

Titus 2:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority.
Let no man despise thee.

Analysis

These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority—three imperatives: λάλει (lalei, speak/proclaim), παρακάλει (parakalei, exhort/encourage), ἔλεγχε (elegche, rebuke/reprove). μετὰ πάσης ἐπιταγῆς (meta pasēs epitagēs, with all authority/commandment)—ἐπιταγή (epitagē) is military command language. Titus must proclaim, encourage, and correct with full apostolic authority, not tentatively.

Let no man despise thee (μηδείς σου περιφρονείτω, mēdeis sou periphroneitō)—περιφρονέω (periphoneō, think around/disregard/despise). This isn't commanding respect but charging Titus to minister authoritatively despite youth (cf. 1 Timothy 4:12). If he speaks God's word faithfully, no one has grounds to despise him. Timidity invites contempt; bold faithfulness commands respect.

Historical Context

Titus's authority derived from Paul's apostolic commission, not personal charisma. In honor-shame culture, asserting authority could seem arrogant, but failing to assert it showed cowardice. The balance: speak with humble boldness, confident in the message not the messenger. Younger leaders especially needed this charge against those who'd dismiss them.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Do you exercise ministry with appropriate authority, or does false humility keep you silent when you should speak?
2. When you speak biblical truth, do you do so with confidence in God's word or apologetically as personal opinion?
3. How do you balance humble service with bold proclamation—avoiding both arrogance and timidity?

Interlinear Text

Ταῦτα λάλει καὶ παρακάλει καὶ ἔλεγχε μετὰ πάσης
These things speak and exhort and rebuke with all
G5023 G2980 G2532 G3870 G2532 G1651 G3326 G3956

ἐπιταγῆς· μηδείς σου περιφρονείτω
authority no man thee Let
G2003 G3367 G4675 G4065

Additional Cross-References

2 Timothy 4:2 (Parallel theme): Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Matthew 7:29 (Parallel theme): For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Titus 1:13 (Parallel theme): This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

1 Timothy 5:20 (Parallel theme): Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.

Mark 1:22 (Parallel theme): And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.