



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

week 5

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. On the Lord's Day, Phillip will highlight Paul's instruction concerning the character, example, and training of women in the congregation.

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

- What is the relationship of right doctrine to right living?
- What does God want older women to do? Younger women?
- What do you think Paul means when he says that younger women should be trained "to love their husband and children"? After all, don't wives and moms already love their families?
- Ladies, to what specific issues of self-control and/or purity do you need to pay attention?
- Does "work at home" forbid a woman to be paid to work outside the home? Can you defend your position from Scripture?
- How does submission glorify Jesus? Read Philippians 2:5-11 as you consider your answer.
- What would a women's ministry with "Titus 2 priorities" look like?
- Describe the kind of relationships necessary for the kind of training Paul envisions between older and younger women to take place.
- Where do you fit in? What is God calling you to be and to do?
- 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].

Revilng 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: Explain to your children that even though people sin, God still loves and them, and that Jesus can forgive their sin if they ask him. Then, spend some time making a list of people they know who are not Christians that they can be praying for and speaking with about Jesus. And, ask them if there are any sins they have committed recently that they can pray to Jesus to forgive them for and change their hearts to not do those things anymore, and then pray together.

Tuesday: Explain to your sons that God does not want them to get angry and be mean to people, and that when they start to lose their tempers they should stop and ask God to calm them down. Explain to your daughters that Christian ladies should dress nicely but not seductively (If your children are a bit older, this may open discussion about specific standards of dress). Teach that they should seek to get attention not by being under-dressed, but by being holy and living their lives for God.

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 children are a blessing from God and that to be a mother is a wonderful gift of God. Explain why you are so glad that you have them, along with how and why you have

organized your life to serve them. Then, ask them what they think it will be like for them to be parents one day, and pray over them, thanking God for them.

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.