



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

week 4

Scripture to Read

Sermon text: Titus 2:1-10

Summary of Titus 2:1-10

Right doctrine rightly understood leads to right behavior. In this section Paul charges Titus to teach with authority and to train people to live lives shaped by the gospel. He addresses the behavior of the church according to typical groups within the family structure (older men, older women, younger women, younger men, slaves), with special attention to age and gender. While there are similarities in what is expected of each group, there are also distinctives.

Scripture for Memorization and Meditation

...so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior. [Titus 2:10b]

Questions for Personal Study and/or group discussion

- Read Psalm 12. How does this ancient song give expression to Paul's pastoral concern at the end of chapter 1 and the shift to instruction for Titus in chapter 2?
- What is the relationship of right doctrine to right living?
- What is God calling older men to? Older women? Young women? Young men?
- What do these have in common?
- How are they different? Why are they different?
- Where do you fit in? What is God calling you to be and to do?
- Where have you been tempted to cut corners because no one would know but you?
- How does that apply to verse 9 and 10?
- In what way have you protected the word of God from maligning, condemning or made it attractive?
- Where have your actions been detrimental to this purpose?
- How might you be able to train others in right doctrine and right living? What kind of training do you need in right doctrine and living? How might you go about obtaining the training you need?

Thoughts worth thinking

Of sound soul and body: The participle of the Greek verb *hygiainō* (found also at 1 Tim. 1:10; 1 Tim. 6:3; 2 Tim. 1:13; 4:3; Titus 1:9, 13), translated in v.1-2 as "sound," includes the idea of "health" (in the sense of "healthy" or "health giving" doctrine), and in 2 Timothy it contributes to an extended metaphor in which false doctrine spreads poison insidiously through the body ("like gangrene," 2 Tim. 2:17) while true doctrine makes the body healthy.

The training thing: “We could summarize the Pauline model of ministry training by saying that it looks a lot like parenthood:

- It begins as someone is instrumental in bringing someone else to new birth.
- It is long-term and loving.
- It includes passing on knowledge, wisdom and practical instruction.
- It involves modeling and imitation.
- It forms not only beliefs and abilities, but also character and lifestyle.

“...Training is parenting. It’s loving someone enough to want to see him or her grow and flourish, and being prepared to put in the long-term, faithful work that will (in God’s mercy) see that happen [Colin Marshall and Tony Payne, *The Trellis and the Vine: The Ministry Mind-Shift That Changes Everything* (Kingsford, Australia: Matthias Media, 2009), 75]

People as means or people as ends? “...the way people are referred to in the Pastorals (1 & 2 Timothy and Titus) is in terms of relationships and social identities, not tasks and talents. More often than not, we identify people in our congregations in terms of what they can do: tithers and non-tithers, leaders and followers...What I want to point out is that this way of looking at and identifying Christians in community has a way of functionalizing them in our minds, thinking of them not for who they are in community, in relationship, but for what they can do...In the Pastorals, five pairs of social relationships are mentioned: men and women, husbands and wives, parents and children, masters and slaves, citizens and state. And ten social identities are given: young men, young women, older men, older women, widows, bishops, elders, deacons, wealthy, poor...it is relational—understanding who people are in relation to one another and to Jesus and working on the virtues and habits that release love and forgiveness and hope and grace” [Eugene H. Peterson, “Titus: Starting Out in Crete,” *The Unnecessary Pastor: Rediscovering the Call* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000), 200].

Reveling or adorning? “Christian doctrine is salvation doctrine, a jewel called ‘the teaching about God our Saviour’ (v.10). So either we give no evidence of salvation, in which case the gospel-jewel is tarnished, or we give good evidence of salvation by living a manifestly saved life, in which case the gospel-jewel shines with extra lustre. Our lives can bring either adornment or discredit to the gospel” [John R.W. Stott, *The Message of 1 Timothy and Titus*, The Bible Speaks Today Series, John R.W. Stott, New Testament editor (Leicester: InterVarsity, 1996), 191-92].

For Parents with Young Children

Monday: Read Titus 2:1 and 1 Timothy 4:12. Explain to your children that Titus and Timothy were both young pastors, and because they were young, some people in the church looked down on them. Then, explain that sometimes people don’t think kids can really love and serve the Lord, but that the Bible says otherwise. Teach them from this section of Scripture the things they can do to live for Jesus even though they are young.

Tuesday: Explain to your children that God wants all of his people to learn the Bible so that they can know him and teach other people. But, God also wants his people to respect their teachers (e.g. in school, church teachers, parents, etc.), so they need to be respectful and pay attention. Ask your children to teach you a Bible lesson so that they can begin to practice teaching their faith to other people.

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: Tell your children that Jesus had disciples; Titus was Paul's disciple, and they have disciples too. Explain that disciples are people who follow our example, and ask them to list their disciples (e.g. friends, siblings, etc.) and explain why they need to set a good example for them. Pray for your child's friends.

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. Remember tomorrow's Sunday School breakfast at 8:30 a.m.

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.