

First Baptist Church of Olney, Texas
July 9, 2023 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary Service
Dr. Chad A. Edgington, Senior Pastor
Titus 2:1-10

Intro:

One of the joys of the COVID lockdown was showing Adelaide and Sawyer some of the television shows that we grew up watching. The A-Team, Knight Rider, and the Dukes of Hazzard. Watching these shows 40 years after they were made sort of makes you laugh because they were so unrealistic and even silly. The kids loved it, but they couldn't believe that these shows were the actual prime time entertainment offered up back in the 80s.

One crazy thing about 80s action/adventure TV shows is how often the characters would encounter quicksand, killer piranha fish, or the Bermuda triangle. A whole generation of kids grew up afraid of these things. But those shows were really playing off our fear of what lies beneath the surface- because it usually isn't good.

And in the church- although we know how to say the right thing, and we learn how-to put-on appearances. We have learned how to make things seem calm on the surface, but underneath the surface of every church there are problems. Why? Because the church is made up of sinners and when sinners gather together, the sins are gathered together. So it is important to know, and we do really want to know how we are supposed to relate to one another, without just ignoring all that gunk under the surface...

Our Text this morning is Titus Chapter 2 verses 1-10.

In these verses Paul brings the gunk up out of the quicksand, he brings the piranha's into the boat.

Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell point out in their commentary that Paul deals with immorality, immaturity, lack of reverence, slander, meanness, substance abuse, idleness, family breakdown, crudity, dishonesty, frivolity, disobedience, back talk, and theft.¹

¹ R. Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell, *1-2 Timothy and Titus: To Guard the Deposit*, Preaching the Word Commentary (Wheaton: Crossway, 2012), 356-57.

In these verses Paul is teaching that everyone matters and plays an important part in the life (the experience) of the church, and that everyone in the church is responsible for “making God real to someone else.”²

So our application today is to learn how we can live a common spiritual life and together make God real to other people.

the gospel is experienced and expressed in life of the church. It’s important to remember at this point, as we read this, that church isn’t a club, a program, it isn’t a building, it isn’t something that you consume or a business you patronize- but it is who we are. The church is us, and we are body of Christ and we are, as I said, experiencing and expressing the gospel and even in different ways according to whether we are male or female and in different ways depending on our season of life.

So lets break down these 10 verses and see how our lives should weave together into this beautiful tapestry of the church. The passage is organized by specific instructions to different people.

Instructions to Titus v.1

Instructions to Men and Women in their older years v.2-3

Instructions to Younger Women v. 4-5

Instructions to Younger Men & Titus v.6-8

Instructions to Bondservants 9-10

Instructions to Titus

¹But as for you, teach what accords with **sound doctrine**.

-Notice our passage begins and ends with the importance of teaching sound doctrine and living in a way that accords and adorns sound doctrine. In verse 10 Paul mentions the doctrine of God our Savior. So the idea of doctrine bookends this passage. Its important.

-The application here is that there is a way we can live that demonstrates what we believe about the reality of salvation in Jesus Christ, or there is a way we can live that denies it. Life and doctrine can’t be divorced.

-We were talking with the kids about the mission trip and about how when you go off to another country on short term trip it is so much easier to be a witness because the people don’t know you, you don’t know them, and you will be leaving soon. I’ve been on trips with guys and when

² Hughes and Chapell, *1-2 Timothy*, 367.

we were in another country it was like they turned into Billy Graham and Mother Theresa all rolled into one, and I'm thinking, who is this guy? He's living out his faith here, why doesn't he live it out like back home? Well, its easy to be who you aren't for a few days....

-But when we were back home its harder, isn't it. people know how we live, they can sense our priorities by what we do, how we spend our time not what we say. And when we confess the gospel and don't live it. What we really believe is showing up in our actions. And you know who really learns from our hypocrisy? Our children, those who work with us, those we teach—a different lesson is caught than the one that is taught. And that lessons is, Christianity is just lip service, and under the surface, this fellow is just like everybody else. They talk about a gospel that changes lives and hearts- but it doesn't have any power.

That must be counter acted by people who do have changed hearts and lives...And so we are given these instructions.

First, **Instructions to Mature Men and Women**

² Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith (devotion to God), in love (devotion to others), and in steadfastness (devotion to never quitting).

³ Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,

-Now it will probably always seem like the younger Christians have more zeal. They have more energy, less responsibility, less tethering them to a place. They can pick up and go to Germany, stay up late, get up early, and just go all day long. They tend to be more emotional, more expressive, and they live with more abandon. I miss those days to be honest.

-As we age, we realize that many who expressed that zeal and that fire- they burned out. And the faith begins to take the shape of dogged perseverance. The older have this advantage over the younger- they have experienced sorrow and loss along with the joys.³ When Paul speaks in verse 2 of soberminded-ness, dignity, and self-control. He's talking about having a serious faith and doctrine is fitting for the best of times and the worst of times. We love to see the zeal of the younger generation, but the younger generation is moved to see the constant, committed, dedicated, never-quitting devotion of those going before them.

-We, as older believers, show God to them as we stick to it. As we show up for one another over and over and over again. **Men, let's live into these verses...**

³ The application of this sermon has been greatly influenced by the commentary of John Phillips, *Exploring the Pastoral Epistles: An Expository Commentary*, The John Phillips Commentary Series (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2004), 266ff.

-Notice that in the command to the older women, there is that specific command to teach the younger women how to live.

-Older women, is your life a living sermon for those younger ones watching you as a model of living for Jesus?

Instructions to Younger Women

⁴ and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

-Certainly, it is not a sin for a woman to work outside the home, and we realize that in a family, everyone has to pull their weight, but there is an order here that God has given. The man is to lead the home, but he can never demand or force the submission of the wife. His command is clear in Ephesians chapter 5. His task is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. However, the command for the woman is to defer to the Godly-servant-leadership of the Husband.

-Of course the wife does not submit to commands that are illegal or immoral, but after all is said and considerations are weighted, if there is a disagreement, the husband is the captain (and every team needs a captain) and he will be responsible for the decision. And that is a warning to women- if you marry an unbeliever or a fool, you will subject yourself and your children to the heartache of being led by someone who does not care for your Lord, and you will have to live with all his foolish decisions and his ways. I believe God will honor your faithfulness and obedience, but be careful when you pledge your life to someone, realize how monumental that decision is. Make sure you are marrying a possessor of faith, not just a professor of faith.

-And, I've said this many times, if you are in an abusive relationship, you need to get help, you need to talk to someone, you need help. This command doesn't obligate you to suffer hurt or abuse. If a man will not stop abusing a wife, he is not keeping his vows, he is a tyrant and not a husband and he has abandoned that marriage just as if he had walked out on his family.

-We have to always say these things when we come to verses like this because people manipulate them.

-But the end goal there in verse 5 is that young women would live in such a way that God's words would be proven true, not reviled...

And then he moves to the young men, and as a young man, Titus is included in these...

Instructions to Younger Men & Titus

⁶ Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.

(To Titus) ⁷ Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, ⁸ and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

-The instruction to the young men- self-control. To take life seriously. To be an example of service and good works. In their teaching or doctrine they should show soundness and be known for their gravity. In other words, a young believer should not seem like a silly young frat boy, but one who is wise beyond his years because his mind is full of God's Word and he is led by the Spirit.

-There is also an emphasis here on speech and teaching. The speech is to be solid, whole, and irrefutable. There is a pattern in the Bible that young people did a lot of teaching.

-The young man's life needs to back up his message, but his message is important too.

-But, how many dad's don't even feel confident sharing the gospel with their own young children?

-Young men in here- don't waste these years. These are the years to devote yourself to the Lord and to the Word of God, to study it, to discuss it, to learn to teach it. And when you do, you will find that you will become a man of God, and you will be a better dad, a better husband, a better church man, a better teacher, a better friend, and a better employee.

Then finally, the instructions to slaves.

(normal caveats)

Instructions to Bondservants

⁹ Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, ¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may **adorn the doctrine of God our Savior**.

-Slavery in the Roman empire was different than the chattel slavery and the Atlantic slave trade we think of in our country.

-But the world, in general, was a more cruel place. People became slaves for all kinds of reasons, because they were destitute, because they were prisoners of war, because they were trafficked. And they were treated terribly.

-And while Paul did not teach the slaves to rise up and overthrow their masters and the social order of Rome, eventually, the New Testament teachings did lead to the overthrow of slavery in the world.

-In these instructions, Paul is teaching these who find themselves slaves and believers to live in

a way that would show God to their masters.

-We can assume that bondservants were not always pleasing, often argumentative, that they stole, that they didn't show loyalty—So think how differently a Christian slave would have seemed in the house.

-Their behavior would adorn, or make beautiful, the doctrine of God our savior- or, in other words, the good news of salvation.

-Its hard to think of a worse circumstance than slavery. But we all do find ourselves in circumstances that are outside of our control.

-What happens to our faith in Christ, our belief, our teaching, our doctrine when we encounter those hardships? Does it prove to be genuine or not? How we handle those situations should adorn our doctrine. Should make it real to us and to others.

So where are you? Is your life, is your experience in God's household showing others that God is real? Or is it just showing others that you are not real?

It is unpleasant to preach these things, to jump into the quicksand, to pull the piranha's into the boat and look at them. But these things matter, they are life and death to the church.

Let's commit ourselves today, to living in such a way that shows to a lost and dying world and to each other, that God is real.

Other sources consulted:

<https://www.truthforlife.org/resources/sermon/high-calling-wives-and-mothers/> (Allister Begg Sermon, 2009)

<http://tapesfromscotland.org/Audio3/3031.mp3> (William Still Sermon, date unknown)