

Having the Right Side of Student Ministry in an Upside Down World Titus 2:1-14

1.). Getting to know the Cretans:

a.) Paul and Titus

Purpose of **letter to Titus** (1:5): The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you (written around AD 61).

i.) “When Paul wrote to Timothy he bade him instruct with meekness but now when he writes to Titus, he bids him rebuke them sharply. Timothy had more polite people to deal with and therefore he must rebuke them with meekness and Titus had to do with those who were more rough and uncultivated” Constable’s Commentary on Titus.

b.) The People of Crete

(i.) Paul addresses Cretans. One of **Crete's** own prophets (i.e. speaker of truth) said it: “Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.” (1:12) and was accepted as truth. To create meant to lie and to cheat. This is the audience to whom Paul addresses.

(ii.) Effective teaching of spiritual truth requires modeling those truths in daily life. In Titus 1:9 Paul listed the ability to teach sound doctrine last in the qualifications for a spiritual leader. This does not diminish the importance of teaching. But it indicates that character must precede communication. (Peter Mason 120)

Transition:

But as for you (Titus) teach what accords with **sound doctrine** (vs. 1).

1.) Who are We in Christ? (Titus 2:11-14)

a.) IN PAST: He is the *grace* of God (v 11a) & brings Salvation (11b)

See John 1:14, John 20:21

b.) IN PRESENT: He trains (compels/motivates) us (v 12)

Against ungodliness

Against worldly passions (1 Jn. 2:19)

c.) IN FUTURE: He is the hope and glory worth waiting for (v 13-14)

2.). Who are We in Church? (vs. 1-10)

a. older men (vv. 1-2)

- sober-minded,
- dignified,
- self-controlled,
- sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness

b. older women. v. 3 (1 Tim. 2:9-15)

- be reverent in behavior,
- not slanderers or slaves to much wine.
- They are to teach what is good,

Point: If God's Word is trading us that the Word of God may not be reviled because of our own HYPOCRISY

c. older women are to teach younger women (vv. 4-5)

- ⁴and so train the young women to love their husbands and children,
- ⁵to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God

d. younger men—including Titus (v.6)

- ⁶Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. ⁷Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, ⁸and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us— Is that impossible? NO Christ did it.

e. slaves/workers (vv. 9-10)

- **doulos/slave** Same word Paul refers to himself in vs. 2
- ⁹Bondservants^[2] are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering (stealing)
- (vs. 10) in everything **adorning** “wearing” the **doctrine**

TEEN STATS:

- 2/3 of teens are unlikely to attend a church after they graduate High School. 61% of young adults had been churched but are now “spiritually disengaged”. 2/3 dropout from church from 17-19 years of age. *Essential Church* by Barna.
- Twenty-two million twelve- to seventeen-year-olds in the United States alone owned a mobile device in 2015. US Census: 25 mil!
- Currently, teenagers spend nearly nine hours a day absorbing media. And according to the teens themselves (Emery: Meet Gen Z)
- “In order for a high school graduate to stay plugged into the church following graduation from high school, he or she needs strong relationships with five significant adults other than their parents” (p. 51 *Intergenerational Youth Ministry*)
- Wide chasm between wisdom and info.
- Truly we have more wisdom in our church than google.

3.) TWO PICTURES OF MENTORSHIP:

1.) Israel’s failure in “...there arose another generation... who did not know the LORD or remember the mighty things He had done for Israel...” (Judges 2:10)

Application:

- Be an adult who is active in our children and youth ministries.
- Think of ways that you can involve youth and adults together.
- Encourage students currently involved in ministry or becoming involved in ministries.
- Be intentional about welcoming graduating young adults into the adult ministries.

Additional Parenting and Mentoring Resources from our children and student ministry leadership:

1. Our church children's curriculum insightful parenting article: <https://www.gospelproject.com/8-tips-to-help-you-disciple-your-kids/>
2. There are no cookie cutter kids and no cookie cutter approach to discipling your child(ren): <https://lifewaywomen.com/2017/03/14/7-practical-ways-parents-can-disciple-kids/>
3. Sticky Faith (recommended book) has a great article about parents being an example at home: <https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/blog/showing-your-own>.
4. Additionally, There are also many great posts on their site: <https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/posts>
5. Focus on the Family has a really good take on having Sticky Faith at home : <https://www.focusonthefamily.ca/content/building-lasting-faith-in-kids-proven-ideas-from-sticky-faith-research>
6. A thoughtful, insightful article of other parenting websites: <https://ministry-to-children.com/christian-parenting-websites/>
7. Desiring God grace-based parenting website: <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/you-dont-need-more-parenting-advice>
8. Paul Tripp is a gifted speaker and encourager: <https://www.paultripp.com/content>. You can also follow him on Instagram and Facebook.
9. Tim Challies is great, thought-provoking writer in these times. He offers some helpful resources for parents and kids here: <https://www.challies.com/resources/all-the-free-and-discounted-stuff-for-these-difficult-times/>
10. Always check out Faith Baptist for new biblical content and resources for our families on Facebook and YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZBKnfN_DxMexI5HbfX0uIA/about