



'Commit to the Bride!' Sermon Series

Sermon #4:

'Committed to Biblical Gender Roles in the Church!'

Titus 2:1-10

Sunday, February 4th, 2024

Last week in Titus:

- Last week in Titus we looked at how the Apostle Paul directed Timothy in the attributes that can be found in false teachers, and that they need to be confronted.
 - We looked at **Titus 1:10-16** and with a message entitled **'Committed to Confrontation!'**
 - I asked the question: *What specific issues does the Apostle Paul tell Titus that he needs to confront and correct in the local Churches in Crete?*
 - Point 1: **Defiance.** (V. 10)
 - Point 2: **Deception.** (V. 11)

- Point 3: **Deterioration.** (V. 12-14)
- Point 4: **Defilement.** (V. 15)
- Point 5: **Disobedience.** (V. 16)
- Based on last week's message, it's important that we as Christians know the Bible well enough to be able to confront false teaching when it comes to our front door.

'Committed to Biblical Gender Roles in the Church!'

Titus 2:1-10

Sermon in a Sentence:

The NT Church should be committed to Biblical Gender Roles with Older Men, Older Women, Younger Women, and Younger Men following the plan that God has for them according to scripture regardless of social status.

Intro:

- Whether you are a man or a woman, I think we can all agree that God has made both men and women very differently.
 - *From the very beginning of the Bible, all the way back to Genesis, we see that God made **ONLY** two genders.*
 - **God made man and female.**
 - *And when God made man and female, he made us uniquely, in His image, but yet different from one another.*

unpopular and controversial, even in the Church. At no time have they been more unpopular and controversial than in many Churches today, where personal opinion and cultural standards take precedence over God's truth and self-fulfillment is more important than holy living.'

- It's possible that out of a respect for age, Paul opens up with the two older genders first.
- First, Paul is going to instruct Titus on how the older men in the Church are to act.
 - *Now you may be thinking, in this context what defines an older man in what Paul was referring to?*
- I believe Thomas D. Lea gives a good explanation: *'Generally speaking, that group may have referred to men of an age sufficient to have raised a family and seen their children begin families of their own.'*
 - *In verse 2, I believe there are 6 straightforward qualities that should be fruit on the tree's of Older Men.*
- **Level Headed. (V. 2a)**
 - 'be sober-minded'
 - **Word Study**

- This word 'Sober' comes from the greek word **'Nephalios'** and literally means to be temperate and abstinent in respect to wine.
- Older men should be clear in thought and not allow anything to fog their mind.
 - *An older man who is level headed will be clear on what matters and will be a good decision maker when making important decisions with his family and in the Church.*
- **Looked up to by others. (V. 2b)**
 - 'Dignified'
 - *This word 'Dignified' comes from the greek word 'Semnos' and literally means to be honorable and reputable.*
 - An older man should live his life in a way where others can look up to him.
 - Men, you should seek to live in a way where you would not be ashamed if there were more than one of you.
- **Laser focus on the end goal. (V. 2c)**
 - 'Self-controlled'
 - *Some form of this word in the greek text is related to all four groups that Paul addresses here.*
 - *To be self controlled is to be laser focused on the end goal of the*

**Christian life, do where we don't let
lustful desires control us and eventually
own us.**

- **Locked in on Sound Doctrine. (V. 2d)**
 - 'sound in faith'
 - **An older man should know what they believe about God's Word and why they believe it.**
 - **Everyone in the Church is looking up to what the older men have to say on a particular issue or social status.**
 - **Older men you want to ensure that you know what you believe about God's Word so that you can make proper judgements.**
- **Loving. (V. 2e)**
 - 'in love'
 - ***Word Study***
 - The word 'love' here is translated from greek word **'agape'**
 - **Now there are three words in the greek language for love, but this is the strongest one.**
 - You can't be a man worth looking up to in the Church if you aren't loving.
 - 'By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'
John 13:35
- **Long Suffering. (V. 2f)**
 - 'and in steadfastness.'

- **Enduring the trials and tribulations that you will face in your Christian life is imperative to the rest in the Church.**

- When those in the Church see that you suffered for the Gospel throughout your life but remained steadfast, they'll be encouraged to do the same.

Point 2: Follow God's Plan as an Older Woman. (V. 3)

- 'Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good,' Titus 2:3
- **Titus is not overseeing male only Churches, but where there are older men, there will be older women and vice versa.**
 - **Robert W. Yarborough said 'The Godly bearing of both groups is equally important for the flourishing of God's people.'**
 - We need both men and women for the Church to be successful.
 - I believe there are **3** things here that Older women are to do to follow God's plan for them in the Church:
- **Reverent. (V. 3a)**
 - 'Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior,'
 - ***Word Study***
 - The word **Likewise** here is very important and is sadly overlooked at times.

- It comes from the greek word **'Hosautos'** and literally means just so, in the same way or manner.
 - *The usage of this word signals to Titus that this group is owed the same Pastoral attention that the older men receive and vice versa.*
 - It's important for Pastors, Deacons, Church leaders and members to not show favor to one group of people in the Church.
 - If you love older women in the Church, great, but don't neglect the younger men, and vice versa.
 - *The word 'reverent' here in our text literally means 'Temple fitting'.*
 - Meaning that the behavior of an older woman should be holy and glorifying to God.
 - *The outward behavior of an older lady shows the inner being of her soul.*
 - *Dr. Daniel Aiken said 'The basic meaning is that this woman should live in such a way as is befitting a Godly person. Her life and 'behavior' are marked by holiness, reflecting the character of the Lord she loves and lives for.'*
- **Reputable. (V. 3b)**
 - 'not slanderers or slaves to much wine.'
- In addition to having good behavior, older women should not be known for gossip and slaves to wine.
- Bryan Chappel said **'The first behavior cited there (malicious gossip) relates to lack of control of the tongue. The second (drunkenness) relates to lack of control of both one's appetites and purposes.'**
 - *The fact that Paul mentions wine explicitly in regards to women, shows that it is possible in the Cretan society that the older women there were known for drinking wine, remember, this was a vacation resort island.*
- *If older women are to teach the younger women what it is they are to do, then they must be reputable and have a good reputation.*
 - For older women that are here, what is your reputation?
- **Reliable Teaching. (V. 3c)**
 - 'They are to teach what is good,'
 - *The Lord, through Paul, not only wanted the women to have good reputations for their own sake, but so that they could be reliable teachers to others.*
 - A mature believer in Christ, whether they are an older man or older woman, should be seeking to teach the younger

men and women in the Church ‘what is good’.

- ***You don't have to be a SS teacher to teach the younger ones in the Church.***

- Spend time with them, take them to supper, teach them how to do things they might not now.

- ***This is the model for how a biblical community works.***

- Those that are older have lived more life than those that are younger, and can be reliable teachers.

- ***For both older men and older women here today, how can you better follow God's plan for you in the local Church with where you are right now?***

Point 3: *Follow God's Plan as a Younger Woman. (V. 4-5)*

- ‘and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.’ Titus 2:4-5

- ***Now Paul transitions from those who were older in the Church, to those that were younger in the Church.***

- Paul sticks with the ladies here as he transitions to the young people.

- ***When defining ‘young people’, I think in this context it could mean anywhere from teenagers, young married couples,***

or couples that still have children living in the home.

- I believe there are **6** to point out how a younger woman can follow God's plan:

- ***Love Your Husbands. (V. 4a)***

- ‘and so train the young women to love their husbands’ Titus 2:4a

- ***Young ladies should love their husbands.***

- If you are a young lady and you are not married, pray for your future spouse and commit to loving him before you ever know him.

- ***In the context with which this letter was written to Titus, most marriages in this time period were arranged.***

- ***So if a woman wanted to stand out as an ambassador for the Gospel in the Greco-Roman culture, loving her husband would be a good way to show that.***

- ***Love Your Children. (V. 4b)***

- ‘and children,’

- ***It's hard to fathom a father or mother not loving their child, but in the world we live in it is possible and seen everyday.***

- Young ladies are to love the Children that God has given to them as a gift.

- ***I think Bryan chappel reminds us of why Paul says a woman is to love her husband before he***

states she should love her children **'The wording is a gentle reminder that even more important than love for one's children is love for one's spouse, because children will not readily understand the greatest of God's earthly gifts unless a mother's love for her husband is evident in the home.'**

- **When a mother truly loves her child, she'll include not ignore, Proverbs 29:15:**
 - **'The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.'**
- **Love Purity. (V. 5a)**
 - 'to be self-controlled, pure,'
 - **Self controlled is something that Paul mentions in reference to each group he addresses in the Church.**
 - Here with the younger women, he attaches it with purity.
 - **Obviously young women are to be self-controlled and it's believed here that it is connected with sexual purity.**
 - This includes if you aren't married and if you are.
 - Purity is important with younger women and younger men.
- **Love Your Home. (V. 5b)**
 - 'working at home,'

○ **I think it's important here not to impose our modern debates concerning women into this text here.**

■ **I personally believe that Paul wasn't thinking about 'career women' or ladies in the workplace.**

○ **I think the emphasis with this verse is not on the location of a wife's vocation or whether or not she has one, but is that a wife should be productive in functions of the home.**

● **Love Kindness. (V. 5c)**

○ 'Kind,'

○ **All Christians should love to be kind, but Paul clearly mentions young women here are to be kind.**

● **Learn Submissiveness. (V. 5d)**

○ 'and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.'

○ **This is certainly is a point of controversy for those who identify themselves as feminists.**

■ **This is 1 of 5 times in the NT where this is discussed or similar language is used in reference to a relationship that a Christian wife should have with her husband.**

○ **Ephesians 5 speaks to this same thing and it is clear there, that a husband is not to have a dictator mentality, because a husband is to love**

his wife as Christ loved the Church according to Ephesians 5:25.

- Submissiveness does not mean silence by any means.
- I think Bryan Chappel sheds some good light on this when he said ***'The greek term for submit does not mean that a wife is to suppress her intelligence, talents, and gifts in the home. Rather, she should fully express these gifts in the purpose of supporting her husband in the spiritual leadership of the home.'***
 - Spouses oppressing spouses is not Biblical. Rather, spouses supporting spouses under the spiritual leadership of the husband are Biblical.

Point 4: *Follow God's Plan as a Younger Man. (V. 6-8)*

- '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.'
- ***Titus is believed to have been a younger man. So not only is Titus to have these qualities in himself, he is to share these with the younger men in the Church.***
 - ***All throughout this text this morning I hope and pray that you can see that the Church is to be multi-generational.***

- We aren't supposed to all be the same age, gender, color, or the same walk of life. We are all different and we should follow the plan God has for us accordingly.

- ***Dr. Daniel Aiken said 'Younger men need strong, healthy role models provided by older men'***

- ***We have many great role models of older men and older women, so younger people we have no excuse!***

- I believe there are 4 that young men can do to follow God's plan for them Biblically:
- ***Pursue Self Control. (V. 6)***
 - 'Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.'
 - As Paul has done with each group, yet again he mentions that young men too, are to be self-controlled, and level headed.
 - ***How can younger men learn this though if they aren't taught by older Godly men?***
- ***Pursue being a Good Example. (V. 7a)***
 - 'Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works,'
 - ****Word Study****
 - The word 'model' here is translated from the greek word ***'Typos'*** and literally

means a mold, image, statue or formula.

- **This is where we get our english word 'type'.**
- Young Christian men should be an example to non-Christian men of what a real man really is.
 - *Verse 7 & 8 go onto explain things that make young Christian men a good example.*
- **Pursue Sound Teaching. (V. 7b)**
 - 'and in your teaching show integrity, dignity,'
 - **The teaching that a young man does should exhibit integrity and dignity.**
 - The life of the young man who teaches should not contradict the Jesus with which He teaches.
 - **Unlike those in Titus 1:10-16, these young men in the Churches are not to pursue false doctrine, but to teach sound doctrine.**
 - The 'how' and 'what' of what is taught is important in determining the integrity and dignity of the young man.
- **Pursue Good Speech. (V. 8)**
 - 'and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.'
 - **The young men in the Church should watch what they say but also how it is said.**

■ **Not very many things can quickly destroy the testimony of a young Christian man quite like a bad cuss word or a gossiping conversation.**

- **The point I believe Paul is making here is that we don't want someone to reject the message of the Gospel because they heard the speech of the messenger.**

Point 5: Follow God's Plan as a Slave for Him. (V. 9-10)

- This morning we saw that the apostle Paul wanted the Gospel of Jesus Christ to affect every area of the Cretan community.
 - **This morning we've seen that God wants His people to Follow His plan as an Older man, as an Older woman, as a younger woman, and as a younger man.**
 - **But Paul does not leave any stone unturned when it comes to members of the Cretan community as he (Paul), also gives directions for slaves:**
- 'Bondservants[b] are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.' Titus 2:9-10
 - **I believe there are 3 things that we need to consider when it comes to Following God's plan as a slave.**
- **The Context of Ancient Slavery.**

- ***This passage has often been taken out of context and misconstrued, especially by the American culture.***
- ***Slavery was widespread at this time in both the Greek and Roman societies.***
 - We must take off our ‘American’ glasses for a minute and realize that slavery at the time of Paul, was nothing like the institution of slavery in America.
- ***Slavery in the ancient world was not racially restricted or racially motivated. Instead, slavery was contingent on if a military (like Rome), defeated an opposing army/nation, their prisoners of war would become slaves.***
 - So it was very common that the slaves were educated and had different skills and trades.
- Slaves also were treated differently depending on who their owners were. Some were treated fairly and some were treated poorly.
- ****Word Study****
 - ***In verse 9, when Paul says Bondservant, it comes from the Greek word ‘Doulos’ and it means a servant or a bond servant.***
 - This is the same word that Paul uses to identify himself as he opens up this letter.
- ***Commentator Bryan Chappel made an interesting comment on this concept of slavery in the ancient world that might help us identify who Paul is addressing here:***
 - ***‘A slave in the Greek world included those in miserable conditions, but it also included those in apprentice or indentured relationships, domestic workers, and some who held high government office. Additionally, as the context of this passage indicates, a slave could be considered a member of the master’s household and a member of a religious community with freemen. The scope of responsibilities and positions was vast for slaves in the Greco-Roman world.’***
- ***The Current State of Slavery.***
 - When you look at world history, humans have been enslaving humans for thousands of years.
 - Even today, it still exists in different parts of the world.
 - ***Dr. Daniel Aiken said ‘Slavery continues its reign of terror in many parts of the world where the Gospel of Jesus Christ has not yet taken hold. Where the Gospel has found fertile soil, the institution of slavery has vanished into the midnight darkness.’***

- **Throughout the history of the world you will see that Christians are the ones who lead the movements ending slavery.**
 - In England, slavery ended in 1807 in large part due to William Wilberforce, who was a believer.
- In America, Slavery ended in 1865 in large part due to strong Christians such as John Wesley, Charles Finney, and Frederick Douglas.
 - Dr. Daniel Aiken *'Only where there was a Christian did the impulse of slavery end.'*
- **I think what Paul says in these verses can show us that even slaves were to be a reflection of Christ so that their 'masters' could see Christ in them, and hopefully be freed by the grace of the Gospel.**
- **The Consistency of Slavery being Addressed in the Bible.**
 - Now, there are many here today who may be thinking, what does the Bible say concerning slavery?
 - **It's important to note that the slavery is mentioned in the following passages:**
 - Exodus 21, Leviticus 25, Deuteronomy 15, Ephesians 6:5-9, Colossians 3:22-4:1, 1st Timothy 6:1-2, Titus 2:9-10, 1st Peter 2:18-25.

- **Based on these passages that mention slavery in the Bible, it's important that the bible regulates it but does not ordain it or require it.**
 - **Slavery is not something that comes from God, but something that man came up with.**
 - **The apostle Paul taught in 1st Corinthians 7:21-24, that if someone could gain their freedom, then they should.**
- In these verses that we find in Titus and elsewhere that slavery is mentioned, I believe that we see that Paul places slavery in the eyes of eternity.
 - **What Paul is saying here in Titus 2:9-10, is that the earthly master of slaves probably does not know Jesus Christ.**
 - **So the slave as an opportunity and an obligation to do his best work so that the slave shows Christ in his/her actions so that the master may be saved.**
- **From the perspective of the Gospel, it is the unbelieving slave owner who is in great danger, not the slave.**
 - **Paul is saying in these verses that when they are submissive to their masters**

they are giving God glory and pointing to Him.

- This does not mean that Paul is saying slavery is okay, but at that time in that context, it was an opportunity to serve our ultimate master, the Lord.

your personal Lord and Savior, today can be the day of salvation for you!

Conclusion:

- This morning, we've covered and discussed things in the Bible that you may have never thought of before.
 - ***There is a role in the local Church that God has designed for Older Men to play.***
 - ***There is a role in the local Church that God has designed for Older Women to play.***
 - ***There is a role in the local Church that God has designed for Younger Women to play.***
 - ***There is a role in the local Church that God has designed for Younger Men to play.***
 - ***Even this morning we found that slaves were given a role in the local Church.***
- ***As we close those morning, whether you are an older man, younger man, older woman, or older woman, how do you need to better be committed to the Biblical role that God wants you to play inside His Church.***
 - And lastly, know that you can't be committed to proper gender roles in the Church, if you aren't first a slave to Christ.
 - ***If you've never had that time in your life where you've accepted Christ as***