



Community Group Study: How Not to Grow in Godliness

Titus - Part 3 | Titus 1:10-16 | week of September 24

GETTING STARTED

- What are the biggest dangers to Christians successfully growing in godliness?

Read Titus 1:10-16.

DISCUSS & APPLY

- Who does Paul identify as the “insubordinate” at the end of verse 10?
- Similar false teachers were a problem for the church in Galatia, as well. Read Galatians 2:12; 5:2-4. What does the “circumcision party” seem to be telling Christians in Galatia and in Crete?
- What does Titus need to do with these people, and why (v. 11)? What does Titus need to do with those who are listening to them, and why (vv. 13-14)?

- Interestingly, Paul says that those who are devoted to “the commands of people” (v. 14) are the same people who are “liars, evil beasts, and lazy gluttons” (v. 12). What does this show us about the shortcomings of a rule-based approach to godliness?
- Read Colossians 2:20-23. How does this add to your answer?
- Read Titus 1:1-2. What has Paul already told us about how we can grow in godliness?
- In what ways do we find it tempting to reduce godliness to a list of do’s and don’ts?
- Read again Titus 1:15-16. What is true for pure people (i.e., gospel-living Christians)? What is true for those who don’t believe the gospel?
- Why are rules ultimately incapable of making anyone pure?

- Legalism says: *You should not do this because it's a sin.* The gospel says: *You need not do this because God is bigger and better than this sin.* Think of a couple of sins you are struggling with. Are you attempting to resist them in a legalistic way, or a gospel way?

- How can you preach the gospel to yourself the next time you are tempted?

NEXT STEPS

- Write a prayer of confession. Confess to God any ways in which you have limited your view of godliness by reducing it to rules; or any ways in which you have been ignoring ungodliness in your life.