

**“Older Men on Mission”**

*Sermon Notes*

- **Older men are critical to the health of our spiritual family**  
**- for older men are our church’s fathers**

*\*Brothers and sisters, for the sake of our mission and vision we are wise to...*

1. ...\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of older men (v.2a; Leviticus 19:32; Job 12:12; Psalm 71:17; 92:12-15; Proverbs 4:18; 16:31; Luke 1:18; Philemon 9; 2 Timothy 4:7)

2. ...\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of older men (v.2b; 1 Timothy 5:1)

**Next Week: Resurrection Sunday**

## **MEFC Community Group Study Guide**

For the Week of April 5th - 11th

### **Getting Started**

1. Consider our present American culture. What do many people hear when they think of the words “old men”? How is our aging population (men especially) frequently regarded in our society?

### **Digging Deeper**

2. As our God says in Isaiah 55:8 - “My thoughts are not your thoughts...”. Consider this brief sampling of biblical texts: Leviticus 19:32; Job 12:12; Psalm 92:12-15; Proverbs 4:18; Proverbs 16:31. Pick one truth in particular that seems to fly in the face of commonly held views regarding older men in our culture and discuss it within your group.

### **Open Your Bible to Titus 2:2...**

3. In this verse, Paul instructs Titus to address the “older men” in the Cretin church. The word he uses to describe them is found only two other times in the entire New Testament (once in Luke 1:18 and once in Philemon 9). Take a look at these other two references. What light do these verses throw on Titus 2:2? How “old” are the “older men” under consideration? Think about our church. How many of our men would fall into this group of believers?

4. Bearing in mind our local fellowship once more, consider our current eldership. With Pastor Dave at 43, he is the oldest of our five current elders (with Pastor Aaron, Matt and Caleb all in their mid-30’s). Thinking back over the five texts we studied in question #2, how might our church be strengthened by the presence of qualified, older men among the eldership? At the same time, how is 1 Timothy 4:12 sound wisdom for our fellowship as we reflect on the relative youth of our leaders?

5. The first character trait that older men are called to exhibit is sober-mindedness (v.2). Interestingly, both elders (1 Timothy 3:2) and deacons (1 Timothy 3:11) must possess this quality as well. What does it mean? What does it look like when we see it at work in the life of an older man?

6. The next two descriptors for older men in the church in Titus 2:2 are “dignified” and “self-controlled”. Do you recall how they were explained when we studied Titus 2:7 and 1:8? If so, what does this sort of behavior look like? Why is it particularly unbecoming older men when they don’t reflect this sort of character? How is a church left vulnerable in such cases?

7. Paul completes his ethical instruction for older men (v.2) in the church by calling them to be “sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness” (see also 1 Timothy 6:11; 1 Thessalonians 1:3; and 1 Corinthians 13:13). In a sense, these represent three relational areas in an older man’s life: his relationship with the Lord (faith), with others (love), and attitude toward time and the future (steadfastness). What does it look like when an older man is ‘unsound’ in any (or all) of these areas? What value is brought to a fellowship with older men marked by soundness in faith, love, and steadfastness?

8. As you close your group in prayer, be sure to take time to pray for the older men in our local church. Pray deliberately through Titus 2:2, thanking the Lord for the godly men he’s granted us and also asking the Lord to work more of these character qualities into the lives of all of our older men.