



# Sensible

by Angela Frederick

*Instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age.*

Titus 2:12

## Introduction

Titus 2:1-7, <sup>1</sup> *But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.* <sup>2</sup> *Older men are to be **temperate**, dignified, **sensible**, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.* <sup>3</sup> *Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,* <sup>4</sup> *so that they may **encourage** (“**sensibilize**”) the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,* <sup>5</sup> *to be **sensible**, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.* <sup>6</sup> *Likewise urge the young men to be **sensible**;* <sup>7</sup> *in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds . . .*

Notice the frequency of words in the “sensible” family, and notice for whom this virtue is directed: older men and older women must be able to teach it to young women, and young men. Elsewhere, Paul states that this virtue is essential for a church leader to be above reproach (1 Timothy 3:2).

Notice also the specified spheres where “sensible-ness” is needed:

- It is needed in the church (I Timothy 3:2)
- It is needed in the home (Titus 2:4-5)
- It is needed in all things (Titus 2:7)

### What is “sensible-ness”?

Sensible is using inner knowledge to make a statement or take a course of action.

Wise/Prudent	vs.	naïve, unwise, foolish
Sober	vs.	not serious, living for the now
Discerning	vs.	easily deceived
Temperate, Self-controlled, disciplined	vs.	irrational, not in control, unruly
Sensitive to God’s Word	vs.	dull, hardened, insensitive

**Wise/Prudent**—showing care and thought for the future, practically wise, judicious, opposed to rash actions, sober

*Proverbs 17:28 Even a fool when he keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is considered prudent.*

*Proverbs 12:16 A fool’s anger is known at once but a prudent man conceals dishonor.*

*Proverbs 12:23 A prudent man conceals knowledge but the heart of fools proclaims folly*

*Proverbs 13:16 Every prudent man acts with knowledge but a fool displays folly.*

*Proverbs 14:8 The wisdom of the sensible is to understand his way but the foolishness of fools is deceit.*

Proverbs 14:15 *The naïve believes everything but the sensible man considers his steps.*

Proverbs 14:18 *The naïve inherit folly but the sensible are crowned with knowledge.*

Proverbs 18:15a *The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge.*

Proverbs 22:3 *The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, but the naïve go on and are punished for it.*

Proverbs 27:12 *A prudent man sees evil and hides himself, the naïve proceed . . .*

Proverbs 15:5 *A fool rejects his father's discipline but he who regards reproof is sensible.*

Matthew 25:2-9 *Five of them were foolish and five were prudent . . .*

“The Bible is the best mirror by which most accurately to know what you are, and to become what you should be; before which you may adjust all the moral clothings of the soul, and from which you may go forth adorned with all the beauties of holiness, clothed with the garment of purity, and decorated with the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit.” J. A. James

The love of the world, and the love of God, are like the scales of a balance; as the one falleth, the other doth rise: when our natural inclinations prosper and the creature is exalted in our soul, religion is faint, and doth languish; but when earthly objects wither away, and lose their beauty, and the soul beings to cool and flag in its prosecution of them, then the seeds of grace take root, and the divine life begins to flourish and prevail....Amidst all our pursuits and designs, let us stop and ask ourselves, For what end is all this' At what do I aim? Can the gross and muddy pleasures of sense, or a heap of white and yellow earth, or the esteem and affection of silly creatures like myself, satisfy a rational and immortal soul? Have I not tried these things already? Henry Scougal

**Sober**—make or become serious or thoughtful.

I Peter 1:13 *Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

I Peter 4:7 *The end of all things is near; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.*

I Peter 5:8 *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

I Thessalonians 5:6 *so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.*

“It is admitted that all these gratifications are not equally degrading in themselves, nor equally destructive of reputation and health—but if indulged as the chief good, they may all prevent the mind from attending to the concerns of true religion . . . it hinders the improvement of the understanding, and keeps the mind barren and empty; it prevents you from becoming the benefactors of our species—but its greatest mischief is, that it totally indisposes the mind for true religion, and thus extends its mischief to eternity!” J. A. James  
“The mind is, as I may say, an ocean, into which all the little rivulets of sensation, both external and internal, empty themselves. Now, the mind is that part of man to which the exercises of true religion properly belong.” J. A. James

## Discerning—showing good judgment

Genesis 41:33, 39 *Since God has informed you of all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you are.*

1 Kings 3:9a *So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to discern between good and evil.*

Proverbs 2:3-5 *For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding; <sup>4</sup>If you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures; <sup>5</sup>Then you will discern the fear of the LORD and discover the knowledge of God.*

2 Samuel 14:17 *Then your maidservant said, “Please let the word of my lord the king be comforting, for as the angel of God, so is my lord the king to **discern** good and evil. And may the LORD your God be with you.”*

1 Kings 3:9 *So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people to **discern** between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?”*

Psalms 119:66 *Teach me good **discernment** and knowledge, for I believe in Your commandments.*

Proverbs 2:3 *For if you cry for **discernment**, lift your voice for understanding.*

Proverbs 10:13 *On the lips of the **discerning**, wisdom is found, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks understanding.*

Proverbs 14:7 *Leave the presence of a fool, or you will not **discern** words of knowledge.*

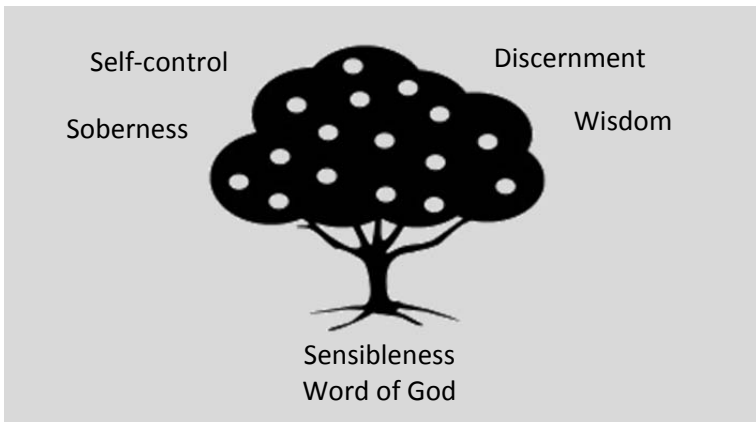
Proverbs 28:7 *He who keeps the law is a **discerning** son, but he who is a companion of gluttons humiliates his father.*

Matthew 16:3 *And in the morning, “There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.” Do you know how to **discern** the appearance of the sky, but cannot **discern** the signs of the times?*

Philippians 1:9 *And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all **discernment**.*

Hebrews 5:14 *But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to **discern** good and evil.*

2 Corinthians 11:3 *But I am afraid that, as the serpent **deceived** Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.*



**Self-Disciplined**—Self-control, temperate, self-restraint in emotions, feeling, thoughts, and actions.

Proverbs 23:12 *Apply your heart to **discipline** and your ears to words of knowledge.*

Colossians 2:5 *For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good **discipline** and the stability of your faith in Christ.*

1 Timothy 4:7 *But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, **discipline** yourself for the purpose of godliness.*

1 Timothy 4:8 *For bodily **discipline** is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.*

2 Timothy 1:7 *For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and **discipline**.*

Galatians 5:22-25 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.*

II Peter 1:5-9

Psalms 141:3 *Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.*

I Corinthians 9:25 *Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim: I box in such a way, as not beating the air.*

I Timothy 2:15

“You has he quickened.” “Who has saved us by washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit.” “It is God who works in us to will and to do.” That it must be some power outside of man, and beyond himself to effect the change, is evident from the circumstance that it is not merely the conduct—but the disposition itself, which requires to be changed; and who can reach the mind, and regulate the springs of action—but God?” J. A. James

# Sensitive to God's Word

Proverbs 8:33

Proverbs 10:17

Mark 13:33

“Let us encourage ourselves,  
my dear friend, let us encourage  
ourselves with those mighty aids we are  
to expect in this spiritual warfare, for  
greater is he that is for us, than all that  
rise up against us. The eternal God is our  
refuge, and underneath are the  
everlasting arms. Let us be strong in the  
Lord, and in the power of his might, for  
he it is that shall ‘tread down our  
enemies.’” Henry Scougal

## Books

James, John Angell. *Christian Father's Present to His Children*

Mather, Cotton. *Duties of Parents to their Children*

Ryle, J. C. *Duties of Parents*

Watts, Isaac. *Improvement of the Mind*

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