



At every **stage** and **station** of life, Christian character and practice must reflect the effectiveness of the gospel.

- God's blueprint for His church to reach the world around us is through our lives being **transformed** by the gospel we believe.
- God's blueprint for **interdependence** in the body of Christ means each believer bears some responsibility for those around him or her.

Spiritually, most of us have people on **both sides** of us generationally who need us to fulfill God's plan for each of those roles.

V 2 – The “older men”

Temperate – refers not only to the use of alcohol, but regarding the things of the **world** – has learned the high cost of **self-indulgent** living

Worthy of respect – isn't about older men getting respect because they are old; but about older men being **worthy** of respect

2 Timothy 4:7

Older men should want to be able to say “follow me as I **follow Christ.**”

Self-controlled – *sophron*- is what **enables** temperance and therefore **creates** a life worthy of respect

Sound in faith, in love, and in endurance – picture of the ministry of older men: they lead by **example**.

V 3-4a – The “older women”

In the way they live – indicates an **outward** expression of inward character

Reverent – describes how a **priestess** would serve in a temple: older Christian women should do life in a way that they are always conscious of living in **service** to the Lord.

Teach what is good – the very life they live becomes a **pattern** for goodness

Train the younger women – *sophron* – to train or teach someone **self-control**

Inherent in the command for the older women to teach the younger women how to live self-controlled is the necessity of their **own habit** of self control.

Not only are the older generations of Christians not to be dismissed, they are **crucial** to God's church. God designed His church so that the older believers might not only be sharpened by the younger, but that they might teach, train, lead the **younger**.

If these older believers are going to fulfill their function in the church, they must live **consistently** worthy of respect, reverent in the way they live. And crucial to that process is the characteristic of self-control.

Older men & women:

The question is not **was** your life worthy of respect but **is** your life worthy of respect?

How are you making an **impact** for Christ in the lives of younger believers around you?

Younger generations:

Are you allowing, even pursuing, a godly **mentor** to speak and train a respect-worthy and self-controlled life into you?

All generations:

The principles of a respectable and self-controlled life and the responsibility of training those coming behind you is an expectation that **all** of us need to acknowledge and throw ourselves into in order for God's **church** to be the very utmost for God's glory.