



The Heights Baptist Church

The Next Generation Matters Now • Titus 2:6-8 • 9/12/2021

MAIN POINT

You can serve as a mentor and example to others with integrity and sound teaching.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

What piece of advice are you glad you didn't ignore?

What one piece of advice would you give a young person in this day and age?

In order for young people to grow into godly men and women who lead in the church well, they need other men to model for them this type of living. Often today, TV and film represent men as bumbling characters who don't have the ability or initiative to lead others well. Yet, this is not who the Bible calls men to be. Paul recognized the need for younger men to have godly mentors, and he encouraged Titus to carry out that role.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| Invite a volunteer to read Titus 2:6.

How would you state Paul's instructions for the young men?

Why is self-control hard for so many of us?

The self-controlled person actively engages the battle for the mind, knowing that he must control and discipline his thought life if he is to win the battles of the Christian life. Self-control requires an ongoing denial of self, as modeled by Jesus. We only have the ability to continue in this manner of self-control as we rely on the strength of the Holy Spirit.

What has helped you have self-control? How might you help others?

| Invite a volunteer to read Titus 2:7.

Paul now addressed the actions of Titus himself, but verses 7-8 go hand-in-hand with his teaching for the young men. Titus was to model for the young men Christlike character in specific ways.

Who should set an example for others? How are all of God's people called to model godly living for others?

Who has served as an example in your workplace?

We can all likely name examples of people who have modeled for us in the seemingly ordinary things of life. But we have also been given examples of how to live in spiritual matters. For every Christian, it's important not only to have these examples to follow, but also to seek to live as an example of following Christ for others.

Who has served as an example in your walk with Christ? What impact did this person make in your life?

A part of the example Titus was to set for the young men was in how he taught them. A life of moral integrity must accompany his teaching. Content and character—what we teach and how we live out that teaching—go together and must complement each other.

In what ways do you see individuals not living up to what they teach?

It may be easy to quickly name another person who we feel does not live out the things they teach. However, we should be slow to accuse and quick to assess where we are also guilty of this. All Christians are called to live with integrity and lead others in doing the same.

How can we help each other live lives of integrity?

| Invite a volunteer to read Titus 2:8.

How can we ensure that what we teach others, even by our own life's example, is in accordance with sound doctrine?

What response did Paul hope for? How should this also be our desire?

Those who criticize what we teach or say will eventually shame themselves because their accusations are without merit or substance. They may not like what we say, but they can't deny it has changed our lives and impacts the way we live.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

How can you teach other Christians and mentor them in the faith?

How can we, as a church, not make it difficult for young people to serve the Lord?

What do you have to share with other Christians about what you've learned in your own Christian walk?

Of all the advice Paul gave in this passage about how to live a holy life, what is one specific area that you will commit yourself to concentrate on this week?

PRAYER

Thank God for His Word, the source of sound teaching. Pray for the opportunity to either be mentored by someone or serve as a spiritual mentor to others. Pray for strength and direction in living lives that line up with sound teaching.

COMMENTARY

| Titus 2:6-8

2:6. Titus was to encourage the young men to be self-controlled. Paul still had the evangelistic mission and reputation of the church in view. He wanted the young Christian men to exercise sober judgment in everything. This refers to sexual purity and restraint, to discretion in personal relationships so that anger does not replace grace, to self-mastery regarding alcohol and food. Self-control was a manifestation of God's Spirit which touched many aspects of daily living.

2:7-8. Paul turned directly to Titus and wrote, In everything set them an example by doing what is good. Just as Paul's instructions to older and younger women blended together, so his instructions to younger men mingled with this charge to Titus. While Titus must lead the way in his behavior, the clear implication is that all the younger men should be characterized by acts of goodness. Once again Paul had in mind outward, observable actions. Followers of Christ are to demonstrate a changed lifestyle marked by goodness in everything they do. This stands in

contrast to the false teachers, who were “disobedient and unfit for doing anything good” (Titus 1:16).

Paul emphasized two fundamental structures of true Christianity— behavior and belief. In contrast to the false teachers, the proclaimer of the gospel must live a life typified by goodness. Such a proclaimer must deliver the message with integrity, seriousness, and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned.

Integrity denotes purity of motives as well as content. Corruption of the message or the inner life of the bearer of the message was intolerable. By contrast, Paul declared the false teachers’ minds and consciences to be “corrupted” (Titus 1:15).

Seriousness speaks to the manner in which the message is given. Titus, and all pastors, are to teach God’s Word with the dignity it deserves. The Christian teacher must deliver God’s truth in a way that conveys the importance of the message; he must offer the truth with humility.

Soundness of speech includes the method as well as the effect. The pastor must speak words of “health.” His teaching must be doctrinally pure, full of grace, and effective for producing spiritual health in others. Unlike the false teachers whose message led to quarrels, rebellion, greed, and irresponsible living, the true Christian offers a message of health, or “soundness”— unity, obedience, generosity, goodness, and responsible actions.

Paul longed for the church, its pastors, and all followers of Christ to be blameless. He desired that no one find fault in what we say, how we say it, or in the manner of our lives. Though people may hate us, we must conduct ourselves and speak after the manner of our Lord so that those who oppose [us] may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

Paul wanted nothing to detract from Christ and the salvation he offers to all people. He wanted nothing to stand in the way of the missionary enterprise. The apostle wanted the church united, speaking the unadulterated truth of God’s goodness and grace, living an unblemished life as exemplified by Jesus the Christ.