**Counter-Culture –** **Titus pt4 – All in the Family**

**God was working among some of the hardest and wildest hearts in the Mediterranean - coming to Christ and needed to know what to do next.**

**Paul left Titus in charge – and gave him a mission:**

**Establish new disciples in healthy churches.**

**(map) Create - beautiful island with rock cliffs and clear waters and with tough people - as hard-headed as the rock mountains he saw.**

**Titus 1:12 One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”13 This testimony is true.**

**Crete has an empire-wide bad reputation. Known as - dishonorable, disgraceful, liars, untrusting. Free-booters = pirates.**

**Titus is commissioned to disciple these new followers with bad habits; as a result, most of this letter deals w/ reflecting Jesus**

* **It’s now up to Titus to get the churches established.**
* **First things first – set in qualified leaders.**

**This week – Paul addresses the life of a follower of Jesus**

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

**Doctrine – system of belief – what you believe about Jesus.**

**Example: Titus uses the word Savior more than any other letter in the NT (25%) Says there is one Savior – and calls God and Jesus the Savior = The Trinity and deity of Jesus.**

**JD Greear describes doctrine as three parts: We are to study -**

* **Upward – to the beauty and glory of God**
* **Backward – to the work of Christ through the ages and the cross**
* **Forward – to where God is taking you and who he is making you**

**Paul instructs Titus on everyday living for the whole family.**

**Areas these groups had to work out – Paul was there…**

**This is not meant to stereotype age groups - but encourage.**

**Titus 1:2 Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.**

**TO THE ADULT MEN**

**Sober-minded, (not intoxicated or high – free from outside influences)**

**Be dignified, (worthy of respect – humble - honorable)**

**Self-controlled, (mentally self-controlled)**

**Sound in faith, (knows, grows, and holds firmly good theology, faithful)**

**Sound in love, (loving, kind, compassionate, godly affection)**

**Sound in steadfastness. (patient, enduring, persevering, not a quitter)**

**Men – Do you have sound doctrine? Do you know what you believe? Do you reflect these qualities? Do you invest in others? Are you a quitter? Your life in Christ is not over!**

**3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, 4 and so train the young women...**

**TO THE ADULT WOMEN**

**Be reverent in behavior, (speech, behavior, act respectfully)**

**The tendency to quit caring about what people think and speak their minds. Don’t lose your filter.**

**Not slanderers (don’t be gossips, character assassins, spread rumors)**

**Not slaves to much wine. (issue in Greek culture and today – bondage)**

**Insta / Facebook pics – me any my drink – instead set example**

**Teach what is good, (teach thru example and with words)**

**Train the young women… (encourage – impart to young women)**

**Character is beautiful. Where do you need to grow? Are you fulfilling your role to impart into 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. (When we don’t reflect Christ - God looks bad. When we do it God’s way – God is glorified.)**

**TO THE YOUNG WOMEN**

**Love their husbands and children (loving & affectionate w/ your family)**

**Notice this is something to learn and grow in…**

**Be self-controlled, (not wild – and rage filled – without control)**

**Be pure, (chaste, pure hearted, innocent hearted - not about perfection)**

**Working at home, (“busy at home” “homemaker” focused on family)**

**This is not about outside jobs. Point is, keep your affections one your family. Not busy getting into other people’s issues. Your family is to be your first priority (for dad’s too)**

**Be kind, (generous with others)**

**Be submissive to their own husbands, (understands godly roles)**

**Equal with differences – lit. let Him lead – Eph 5:22, Col 3:18.**

**As Christ submitted to the Father – equal but in purpose.**

**This is challenge to husbands too - lead like Christ.**

**Notice this does not say about women – looks, clothes, fashion, size**

**\*\* Being a woman is not based on culture but on scripture**

* **Biblical manhood is first - biologically a women.**
* **Based on this- love for her family, character, kindness, encourager**

**Proverbs 31:10 A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.**

**1 Peter 3:3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear –4 but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.**

**This does not mean you can’t braid your hair or adorn yourself – you just understand that is not where true beauty lies.**

**Do you reflect the heart of this? Are you growing in your marriage, relationships? Are you encouraging his leadership and place your family as a central pursuit?**

**6 Likewise, urge the younger men (Young men need to learn too) to be self-controlled. 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. (above accusation – can’t slander – good reputation)**

**TO THE YOUNG MEN**

**Be self-controlled. (sober minded, take life serious, stop being foolish)**

**Prov 25:28 - A man without self-control is a like a city whose walls have been broken through.”**

**Be a model of good works (older men – give examples to follow – young men live it out)**

**Show integrity - in your teaching (depth of scripture – how to handle it)**

**Show dignity (a person of integrity – without corruption – self-respect)**

**Sound speech that cannot be condemned, (healthy words)**

**Your mouth matters – take it seriously. Let your speech reflect the attitude of Jesus – life giving words, not vulgar or foul.**

**Notice this does not say to the men - teach them to chop wood, work on cars – be tough and wear plaid and boots.**

**\*\* Being a man is not based on culture but on scripture –**

* **Biblical manhood is first - biologically a man.**
* **Based on this - A man is humble, looks out for others, has self-control, is generous, gracious, forgiving, and leads his family**

**Proverbs 9:10 - The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.**

**Do you walk in integrity? Do you treat women respectfully? Do your words and actions reflect the attitude of Jesus? What are others saying about you?**

**9 Bondservants (legally bound servants – powerful employers – percentage? in our work life – military life) 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. (what is it about you that you work differently? It’s Jesus.)**

**TO THOSE WITH JOBS (SLAVES)**

**Be submissive to their own masters (bosses) in everything**

**Do what you are asked – if it does not contradict God**

**Be well-pleasing, (do good work – do it right - excellence)**

**You are not content with doing the minimum – servant attitude**

**Not argumentative, (not argumentative, good attitude, not negative)**

**Not pilfering, (stealing – not cheating - integrity)**

**Showing all good faith, (faithfulness, trustworthy, person of your word)**

**Knowing some bosses are not believers. This is about being a powerful witness at work. “so that in everything they may adorn (reflect) the doctrine of God our Savior.”**

**Do you respect the position of your boss? Do you have a bad attitude or argumentative? Are you trusting - a hard worker?**

**Notice how these things are very similar to leadership qualifications**

**Some highlights…**

1. **True gospel beliefs precede a true gospel behavior.**

**Titus 1:1 (Paul) for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness…**

**Titus 2:1 You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. 2 2 Teach the older men… older women… young women… young men… servants**

**Again, and again Paul tells us in this letter. They go hand in hand. Right living flows from right doctrine.**

**It is the Love and Truth principle… Lemonade – Sugar water and lemons – both makes it sweet**

**Religion cannot produce godliness – it is an outward external attempt to change. But true change starts inside. Romans 12 – in the mind. How? With what you believe = doctrine.**

**Religion produces pride, arrogance and eventually burnout and exhaustion. Many “deconstruction” people were burnt out by church and religion. It was not Jesus, it was religion.**

1. **We are to love God completely with our heart, head, and hands**

**We find this here and throughout the NT – following Jesus is a heart, head, and hand issue. We feel it – learn it – and live it.**

**John 14:15 - If you love me, you will keep my commandments. / John 14:23**

**Jesus replied, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word…”**

* **Obedience is birthed out of a relationship with Jesus (by the HS)**
* **Obedience flows from a love for Jesus**
* **The greater our love for Jesus – the greater our obedience**

**Temptation: What do you love (desire) more at that moment? Growing in our love for Jesus – results in greater obedience.**

1. **We are to reflect Jesus in every aspect of our life.**

**Paul addresses Titus - Marriage – kids – work – and society.**

**Some compartmentalize their faith. Pulling out the God box on weekends, church events, or around other Christians.**

**Jesus is not a weekend gig.**

**Luke 9:23 And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.**

**Following Jesus affects every area of life – daily.**

1. **Freedom in Christ is expressed with-in the context of a society rather than overturning it.**

**Paul is not endorsing slavery or demeaning women’s ability.**

\* **Paul often mentions slaves and masters in his letters.**

**Shockingly Christians saw no diff between a slave & master = equals.**

**It was groundbreaking - they worshipped, fellowshipped, lived together – a slave could even be a church elder over his master.**

**\* As far as women – compared to local cultures, women had more rights in Christianity than almost anywhere. 1st to see resurrected JC.**

**Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

**This is true counter-culture! Bringing change by being the change.**

**Not looking to legislation – but our own radical way of living!**

**That is how Christianity thrived and grew in the first 6 centuries .**

1. **We are saved out of our bad works, through the good work of Jesus Christ – to do good works.**

**The phrase. “good works” is repeated in many diff ways in Titus.**

**Faith is hands-on - James 1:22** **Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. / 2:18 But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.**

**Bad, good works = an attempt to get God’s favor.**

**Good, good works = a response to God’s favor.**

* **We are not made right with God through good works or actions.**

**Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. (Romans 3:24-28. 2 Tim 1:9, Titus 3:5, Galatians 2:15-21)**

**You cannot do enough, attend enough, give enough, be good enough to earn the grace of God – we are dead in spirit. Good deeds do not bring the dead back to life. Only the cross.**

* **However - The Gospel that saves us out of ungodliness and transforms us into godliness**

**Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (John 15”8, 1 Peter 2:12**

**We are not made right with God through them - but we are saved through Jesus to do good works**

**Saved to be doers - of love and truth - action people!**

**Paul says we are saved by faith in Jesus then follows it with this - Eph 2:10** **For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

**Take a look in the mirror – is your life distracting the view of Jesus? Are you taking steps to clear the brush? Are your actions and choices reflecting the love you have for Christ and the salvation you’ve been given?**