



## Lesson 8

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### *Sensible*

by Jan Patterson

*And do not be conformed to this world,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,  
so that you may prove what the will of God is,  
that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Romans 12:2

### *Meanings*

Mentally sound; having a measured and orderly way of life; being self-controlled and disciplined; having good sense; having understanding about practical matters and acting on it; having right thoughts and letting one's mind guide one's body; mastery of spirit; restraint, prudence, temperance, etc.

Sound-mindedness is an important scriptural virtue,  
expected of all ages and ranks of Christians.

*Homer Kent*

## *Six Forms*

1. (verb form) to encourage, to teach
  - a. Titus 2:4 – to bring someone to his senses, admonish, earnestly exhort; commanded here to older women, who must possess this quality as well as teach it to others

*So that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children.*

- b. Lenski: “teachers of excellence that they may make sober-minded the young women to be devoted to their husbands, devoted to their children, sober-minded, . . .”

2. (verb form) to be of sound mind/in one's right mind;  
have sound judgment
- a. Mark 5:15 – of sound mind, thinking straight

*They came to Jesus and observed the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the “legion”; and they became frightened.*

- b. Romans 12:3 – think reasonably, with sound judgment, including our estimation of self

*For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.*

- c. Titus 2:5-6 – thinking and ways controlled by the Word, not *personality* or *natural tendencies*; urged on the young especially

*<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.*

It is a mark of maturity  
and should be the goal of the young.  
*Homer Kent*

3. (adjective) having moderation, self-discipline, prudence
  - a. II Timothy 1:7 – exhortation to be confident in the exercise of gifts and abilities

*For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.*

- b. Sensible outlook and balanced behavior, rather than allowing oneself to be intimidated by fears, circumstances, inadequacies
- c. Remembering God’s sovereign nature and perfect purposes gives wisdom and confidence in handling difficulties that arise
- d. Allow the wisdom of experience and your foundation in the Word to give you that “*spirit of . . . a sound mind,*” KJV.

When everything is coming unglued,  
this quality of “levelheadedness” will keep the Christian  
focused calmly on the power and love that the Spirit provides.  
*R. Kent Hughes and Chapell*

4. (adverb) soberly, moderately, showing self-control
  - a. Titus 2:12 – the godly living in an ungodly world

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

- b. Godly *inner* demeanor resulting in a godly *outward* way of life
- c. Colossians 3:5-9, 12-15; Proverbs 3:5-6; Philippians 4:13; Romans 6:16 are some example passages that give practical help.
- d. Saying “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, to external behaviors as well as internal impulses

5. (noun) reasonableness, rationality; moderation
- a. Acts 26:25 – “words of sober truth” come from our familiarity with the Word

*But Paul said, “I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I utter words of sober truth.”*

- The mouth speaks of that which fills the heart.
  - Helpful when talking with the unsaved who *sound* rational and logical
- b. 1 Timothy 2:9 – good judgment and moderation in our adornment; avoid the outlandish, sloppy, ostentatious, provocative

*Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments.*

6. (adjective) prudent, thoughtful, self-controlled, chaste and decent
- a. 1 Timothy 3:2 – one’s character in heart and life and ministry

*An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach.*

- b. Commentators say:
- Knows how to properly order priorities
  - Views the world through God’s eyes
  - Mind controlled by God’s Word, not one’s own thinking
  - Ordering well the inner and outer life
  - Complete mastery of self that comes from God
- c. Titus 2:5 – refers specifically to what we are to teach to younger women
- d. Commentators say:
- Wise in performing all our duties
  - Affections subject to reason and judgment
  - Thinking directed by the Word
  - No “vile affection” allowed

Outlook determines outcome; and if a person is not thinking rightly, he will not act properly. A woman needs a correct and disciplined outlook on her ministry in the home.

“Self-controlled” is the idea contained in this word.

*Warren Weirsbe*

## *Conclusion/Encapsulation*

It is more than sensible in a wise or thoughtful way; it is *the Word of God controlling our thinking and therefore all of our actions and reactions; it is our "way" and manner of life.*

If the women fail in what Paul here asks, he fears, "lest the Word of God be blasphemed," lest the whole gospel be vilified. So much depends on the women . . . of the church. The world, will, to a great extent, judge the churches by the character which the gospel produces in the women.

*R. C. H. Lenski*

Bible examples – Abigail, Ruth, Esther, Proverbs 31 woman, Jesus' mother

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