

**Sermon Series:** Book of Titus  
**Sermon title:** Putting Discipleship in Order  
**Scripture reading:** Titus 1:1-4  
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church  
June 2, 2019  
S.C. Brown, Pastor

The Apostle Paul never married. He, like Jesus, was a single man. He never had any biological kids.

**But... he had many children.**

You see, Paul understood the last command that Jesus gave his followers before he ascended to heaven.

*"As you are going, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."*

Jesus' command was in effect,....reproduce!

Be fruitful and multiply! Have *spiritual* children.

Give birth to others. Make disciples.

As we have seen in the first few verses of Titus, Paul's whole life was quite focused on this last command of Christ. He saw himself as a slave under Christ's ownership and a messenger and a preacher of the good news. Paul was a disciple maker.

Paul had a lot of people following him around.  
Besides Titus, how many kids did Paul have?

Well, he sure had a lot of traveling companions, some of which were people he led to the Lord and was pouring into. He took people with him on his travels for many reasons, but surely his main reason was to make disciples of them as they went. Some he discipled and some discipled him!

We have Aquila & Prisca.

Aristarchus.	Epaphroditus.
Barnabas.	Sosipater.
Epaphras.	Mark.
Timothy & Titus.	Onesimus.
Gaius.	Secundus.
Tychicus.	Jason.
Artemas.	Lucius.
Silas.	Trophimus.
Apollos.	Erastus.
Justus.	Zenas.
Demas.	Clement.
Luke.	Crescens.

Just to name a few.

Paul's letters are packed full of relationships and many of them were his children.

Titus was one of those.

### **What do we know about Titus?**

He most certainly wasn't young like Timothy.

We know this from **Galatians 2:2** where Paul has Titus with him on his trip to the Jerusalem Council, which takes place in **Acts 15**. So, Titus had to come to Christ before Acts 15.

He was probably from Antioch in Syria. He likely came to faith in **Acts 11:21**, when many Greeks came were saved. **Galatians 2:3** tells us he was Greek.

So, he was with Paul from pretty early on. We find him all over the Mediterranean world. He was well traveled.

He's from **Antioch** in Syria.

He went with Paul to **Jerusalem**.

2 Corinthians 2:3 he is supposed to be in **Troas**.

2 Corinthians 7 & 8 we know he was in **Corinth** and he *loved* the Corinthian church.

Listen to what it says in **2 Corinthians 7:13-15**, "And besides our own comfort, we rejoiced still more at the joy of Titus because his spirit has been refreshed by you all. For whatever boasts I made to him about you, I was not put to shame. But just as everything we said to you was true, so also our boasting before Titus has proved true. And his affection for you is even greater,

as he remembers the obedience of you all, how you received him with fear and trembling.”

And again we see his love for the Corinthian church in **2 Corinthians 8:16**. It says, “But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you. For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest his is going to you of his own accord.

So, Titus was from Antioch, traveled to Jerusalem, Troas, Corinth...Titus met Paul in **Macedonia**. He was in **Dalmatia** and **Greece** and here in the book of Titus we find him in **Crete** (克里特岛).

Let's look at our verse. It's a short one.

#### **4 To Titus, my true child in a common faith;**

What do the words 'true child' here mean?

The Greek word for 'true' here means *legitimate*.

Paul is saying that Titus is someone he personally had something to do with his conversion. In the letters to Timothy, he also refers to Timothy in this kind of way by calling him a 'true child in the faith' and 'beloved child'. So the word 'true' or 'legitimate' speaks to the fact that Paul can personally attest to the authenticity of Titus's faith. He had a hand in it.

Another reason why Paul could be using this term 'true child' is so that the churches in Crete know that Paul has given his stamp of approval on Titus to speak on his behalf.

Well, what about this phrase '**A common faith**'?

Only here in Titus does Paul call this faith a '**common**' faith. To Timothy he simply says, '**My true child in the faith**'.

Here he says, '**My true child in a common faith**'.

### **Why?**

Paul is a Jew and Titus is a Greek. Paul is circumcised and Titus is uncircumcised, but they have the same faith.

The churches on Crete are ethnically mixed and Paul wants them to know that ethnicity matters not. They are all the same family in Christ. They have a common faith.

Paul is emphasizing this because the very issue of false teaching that Titus is to deal with is related to some Jews who are pushing certain Jewish cultural ideas onto Greeks. So, with this one little phrase, "**my true child in a common faith**" he is saying more than meets the eye.

So, we know who Paul is writing to.

**Titus** is a Greek man that has traveled with Paul or sent out by Paul for many years - as a kind of ambassador or missionary to the churches. We know from [Galatians](#) and [2 Corinthians](#) that he's quite experienced and knowledgeable and he's actually the perfect man for the job in Crete.

Paul has the confidence that Titus can successfully instruct the churches in Crete and he trusts him... because he's disciplined he and other guys like him, guys like Timothy... for years.

He's walked with them. They've heard him teach.

He's lived life with them. They have shadowed Paul and so he has the confidence that he can send them out to care for the churches and mimic him.

Take for example verses like [1 Corinthians 4:17](#), "I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church."

[2 Corinthians 12:18](#), "Did Titus take advantage of you? Did we not act in the same spirit? Did we not take the same steps?"

[2 Timothy 1:13](#), "Follow the pattern of sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus."

Now, when I came to this verse in **Titus 1:4**, I must admit that the Holy Spirit smacked me in the face with it, even though it's a seemingly insignificant verse.

You might even be puzzled at how I have managed to preach on this one simple verse or how such a verse could convict my heart.

#### **4 To Titus, my true child in a common faith;**

Well, as I read it I had to ask myself a hard question, and it's a question that I must ask you today.

#### **Who is YOUR true child in a common faith?**

Do you have someone that you are currently bringing up?

Are you reproducing your faith?

Are you discipling anyone?

I'm not asking if you are in a small group, that's different and you should be in one.

How many are your spiritual children?

Anyone following you around?

Anyone following me around?

There's no use pretending today and there's no point in any of us acting religious.

Let's face the question head on and honestly.

## **Who is YOUR true child in a common faith? Anyone?**

The reason this convicted me is because I'm missing the mark. I need a shift in my ministry and my lifestyle. I've stopped discipling people one on one.

**I am currently not meeting with a new or young believer to pour into them and bring them up in their faith.**

Oh yeah, I teach a few Bible studies in small groups But that's not the same. I am talking about micro groups, one on one or one on two.

Church, we need God to help us grow in this area. We need a radical rethink.

Jesus's command to us is to make disciples.

Are we obeying? If not, we need to repent, which means we need a new mindset that leads to a change of action.

**Making Disciples is not about ATTENDING ACTIVITIES but it's about ATTENDING TO people.**

It's important for all churches but it's especially important for our church.



The reason is that we have people coming in and out, people being here for a short time and then headed back across the border or to their home country.

It's our job to make disciples out of one another and any that God brings our way by....spending time with them and teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded us to.

You may say, "I don't know enough myself to disciple anyone." Well, then be humble and ask someone to disciple you.

You may say, "I am just too busy to really disciple someone." Well, that's my favorite excuse, too!

Guess what, I must be too busy about the wrong things...and I am neglecting the most important things.

**Every Christian is called and commanded to raise up children in the common faith.**

We are all commanded to make disciples.

What changes do you need to make to get your priorities straight?