

Discussion Guide

Week of May 11, 2014

Titus 2

Passage Overview: For many of us, Paul's letter to Titus is something that we don't study often, and when we do, it's a bit difficult to know how to apply—there's a lot of personal and specific guidance for Titus and his situation is different than ours. However, in another sense, Titus and the church that he pastored on the island of Crete are not so different from us at all. They struggled with immorality and error among church leaders; they strived to live as Christians in a culture hostile to the gospel; they needed encouraging about the basis and motivation of their lives; and they needed detailed teaching about proper Christian living. In other words, though their physical and cultural circumstances were quite different, their spiritual lives are very similar to our own.

Understanding God's Word—Read Titus 2 (focusing on vv.1-10)

- In vv.1-10, Paul follows a common first-century practice of describing the way people should live in terms of a 'household code' (for other examples, see Eph 5; Col 3; 1 Pet 2:13-3:7). He works through the key social relationships and describes the appropriate Christian behavior for each group. What does Paul direct Titus to teach each group? Discuss any areas that are difficult to understand.
 - Older men
 - Older women
 - Young women
 - Younger men
 - Slaves
- According to vv.11-14, what is the basis of Paul's appeal about how Christians should live? Why is it important to understand this basis for godly living?

Living and Applying God's Word

- Which of the groups in Titus 2 do you fit into? What is God telling you to do here? *Be specific and practical.*
- Perhaps the most controversial of Paul's directions concerns young women. To suggest that young women should be "working at home" and "submissive to their own husbands" (v.5) is hardly popular in our culture. It is in areas like these that we find the clash of values most severe.
 - Do these verses forbid a woman from working in a job outside the home?
 - What principles or values about family life are being taught here?
- From vv.3-5, would you say that a wife loving her husband/children comes easily and naturally? (*Note: The same would be true for a husband loving his wife/children.*) What do you learn from this?
- "Self control" features prominently in this passage. In fact, for young men (v.6), it is a blanket statement that seems to cover everything. What does our culture think about self-control? In what areas do you find self-control difficult?
- How might the godly values spoken of in this passage affect you: (1) at work, (2) with your family, and (3) in church relationships?

Prayer: Ask God to help you with particular areas of godliness that you need to be working on in light of Titus 2. Pray for those who might be ridiculing you for your way of life. Ask God to challenge them to take the claims of Jesus seriously. Ask God to give them new birth.

Announcements

- Children's Ministry Orientation (May 18 at 9am; RSVP to Rachel)
- "One Another" Member Meeting (May 18 at 6pm)
- Memorial Day Picnic (May 26 from 11am-3pm; at Flat Rock Park)