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TITUS

Wearing the Gospel

Titus 2

- I. The How
 - a. Throughout Paul's letters to Timothy and now to Titus we've been asking the question – what makes for an effective leader?
 - i. What qualities did Paul and the other apostles have that ultimately changed the world? We know it is the power of the gospel that changes lives
 - ii. As Paul wrote in *Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes*
 1. This we know – but the question remains how do we effectively carry this message out to the world
 2. What makes a man or woman effective for the gospel? What makes a man or woman influential in a Spiritual sense? Influential in the Kingdom of God?
 - b. New coach – first time in the locker room with his players
 - i. The room is silent – he walks up to the white board and he writes in large letters three words
 1. SCORE MORE POINTS
 2. Confidently puts the cap on the marker and tells his players “If we are going to win we need to score more points than the other team. Go out there and get ‘em!”
 - ii. That is not coaching – that is not leading. Anyone in the stands with half a brain could do the same thing
 1. Look back at the jobs we had that had poor training programs – “here’s what you are supposed to do –how you accomplish that, well that’s up to you.” Drop and binder in your lap.
 2. Teachers that had the most impact on your life – it wasn’t “you need to know how to read.” It was “let me show you how to read because once you learn to read it will open all kinds of doors.”
 3. We know how important the how and in in leading effectively yet we approach parenting, spiritual training, and discipleship the same way that coach approached his team – were good at telling people what to do – but unwilling to spend the time showing them the how – or maybe we just don’t know how
 - a. That wasn’t the case with Paul
 - c. The gospel in the air and the gospel on the ground
 - i. Don’t get me wrong, the “what” was extremely important to Paul – Paul spent a lot of time on the “what” – He spends the first 11 chapter of Romans on the “what” – God created man to have fellowship with Him (the chief end of man is to glory God and to enjoy Him forever), but mankind rebelled against God, God is just and had to judge mankind for their sin of rebellion, that judgment was death – the wage of our sin is death, but in an act of unconditional love and grace He provided His perfect Son Jesus Christ, it was Jesus who took that verdict of death that we were due to pay upon Himself, and He defeated sin at the cross, and defeated death when He rose from the grave, and now anyone who accepts Jesus as their personal savior will be saved from their sins and made right with God, and they are destined to spend eternity with their loving Father – anyone who rejects Jesus will be required to pay their debt in full

- ii. That's the gospel in the air (that what) but how do we take that message out to the world? That's the gospel on the ground. Do we raise money to purchase billboards, do we buy airtime on the local television station, do we print fake dollar bills that have the gospel message on the back? How do we get this message out?
- iii. Paul tells us – our lives are the billboards, our lives carry the message of the cross – the gospel isn't simply a message to be regurgitated over and over again, it is a life to be lived
 - 1. It's not simply dropping a Bible in someone's lap and saying good luck with that
 - a. It's taking the time to go through it with them - show and tell
 - b. Jon Courson writes *"The Lord is not interested in us becoming people who have theories of theology. He wants the understanding of the Word to be translated through our lives into daily practicality."*
 - 2. That is the gospel on the ground and that is what the 2nd Chapter of Titus is all about
 - 3. We know people need Jesus but how can we be effective in their lives so that they see their great need for Jesus and respond
 - 4. And once they respond how can we be effective in their lives to train them up to go out and do the same

Tit 2:1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:

- II. But as for you...
 - a. Don't be like them.
 - i. Who? The ones who profess to know God, but in works they deny Him (1:16)
 - ii. For someone who was so dead set on making sure people knew that no work of the flesh would save them Paul spends a great deal of time talking about works
 - iii. ***Rom 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.***
 - iv. ***Rom. 11:6, "But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace."***
 - v. ***Eph. 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Not by works, lest any man should boast."***
 - b. That may be hard to reconcile since the chapter before us seems to be all about works
 - i. Speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine – what Paul is saying is teach people what it means to live out the gospel – a direct contrast to the last verse in chapter 1
 - ii. Listen to what Paul writes again at the end of chapter 1 – There are those who profess to know God, but their works deny Him
 - 1. Their lives don't simply deny their knowledge of Him, they deny God!
 - 2. *"They acted as if this Supreme Being was a mere metaphysical abstraction, out of all moral relation to human life, as if He were neither Saviour nor Judge."* J.H. Bernard
 - 3. There is a life that we can lead, as born-again believers, that denies the very existence of God
 - iii. On the other hand there is a life that we can lead through, the power of God's Holy Spirit, that affirms not only the existence of God but the love He has for His creation
 - 1. That is the new life, that is the life we have been saved for – Paul is now instructing Titus to teach them how to walk in this newness of life, teach them how to walk in a manner worthy of their calling, show them how to live the gospel life

Tit 2:2-8 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; (3) the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— (4) that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. (6) Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, (7) in all things showing yourself to

be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, (8) sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.

III. Starts with the Older Men and Women

- a. The Greek word Paul uses for older men and older women literally translates to older men and older women – no escaping what he meant
 - i. He starts there – they are to be the examples to the younger ones – the young are looking to the old to see how to live
 - ii. Young people today really get a bad rap, but the reality is they are products of the previous generation
 - iii. The current generation is the product of the “do what I say, not what I do” generation
 1. The “I’ll tell you what but I won’t show you how”
 2. I’ll tell you how important it is to read your Bible but you’ll never see me reading it – I’ll tell you how important church is and then I’ll stay home to watch the game – You’ll see me act one way around the people at church and a completely different way at home
 - a. “But always remember – do what I say, don’t do what I do”
 - b. You know what that translates to “They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him”
 3. Paul writes that it is the responsibility of the older generation to train up the younger generation – and if the younger generation is lost it is time for us to look in the mirror
 4. We may say “but they don’t want to be trained up” – have we really even tried?
- b. Gets into the specifics of being an example – starts with the men
 - i. Disclaimer – Paul is not telling us how to be saved or to earn God’s love – these are instructions for those who are willing to throw their hat in the ring – they’ve joined the team – they know they are saved but they want to know what that saved life looks like and they want their lives to be used by God to bring more people into the Kingdom of God
 - ii. the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; exhorting the young men to be sober-minded, (7) in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, (8) sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.
 1. Sober and Reverent – perspective – more specifically God’s perspective – a sober man is one who keeps the important things important and lets the frivolous things fall by the wayside
 - a. We can tell people all day long what is important to us but we show them by how we spend our time and money (where your treasure is, there will your heart be also)
 - b. Tell my son how much he means to me and then spend all my free time with my buddies on the golf course – kids are smarter than we think
 - c. We often have our priorities mixed up – we take the important things in life lightly and give the frivolous things in life far too much importance
 - d. Sober also means - vigilant – fight to protect things of value
 2. Sound (be in good health, healthy) in faith, in love, in patience - how do you keep your body healthy? By using it!
 - a. Atrophy – the wasting away of body tissue, the gradual decline in effectiveness or vigor due to underuse or neglect
 - b. ***Php 2:12-13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.***

- c. Paul doesn't say work for your salvation, he says work out your salvation
 - d. We couldn't walk before, we were dead, we didn't have faith, we didn't have the love of God, we didn't have patience – now through salvation in Jesus we have been given faith (each one has been given a measure of faith), we have been given love (God's love has been poured out in the hearts of men), we have been given patience (fruit of the Spirit) – Paul says “men, you have been given these things, now use them!”
 - e. With fear and trembling – soberly, reverently – because we know how important these things are
3. exhorting the young men, showing yourself to be a pattern of good works
 - a. Older men be an example – personal trainers – you look at them and think, wow I want to look like that!
 - b. Do we inspire the same response in the young men around us – I want to be that kind of husband, I want to be that kind of father, I want to be that kind of leader in the church
- c. Older Women - the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— (4) that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.
- i. Likewise older women who are effective in the lives of younger women keep the important things important – they don't gossip, they don't medicate themselves with alcohol or drugs, they aren't looking for an escape from their lives – instead they are teachers of good things
 - ii. They demonstrate to the younger women what it looks like to love their husband and their children well – how to balance all the things that life throws at you so that the home is a place of safety and security
 1. I don't know how you women do it but you do, and I know it's rooted in your relationship with Jesus
 2. Take the young women under your wing and tell them how you do it!
 3. Instead of talking about how they are failing, teach them to succeed
 4. Why? “that the word of God may not be blasphemed.” The end goal here is to live out the character of God so that others may see and understand His heart.

(9) Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, (10) not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.

- d. Where are the two places we spend the most of our time? Home and Work – makes sense that as Paul explains the gospel on the ground he starts at home and then moves to our daily jobs
 - i. Bondservants – employees – you were hired for a job, do it and do it well
 - ii. Don't show your boss disrespect, don't steal from him, be an employee that can be counted on – that can be trusted
 - iii. In doing so you wear the doctrine of God – doing so you are wearing the gospel, take these things off and in so doing you take off the gospel – not your salvation but God's story

(11) For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, (12) teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, (13) looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (14) who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. (15) Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

IV. Grace – Our Teacher

- a. The grace of God that brings salvation – it teaches us

- i. What does it teach us? – that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age
 - ii. What compels us to live a life that proclaims the gospel is an understanding of the grace that God has shown us by saving us when we were dead in our sins
 - 1. A desire to see others experience that same grace – a willingness to do whatever it takes to reflect the truth of His unconditional love
 - 2. Jesus gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works
- b. 2Pe 3:17-18 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; (18) but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.***
- i. As Jon Courson has said “Peter closes not by saying, "Grow in devotion," or, "Grow in zeal," or "Grow in holiness." He closes by saying, "Grow in grace" because grace is not the starting point. Grace is the only point.”