

Sermon Series: Book of Titus

Sermon Title: Putting Godliness in Order

Scripture Reading: Titus 2:1-10

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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Where we left off 2 weeks ago in the book of Titus, we talked about the False Teachers that were all over the island of Crete. Titus was left on the island and charged by Paul to *'put what remained into order and establish Elders in every town'*. (1:5)

These **Elders are a group of men, called by the Holy Spirit to shepherd and oversee a local church and teach them the word of God.** Paul said the main qualification of an Elder is that he *'hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.'* (1:9)

So, we talked about the best way to combat false teaching is to know the Bible well. **Sound doctrine is a forcefield against false teaching.** If you know the Bible well, you are able to spot error. You can *deflect* unsound or wrong teaching because it doesn't add up to the Scriptures.

But as we will see today, sound doctrine is not only a forcefield against false teaching but it has another purpose.

Sound doctrine propels us forward in godliness.

Let's take a look beginning in Titus chapter 2 verse 1.

But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. 2 Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. **3** Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, **4** and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, **5** to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. **6** 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. **9** Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, **10** not pilfering, but showing all good faith, **so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.**

It's intriguing to me that at the beginning and end of this passage we have something about doctrine. He begins with 'teach what accords with sound doctrine' and he ends with 'adorn the doctrine of God our Savior'.

But this passage is a little strange. He's obviously been talking about the false teachers and sound doctrine but right here in the middle he shifts to what seems like random and very practical ways for various groups of people to act. Older men. Older women. Younger women. Younger men. And Slaves, you can think of them as 'employees'. Why is he doing this?

Well, let's take a look at **chapter 1:11** and let's see if this helps us. It says this about the false teachers, "They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach."

This text literally says that these false teachers are '*overturning, destroying or ruining*' whole households.

So, there is something about what they're teaching that is false and it's affecting the whole household and how these Christians are living in the world.

Their behavior is being affected by their doctrine. Sound doctrine will propel us towards godliness and unsound doctrine (false teaching) will propel us towards ungodliness.

Let me show you the connection between **Sound Doctrine** and **Godliness** in a few places and then we will come back and look briefly some specifics from these verse and apply them to our lives.

In **Titus 1:1** Paul starts our by saying, "Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness..."

We took a look at this the first week. What this means is that it is not just about knowing the truth in your head but if a person knows the truth it will affect their behavior. They will live a godly life.

Titus 2:11-12, just after our text says, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce *ungodliness* and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and *godly* lives in the present age."

The aim of our sound doctrine or theology or biblical knowledge is godly living.

The letters to Timothy are quite similar to the letter to Titus in regards to his instructions.

1 Timothy 4:6-8

If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. **7** Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; **8** for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

1 Timothy 6:3-4

If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing.

2 Timothy 2:14-17

14 Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 16 But avoid irreverent babble, for it will

lead people into more and more ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene.

So, the Bible connects in several places sound doctrine or the truth of God's word with godliness.

What is godliness?

Godliness is a life of reverence and obedience to God and his word.

You may be thinking. *"I'm ok. I have sound doctrine and I live a godly life. This really doesn't apply to me that much. I'm ok actually."*

Well, let's look at the specifics of the text. And I might add, we shouldn't examine whether we know these things in our head or not but rather if we DO them.

- **Older men:**

- sober minded,
 - dignified
 - self-controlled
 - sound in faith
 - sound in love
 - sound in steadfastness

- **Older women:**

- reverent in behavior

not slanderers

not slaves to much wine

teach what is good/ train **young women**

- to love their husbands
- to love their children
- to be self-controlled
- pure
- working at home (busy at home)
- kind
- submissive to their husbands

- **Younger men:**

self-controlled

- **Slaves/ Employees:**

submissive in everything

well-pleasing

nor argumentative

not pilfering (stealing little things)

showing all good faith

adorn the doctrine of God our Savior

There are 2 crucial questions that we need to look at this morning. We need to examine ourselves in 2 primary areas.

1. How sound is your doctrine?

The word sound simply means healthy. Let's be honest this morning. How well do you know the Bible?

How much do you read the Scriptures?

How important is the Scripture to you?

Would you be able to spot false teaching?

Would you be able to smell something that contradicted it?

If your doctrine is weak, why is that?

Are you in a small group Bible study of any kind?

Are you training yourself in godliness by committing yourself to the words of faith?

Sound doctrine propels us forward in godliness.

What are you going to do about it?

2. Is your doctrine propelling you toward godliness?

Or I may ask it this way, are you adorning...wearing your doctrine? Are you living it out?

Has it affected your deepest relationships?

Has it affected your family life?

Has your Bible knowledge translated to a change in your behavior?

Are you a godly person?

Would the people around you say, "That's a person of God?"

Are you living a life of reverence and obedience to God and his word?

Or are you still living for yourself?