

Sermon Notes
WORSHIP SERVICE -
10.22.2023

PART 33 - THE RIPPLE EFFECT
OF SOUND DOCTRINE

I. INTRODUCTION

Titus 2:1-10

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. 2 Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. 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 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. 6 Likewise, urge the younger men 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. 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.

II. THE IMPLICATIONS OF SOUND
DOCTRINE

- V1 But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine.
- In contrast to the damning indictment leveled against the false teachers who troubled the church, Paul challenges Titus to walk a different path.
- The teaching of the false teachers led to all sorts of ungodliness, Titus' teaching was to be consistent with sound doctrine.
- He must stand out and stand apart by teaching what is true.
- This is one of the ways that Titus was going to be able to silence those teaching what is false.

- The teaching of the false teachers had a ripple effect on those who listened to them and embraced their teaching.
- The teaching of sound doctrine also has a ripple effect. It grows God's people in godliness.
- Recall in Paul's greeting he cites as the apostolic aim of his ministry, not just the saving faith of God's elect, but also the teaching of truth which leads to godliness (1:1).
- Paul is concerned very much with the promotion of godliness in the church, but not only in the church, but also in the home, in marriages and families, and also in the vocational life of the believer.
- Sound doctrine must work its way out, it must be applied and lived out by the grace of God in the lives of believers.
- This is the way all of God's people will stand out and stand apart from the world and what is false.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- When we look at Paul's exhortation, "teach what accords with sound doctrine," we see two interlaced components for what Titus is to teach.
- There is the "sound doctrine." This is apostolic teaching.
- And there is "what accords" with that teaching. That is, what is fitting, what is consistent with that teaching.
- This embodies all of the ethical and practical duties that arise from that teaching.
- You cannot separate Christian doctrine from Christian duty. All theology is practical.
- As you sit under the ministry of God's Word, you are not just coming to get information.
- You have a responsibility before God to respond to his Word.
- You have a responsibility to wrestle with the practical implications and application of God's Word to your own life.
- God's Word is meant to transform you and grow you in godliness.

PUBLIC AMPLIFICATION

- As God's people grow in godliness, as they are being transformed by God's grace, there is a ripple effect that extends outwards from the individual.
- That inward work is amplified outward, impacting the whole body of believers.
- Your personal growth in godliness is not a private matter.
- All of God's people are to be examples to one another in godly conduct, all are to have a sense of responsibility for others in the church community, all are to take care that the word of God is not reviled, all are to live lives that adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.
- You can see how Paul was concerned that all believers would have this sense of responsibility and motivation to promote godly conduct that is consistent with the sound doctrine being taught.
- In the church, God intends that the lives of believers influence one another and testify of the truth, power, and hope of the gospel of God.
- You have a responsibility through your life and conduct to empower the gospel's influence on others within our church community and outside of our church community.

III. THE APPLICATION OF SOUND DOCTRINE

- Paul takes the principle of personal application and brings it to bear on six different categories of people.
- Different ages, different sex, different roles that each face different challenges and temptations.
- Consider how in these few short verses, Paul lists a number of issues that Titus must address in his teaching: anger, immorality, lack of reverence and respect, immaturity, slander, drunkenness, idleness, crude behavior, dishonesty, disobedience, theft.
- Take note of what Paul instructs, these are some of the godly conduct and qualities that characterize the mature believer.

OLDER MEN

- Titus has the responsibility of teaching the older men of the church.
- They receive two main exhortations.
- Older men are to be “Sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled”
- Older men are to be “Sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness”
- Older men should demonstrate a temperament that is appropriate to their seniority.
- They should be level-headed. They should be self-controlled, not ruled by their impulses or desires.
- A self-controlled life is a mark of maturity that comes from walking with God for many years.
- Self-control is the key quality of this passage, you will see this exhortation repeated.
- Older men should act and live in a respectable manner. They should be dignified. That means they act with a sensibility, they are serious in their demeanor so as to engender honor naturally from others, particularly from younger men.
- Older men should exude the virtues of faith, love, and steadfastness.
- These virtues enable the godly behavior expected of older men.
- Sound in faith, having a deep confidence and trust in the Lord.
- Sound in love, a life marked by love of God and love of fellow believers.
- Sound in steadfastness, that is patience and endurance. He is an example of what it looks like to run the race with endurance.
- Older men, are you the kind of godly man that younger men would want to emulate?

OLDER WOMEN

- 3 Older women likewise...Older women face similar temptations.
- “Be reverent in behavior,” Paul uses a word that is not repeated in the NT. “In the way you live, be like a priestess who performs religious duties to a deity.”

- The sense is that godly older women should, in their daily life, carry the demeanor of one who allows their sense of the presence of God to permeate their whole lives.
 - Older women should avoid two moral failures: slandering, and being addicted to too much wine.
 - They must not use their mouths to tear others down, to back-bite, criticize or complain.
 - They must be self-controlled, not enslaved to self-medicating with too much wine.
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- They, by their example, will teach the younger women in the church.
 - “Teach what is good...” that is teach by their lifestyle, acceptable patterns of behavior for younger women to emulate.
 - They should desire to live godly lives not just to please the Lord, but they should be motivated also to encourage the younger women who are watching them.
 - What kind of example are you modeling for younger women?
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- In the church, no one outlives their usefulness.
 - With age and experience come wisdom, and many older women have so much to offer younger women.
 - Who better to guide a young woman than a godly, mature woman of God.
 - Teaching younger women is the responsibility of the older women of the church.

YOUNGER WOMEN

- The exhortation he gives younger women are the things that godly older women, by their lifestyle, should be encouraging the younger to do.
 - Consider the context of time in which this was written. Don't read into this text that Paul is opposing a woman pursuing a profession or career outside of the home.
 - But, if a woman is married, and has children, she must love her husband and children and not neglect them.
 - Home is the priority, it is where they are called to serve.
 - “Working at home” or “home-workers”, means they are not idle but productive in their domestic duties.
 - This is more than resisting the temptation to be idle or lazy at home, it means to also resist the temptation to be over-busy elsewhere.
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- We live in a culture that does not value marriage and family and minimizes the role of the homemaker.
 - But as Christians, we have to understand that our value and worth and identity doesn't come from what we do or don't do.
 - We are Christ's! That is where our identity and worth and value comes from.
 - The gospel liberates us as Christ's redeemed people to see that everything we do is for the glory of God.
 - Even the mundane, wearying tasks of taking care of things at home, raising children, and looking after our spouse, are infused with greater purpose.
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- Paul calls the younger women to godly lives as he has called the older men and the older women.
 - They are to be self-controlled, pursuing holiness, demonstrating compassionate kindness to their husband and

children, and they should be productive at home.

- They should also be submissive to their own husbands.
- God has ordained that the husband be the head of the wife, and wives should submit to her husband's loving leadership in the relationship.
- Scripture does not give license for a husband to rule like a dictator, or to be selfish or abusive.
- A husband is to love his wife "as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her" (Eph 5:25).
- The sacrificial love of husbands is to be complemented by the love of wives who are "to submit in everything to their husbands" (Eph. 5:24).
- For a wife to submit, doesn't mean she suppresses her intelligence, talents and gifts but rather that she fully expresses her intelligence, talents, and gifts in the purpose of supporting her husband in the spiritual leadership of the home.
- A godly Christian wife uses her gifts and talents for the higher purpose of supporting the nurturing of the household, in both the physical duties required in the home and the spiritual duties.

- Why should younger women comply with the ethical demands of sound doctrine?
- Because of the ripple effect of their behavior--"that the word of God may not be reviled."
- Christian marriages and Christian homes who follow the Lord, who promote godliness and comply with the teaching of sound doctrine, beautifully commend the gospel.
- Those that don't, bring the gospel into disrepute; they dishonor the Word of God.

YOUNGER MEN

- The young men get only one exhortation—"to be self-controlled."
- What do you young men need? They need to learn self-mastery.
- In this exhortation we can be assured that Paul has in mind that a young man learns how to control his tongue, his lusts and appetites, his sexual urges, his ambition and avarice and impatience.
- We live in a culture and society in which young men live an extended adolescence.
- Christian young men need to grow up and they need to take seriously the matters of faith and life.

TITUS

- Paul's exhortation to Titus is connected to his exhortation to young men.
- Titus must encourage the younger men and he also has to set an example in everything of what godliness looks like.
- He has to be a living model for young men and everyone else to follow.
- His teaching must be with integrity, dignity, and sound speech which cannot be condemned by those who oppose him.
- There has to be a soberness in Titus, a seriousness in the manner and delivery of the teaching, and sound speech.
- Titus' lifestyle and ministry must be exemplary. That way any basis for slander is removed and the gospel can go forward.

- Titus's life and ministry must contrast that of the false teachers.
- The false teachers were "unfit for any good work" and Titus must "be a model of good works."
- The false teachers were deceivers, who lied and turned people away from the truth, doing it for shameful gain, Titus must in his teaching show integrity, truthfulness, and an uncorrupted message.
- The false teachers were empty talkers, spewing senseless things, Titus must show dignity and sound speech which cannot be condemned.
- Titus's sound words and godly example should render the false teachers speechless, silencing them.

BONDSERVANTS

- Bondservants were household slaves.
- What is Paul's main concern for them?
- His concern is that Christian bondservants exhibit character and conduct consistent with Christian doctrine.
- His concern was for the reputation of the gospel with outsiders.
- These exhortations apply to every Christian who is in the employ of another.
- Christians should not be passive at work and do the minimum that is required and no more.
- Christians should seek to be a blessing to their employer.

- What is the result of workers who live this way in relation to their employer?
- "So that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior."
- That is the ripple effect of sound doctrine working its way out in the life of the believer.
- The godly Christian worker brings luster to the gospel message.
- Slaves, in their conduct, could make the gospel appealing to their masters.
- Workers, in their conduct, could either make the gospel attractive, or they can be their improper conduct make the gospel detractive.
- By our life and conduct, if we give no evidence of salvation, we tarnish the gospel-jewel.
- But if by our life and conduct, we give good evidence of salvation, the ripple effect is that the gospel-jewel shines with extra luster.
- We can either adorn the gospel or discredit the gospel.
- What kind of worker are you? One who does the bare minimum or one who seeks to bless their employer?
- Do you, by your life and conduct at work, adorn the gospel or do you discredit it?

CONCLUSION

- The implications of sound doctrine have a ripple effect in a life, in a home, in the church, and in the world.
- The mark of maturity in a believer is their sense of responsibility for others in the church community.

- All of us are called to drink deeply of sound doctrine and teaching and apply it to ourselves.
- All of us are called to serve as examples of godliness to others.
- All of us are called to live according to the principles of grace so that the word of God is not reviled.
- All of us are called to adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

- When we all live this way, the ripple effect will be a powerful progression of the gospel in our own lives, in our homes, in our church, and in our world.
- Jesus will be magnified, the gospel-jewel will shine brightly, as we testify of the grace of God that has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.

APPLICATION AND REFLECTION

In light of today's message....

- What did I learn about the gospel?
- How can I apply what I learned about the gospel to my life?
- With whom can I share the gospel this week?