

Titus 2:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

Analysis

Sound speech, that cannot be condemned—λόγον ὑγιῆ ἀκατάγνωστον (logon hygiē akatagnōston, healthy speech beyond reproach). ὑγιῆς (hygiēs, healthy) recalls medical metaphor; ἀκατάγνωστος (akatagnōstos, irreproachable/not able to be condemned) means critics find no legitimate fault. This requires both truthfulness (content) and winsomeness (manner). Proverbs 15:1-2 warns that even truth spoken foolishly provokes opposition.

That he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed (ἴνα ὁ ἐξ ἐναντίας ἐντραπῆ, hina ho ex enantias entrapē)—the goal: ἐντρέπω (entrepō, to shame/to turn around in shame). ὁ ἐξ ἐναντίας (ho ex enantias, the one of the opposite side) is the opponent. **Having no evil thing to say of you** (μηδὲν ἔχων λέγειν περὶ ἡμῶν φαῦλον, mēden echōn legein peri hēmōn phaulon)—legitimate criticism is disarmed. This isn't silencing all opposition but removing just cause for accusation.

Historical Context

Christians faced constant suspicion in pagan society: atheism (denying pagan gods), cannibalism (misunderstanding Eucharist), incest (calling each other "brother" and "sister"), disloyalty (serving King Jesus). Irreproachable conduct and speech disarmed these slanders. 1 Peter 2:12, 15, 3:16 share this apologetic concern.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Does your speech exhibit both truth and grace, or do you prioritize one at the expense of the other?
2. When critics oppose you, is it because of legitimate failures on your part or solely because of the gospel's offense?
3. How do you cultivate winsomeness without compromising truth, remaining both courageous and kind?

Interlinear Text

λόγον	ύγιη	ἀκατάγνωστον	ἴνα	ό	ἐξ
speech	Sound	that cannot be condemned	that	G3588	he that is of
G3056	G5199	G176	G2443		G1537

ἐναντίας	ἐντραπῆ	μηδὲν	ἔχων	περὶ	ὑμῶν	λέγειν
the contrary part	may be ashamed	no	having	of	you	to say
G1727	G1788	G3367	G2192	G4012	G5216	G3004

φαῦλον

evil

G5337

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 2:12 (Evil): Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

1 Peter 2:15 (Parallel theme): For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

1 Peter 3:16 (Evil): Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

1 Timothy 6:3 (Parallel theme): If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

Nehemiah 5:9 (Parallel theme): Also I said, It is not good that ye do: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies?

2 Thessalonians 3:14 (Parallel theme): And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

Isaiah 66:5 (Parallel theme): Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.