



*STOP going to church...
START being the church.*

week 3

Scripture to Read

Sermon text: Titus 1:10-16

Summary of Titus 1:10-16

The truth has sharp edges. V.10-16 are a study in contrasts. Whereas the elders are to live out and teach the truth, false teachers belie their profession of faith by their conduct. Paul exposes the wrong words, motives and actions of people who exert a dangerous influence in the church and urges local church leaders to meet the challenge of false teaching head-on.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. [Titus 1:15]

Questions for Personal Study and/or group discussion

- According to 1:10, what should happen to those who bring false doctrine into the church and the lives of its members?
- What experiences have you had with false teachers and theologically divisive people who like to argue too much?
- The false teachers in Crete seem to be legalists who draw selectively from Old Testament teaching. How can we use the Old Testament law rightly? For further insight see Romans 3:19-31; Galatians 3:19-25, 1 John 3:4, and Matthew 5:17-18.
- How can you be praying for and helping to promote the purity and peace of the church at FPC?
- What steps are you taking to be sure that you are grounded in sound, biblical teaching?
- What is the difference between Christians who disagree on a secondary theological matter and a false teacher who is in error on a primary theological matter?
- What does Paul mean when he writes, "To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and consciences are defiled"? Read Luke 11:41 and Romans 14:20. What light do these passages shed on Paul's statement?
- What is the only way we can be "pure" before God?

Thoughts worth thinking

Toxic teaching: The churches in Crete were infected with poisonous and unhealthy teaching. They were losing the message of the gospel. Sharp rebuke is the only remedy for teachers of legalism. It is evident from Acts 2:11 that there were Jews residing in Crete; and it is probable that it was by those who had gone from that island to Jerusalem to attend the feast of the Pentecost, and who had been converted on that occasion, that the gospel was first introduced there. From this epistle, also, it is clear that one of

the great dangers to the gospel in the churches of Crete, arose from the efforts of such teachers, and from the plausible arguments which they would use in favor of the Mosaic law (Titus 1:10, 14-16; 3:9).

John Calvin on the authority of leaders to rebuke sharply: “Here is the supreme power with which pastors of the church, by whatever name they are called, should be invested—namely, to dare all boldly for the word of God; counseling all virtue, glory, wisdom and rank of the world to yield to obey its majesty; to command all from the highest to the lowest, trusting to its power to build up the house of Christ and overthrow the house of Satan; to feed the sheep and chase away the wolves; to instruct and exhort the docile, to accuse, rebuke and subdue the rebellious and petulant, to bind and loose; in time, if need be, to file and fulminate, but all in the word of God.” [*Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 4.8.9]

Refute false teaching

“There is a marketplace of beliefs. We (like the early Christians) live in a multicultural, religiously pluralistic society. But Paul’s assumption here is that we live in a logical world. In God’s providence we have been given the light of reason. The laws of logic are trans-cultural. They apply just as much to a Hindu as to a Christian. They apply just as much to the heretic as to the orthodox. And therefore, though it might be hard work, with Bible in hand, we are to use our minds and our reasoning to refute what is false. For if the gospel is the true message of salvation, for God our Creator, then it will match reality and prove valid under very legitimate test of truth” [John Benton, *Straightening Out the Self-Centred Church: The Message of Titus*, (Durham, England: Evangelical, 1997), 64.]

For Parents with Young Children

Monday: Read Titus 1:10-16. Explain to your children that not everyone who teaches the Bible teaches the truth. So, it is important for them to know their Bible so that they can tell who is a good Bible teacher and who is a bad one. Ask your children who is in their lives to help them learn the Bible, and pray for those teachers (e.g. friends, Sunday school teachers, parents, grandparents, etc.). Also, ask them who they are teaching by their own words and actions (e.g. siblings, friends, younger children who look up to them, etc.), and explain to them how important it is that they too be good teachers.

Tuesday: Explain to your children that the laws in the Bible are from God and are meant to protect us from sin and harm, and so we should obey them. But only Jesus is perfect. Sometimes we break God’s laws. When we do, the Bible calls this “sin;” and Jesus will forgive us for our sins if we ask him, because he died and was raised from the dead for our sins. Spend some time discussing the importance of God’s rules with your children, and praying for the forgiveness of any rules they’ve recently broken.

Wednesday: Review what your children learned in Wednesday Night Connection. Spend some time together praying for FPC, its leaders, and your friends at church.

Thursday: Quiz your children to see how well they can recite: the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) and/or the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6). You can also quiz them on memory verses, catechism questions, or the Apostles’ Creed.

Friday: Spend some good time singing hymns and/or worship songs with your children tonight. If you would like a CD with good music for family worship, ask a pastor or an elder for some recommendations.

Saturday: Read a Bible story to your children. Pray that Phillip will have boldness in preaching the Word of God tomorrow. Also, pray for the Sunday School teachers and for the musicians and choir members who serve us each Sunday.

Sunday: Before you leave for church, explain to your children that their ministry at church is to welcome new children, help their Sunday School teacher, serve others, and worship God in the service. After church, discuss with your children what they learned and what you learned.