

Introduction:

- JC Ryle, in his “*Thoughts for Young Men*,” writes on the reasons why young men need exhorting...
 1. The painful fact that there are few young men anywhere who seem to be Christians.
 2. Death and judgment are waiting for young men, even as it waits for others, and they nearly all seem to forget it.
 3. What young men WILL BE, in all probability depends on what they are now, and they seem to forget this.
 4. The devil uses special diligence to destroy the souls of young men, and they don’t seem to know it.
 5. Young men need exhorting because of the sorrow that it will save them, to begin serving GOD NOW.

- Dangers & pitfalls & traps abound for young men. JC Ryle lists 5:
 1. pride
 2. love of pleasure (sensuality)
 3. thoughtlessness
 4. contempt of Christianity (procrastination)
 5. man-pleasing (fear of man’s opinion)

- Young men: you must be taught to...
 - ✓Nurture your soul
 - ✓Mind your immortality
 - ✓Protect your heart
 - ✓Pursue your God
 - ✓Serve your Church

Set your immortal soul before your mind's eye, and when men ask you why you live as you do, answer them in his spirit, "I live for my soul." Believe me, the day is fast coming when the soul will be the one thing men will think of, and the only question of importance will be this, "Is my soul lost or saved?" (JC Ryle)

The text explained from Titus 2:6-8 —**I. The PEOPLE (young men)**

Titus 2:6-8 — “Young Men: God’s Clear Call For Your Self-Control!”

You young men that are strong, overcome the wicked one and fight for the Lord while you can. You will never regret doing all that lies in for you for our blessed Lord and Master. (Spurgeon)

II. The PLEA (urge)

Satan seeks to urge our men from the youngest of days. So must we strive all the harder to urge & teach our young men the ways of Christ in Truth!

III. The PRIORITY (be sensible)

Young men, “self-control” has practical implications for you. It means that if you are going to follow Christ, you are going to be different from other young men you know. You are a part of a generation of young men that have given themselves to pornography. Self-control means that you aren’t going to have anything to do with that. You are a part of a generation of unserious young men that delays marriage and goes in and out of unserious relationships throughout young adulthood. Self-control means that you don’t have anything to do with that. You are a part of a generation that strategizes to maximize leisure and amusement for itself. Self-control means that you must have nothing to do with that either.

Self-control means your “yes” means “yes” and your “no” means “no.” It means people can count on you to do a job and to do it right. It means a wife and kids can count on you to be there for them. It means that they can trust that you are not spinning your wheels chasing your own vanity. Self-control means that you are so possessed by the Holy Spirit that you do not run after the passions of youth. Rather, you run after Christ, his word, and his glory. That’s what it means to be self-controlled. (Denny Burk)

Verses 7 & 8 flesh this out even more. *Sensible in 4 specific areas.*

How should the young man be sensible & controlled?

Titus 2:6-8 — “Young Men: God’s Clear Call For Your Self-Control!”

1. *In his deeds*
2. *In his doctrine*
3. *In his dignity*
4. *In his discussion*

I. HIS DEEDS (live rightly)

Prov 20.11 - it is by his deeds that a young man distinguishes himself, if his conduct is pure and upright.

II. HIS DOCTRINE (believe rightly)

III. HIS DIGNITY (think rightly)

Advice from Puritan Increase Mather to young men: “You Young ones will die, and therefore you are exhorted to Repent and Pray, and make sure of your salvation in Christ. And think honestly within yourself, If I should die this night, what would happen to my SOUL? In what place would my immortal Soul be lodged for ever? And remember The Great Day of JUDGMENT. Live now as you will wish you had lived, when That Final Day comes. Think within your heart, If Jesus Christ the Son of God should now open the Heavens and come down to Judge the Earth; What would He say to me? What Sentence would He pronounce upon me? Would He say to me, Come thou Blessed, or would He not say, Go thou Cursed? Remember these things now, so may you hope to find Mercy in that Day.” (in his book: “Solemn advice to young men, not to walk in the ways of their heart, nor in the sight of their eyes; but to remember the Day of Judgment”)

IV. HIS DISCUSSION (speak rightly)

♣Why? Verse 8 - so that the opponent will have nothing bad to say about us.

Titus 2:6-8 — “Young Men: God’s Clear Call For Your Self-Control!”

The point: The critic is to have *NO LEGITIMATE* ground for accusation.

Ryle said: Our enemies are serious in their endeavors to ruin us,—poor lost sinners are serious in hell, —and why then should not you and I be serious too?"

Additional practical lessons that young men must be *taught*.

- ➔Fear God!
- ➔Work hard and work till the task is done!
- ➔Lead and take responsibility!
- ➔Be on time!
- ➔Read your Bible, pray it, memorize it & obey it!

RISE UP O MEN OF GOD

Rise up, O men of God!
Have done with lesser things.
Give heart and mind and soul and strength
To serve the King of kings.

Rise up, O men of God!
The church for you doth wait,
Her strength unequal to her task;
Rise up and make her great!

Rise up, O men of God!
The kingdom tarries long.
Bring in the day of brotherhood
And end the night of wrong.

Lift high the cross of Christ!
Tread where His feet have trod.
As brothers of the Son of Man,
Rise up, O men of God!

Young Men — Is This You?

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“*Need*” is a strong word. But I use it intentionally and I use it passionately. Yes, I use it urgently. Our culture desperately needs men. Not boys! We have plenty of boys. The church needs men, real men, godly men, holy men, biblical men. As a minister of the gospel, as a student of Scripture, as a biblical counselor, and as a man after God’s own heart, I will list **8 traits** that should characterize men. *So — young men: is this you?*

Young men -- you need...

1) Truth — Jesus described Himself as being “the Truth.” God is the God of truth and truthfulness. You are made by Him and designed to emulate Him. Speak truth in your heart and have no fear of what you’ll say. Fill your mind and heart with truthful things and flee from deceptive, hidden, devious, manipulative ways. Young men, at all costs, be men of truth!

2) Integrity — The biblical concept of integrity speaks of wholeness, blamelessness. That is, to live a life of integrity demands a person who refuses double-mindedness and double-living. What you say you’ll do, do it at all costs. Be faithful, true to your word, and honest in all things.

3) Gentleness — The boldest and manliest person to ever walk this world was God in human flesh. And this Lord Jesus Christ was full of gentleness. Be strong! Be courageous! Be self-controlled and be sober-minded. Control your heart, mind, words, and actions. Be gentle!

4) Convictions — Be willing to die for things! These are your convictions. Men hold opinions but convictions hold the man. Believe God, His Word, the gospel and in the eternity of the soul, and live and die for Him. Shape your convictions by Scripture and stand up for them.

5) Perseverance — When life thrashes you against the rocks remember one thing: when suffering comes it comes because God wants you there. God grows His people as they endure hardships. Don’t despise the clouds that God brings. The Sun of Righteousness grows you in it.

6) Punctuality — Young men have this tragic reputation of being late (and lazy). And shamefully, it’s often true. Manhood demands responsibility. Rise early. Prepare your body and heart. Warm your soul with Christ each day. Leave early. Arrive early. Pray, prepare, be punctual. To arrive 5 minutes early is to arrive on time. Remember that.

7) Submission — Never be too prideful to submit. Godly men submit. Christ Himself — God come in the flesh — submitted Himself constantly and perfectly to the will of His Father. Submit to your parents. Submit to your authorities. Submit to the police. Submit to your church shepherd-elders. Find joy in obeying Christ in worshipful submission.

8) Discipline — Own your body. Don’t be mastered by it. You need to discipline yourself. No one wins a gold medal by coasting. No one wins the race with laziness. Discipline your soul, your mind, your body. Engage daily with Christ. Pray humbly before Him. Speak much of Him. Ponder His beauties. Discipline yourself, O man.