1a) of place, opposite, contrary (of the wind)
- 2) metaph.
 - 2a) opposed as an adversary, hostile, antagonistic in feeling or act
 - 2b) an opponent

1788 εντρεπο entrepo {en-trep'-o}

AV - reverence 4, regard 2, be ashamed 2, shame 1; 9

- 1) to shame one
- 2) to be ashamed
- 3) to reverence a person
- 4) to turn about

5337 φαυλος phaulos {fow'-los}

AV - evil 4; 4

- 1) easy, slight, ordinary, mean, worthless, of no account
- 2) ethically, bad, base, wicked

What does that look like? _____

Who is "us?"

Basic Instructions for Employees:

Titus 2:9-10 – ⁹Urge bondslaves to be subject to their own masters in everything, to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, ¹⁰not pilfering, but showing all good faith that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.

⁹Slaves are to submit themselves to their masters in everything, aiming to please them and not argue with them ¹⁰or steal from them. Instead, they are to show complete and perfect loyalty, so that in every way they may make the teaching about God our Savior more attractive. – NIV

⁹Slaves are to be subject to their own masters in everything, to do what is wanted and not talk back, ¹⁰not to pilfer, but showing all good faith, in order to do credit to the teaching of God our Savior in everything. – NET

«2:9» δούλους ἰδίοις δεσπόταις ὑποτάσσεσθαι ἐν πάσιν, εὐαρέστους εἶναι, μὴ ἀντιλέγοντας, «2:10» μὴ νοσφιζομένους, ἀλλὰ πᾶσαν πίστιν ἐνδεικνυμένους ἀγαθὴν, ἵνα τὴν διδασκαλίαν τὴν τοῦ σωτῆρος ἡμῶν θεοῦ κοσμῶσιν ἐν πάσιν.

What is a “bond-slave”? The translation note in the NET Bible says:

“Traditionally, “servant” (so KJV, ASV, NIV, NRSV) or “bondservant” (so NASB). However, the word does not bear the connotation of a free individual serving another.” (Titus 1:1)

So, technically, these instructions below are intended for people who are truly slaves to a master. They had no choice in their position, thus might have had plenty of reason for bad attitudes, mechanical service, and even a desire for harm or retribution for their masters. Doesn't it follow, then, that for those of us who serve an employer by choice, our attitudes and actions should even more reflect these godly qualities?

Be Subject:

5293 υποτασσο hupotasso {hoop-ot-as'-so}

AV - put under 6, be subject unto 6, be subject to 5,
submit (one's) self unto 5, submit (one's) self to 3,
be in subjection unto 2, put in subjection under 1, misc 12; 40

- 1) to arrange under, to subordinate
- 2) to subject, put in subjection
- 3) to subject one's self, obey
- 4) to submit to one's control
- 5) to yield to one's admonition or advice
- 6) to obey, be subject

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A Greek military term meaning "to arrange [troop divisions] in a military fashion under the command of a leader". In non-military use, it was "a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden".

ὑποτάσσεσθαι (Present passive infinitive) It is best translated “to subject yourself.”

Being subject to someone else is a choice. It is not a matter of worth, status, intellect, skills, experience, or anything else like that. **It is a matter of position.** One of the most Christ-like things one can do is to become subject to someone else, even one who by other accounts should be your subordinate.:

What does it look like to subject yourself to your boss? _____

What do you do if your boss is an idiot? _____

What do you do if your boss is ungodly? unethical? untrustworthy? _____

Are there risks to becoming subject to your boss? _____

“Everything” - πᾶσιν = **All things!** Not things that are comfortable. Not things you like. Not most things. All things!

Proverbs 21:1 – The king's heart is *like* channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes.

By the way, **your response to your boss will teach your children how they should respond to you.**

Well-pleasing:

2101 ευαρεστος euairestos {yoo-ar'-es-tos}

AV - acceptably 4, well pleasing 3, please well + 1510 1, accepted 1; 9
1) well pleasing, acceptable

“To be well-pleasing”.

What does that look like? _____

A great way to be “well-pleasing” is to anticipate your boss' wants and to meet them before they ask. This requires empathy on your part. We should put ourselves in their shoes and think, what would I want my employee to do?

Not Argumentative:

483 ἀντιλεγω antilego {an-til'-eg-o}

AV - speak against 5, deny 1, contradict 1, gainsay 1, gainsayer 1,
answer again 1; 10

- 1) to speak against, gainsay, contradict
- 2) to oppose one's self to one, decline to obey him, declare one's self against him, refuse to have anything to do with him

This is a participle (present active accusative masculine plural), “not one speaking against.” It is being argumentative or talking back.

What is at the root of this? _____

Pride and lack of submission are the opposite of what Paul is requiring here.

Not Pilfering:

3557 νοσφίζομαι nosphizomai {nos-fid'-zom-ahee}

AV - keep back 2, purloin 1; 3

1) to set apart, separate, divide

2) to set apart or separate for one's self

3) to purloin, embezzle, withdraw covertly and appropriate to one's own use

This is a participle (present middle accusative masculine plural), “not one holding back for themselves.”

How can an employee steal from his / her employer? _____

Is it just money? _____

This sounds to me like the steward Jesus spoke about in Luke 16. I still don't understand that parable!

Being trustworthy with money is a huge quality for an employee, and it ties in with the next characteristic in the list:

Showing All Good Faith:

1731 ενδεικνυμι endeiknumi {en-dike'-noo-mee}

AV - show 9, show forth 1, do 1, vr show 1; 12

1) to point out

1a) to show, demonstrate, prove, whether by arguments or by acts

2) to manifest, display, put forth

18 αγαθος agathos {ag-ath-os'}

AV - good 77, good thing 14, that which is good+3588 8,
the thing which is good+3588 1, well 1, benefit 1; 102

1) of good constitution or nature

2) useful, salutary

3) good, pleasant, agreeable, joyful, happy

4) excellent, distinguished

5) upright, honourable

4102 πιστις pistis {pis'-tis}

AV - faith 239, assurance 1, believe + 1537 1, belief 1,
them that believe 1, fidelity 1; 244

1) conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the NT of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and

holy fervour born of faith and joined with it

1a) relating to God

1a1) the conviction that God exists and is the creator and ruler of all things, the provider and bestower of eternal salvation through Christ

1b) relating to Christ

1b1) a strong and welcome conviction or belief that Jesus is the Messiah, through whom we obtain eternal salvation in the kingdom of God

1c) the religious beliefs of Christians

1d) belief with the predominate idea of trust (or confidence) whether in God or in Christ, springing from faith in the same

2) fidelity, faithfulness

2a) the character of one who can be relied on

This is a participle (present middle accusative masculine plural), “but one demonstrating excellent faithfulness.”

What does loyalty look like in the workplace? _____

Your goal should be to be the one that your boss / company can depend on, no matter what.

Prov. 25:19 – *Like* a bad tooth and an unsteady foot is confidence in a faithless man in time of trouble.

Adorn the Gospel:

2885 κοσμεο kosmeo {kos-meh'-o}

AV - adorn 5, garnish 4, trim 1; 10

1) to put in order, arrange, make ready, prepare

2) to ornament, adore

3) metaph. to embellish with honour, gain honour

This verb is active subjunctive, “adorning, embellishing.”

What is the purpose of your faithful, godly performance? _____

What would your employer say about you? _____

Would they say you are a follower of Jesus? _____

If they did, would they say it in a positive light? _____

Conclusion:

Regardless of how we are living our lives or what we think is right and wrong, God has a standard that may require us to change our thoughts, actions, or even lifestyle to match. It is not a matter of salvation, but it a matter of obedience and realizing God's best for our lives and for our family.

Based on God's direction in this passage, I need to _____.