

Doctrine on Display

Titus 2:1-8

Main Idea

Healthy doctrine lived out by a community of healthy disciples creates a heavenly display.

Overview

The Content of Healthy Doctrine

- In the face of false teachers, Titus is to devote himself to teaching sound doctrine
 - “*But as for you* teach what accords with sound doctrine...”
 - Sound doctrine is healthy doctrine; that which promotes what is true, right, pure; it brings about life because it points to the God of life
 - Paul wants Titus to not just rebuke what is bad, but offer something better
- What follows is a list of behaviors and character traits
 - This means sound doctrine is not just something for believing but for living
 - Verses 11-14 provide the foundation and fuel for this type of godly living
- Paul addresses older men/women and younger men/women
 - There’s a lot of similarities (the use of “likewise”), but also some differences
 - Older men called to endure
 - Older women to use their words to teach not slander
 - Younger women to be pure; and for wives/mothers to manager the home
 - Younger men should be self-controlled (only exhortation for young men; a triple dose!)
 - This probably means there are unique temptations we face at various stages of life
 - Also, the idea of older/younger is a bit fluid
 - Age and spiritual maturity can be complex
 - Often we’re looking both ways, to those who are older and those who are younger; and we’re being looked at both ways

The Context for Healthy Discipleship

- This whole letter is Paul discipling Titus, so Titus can then go disciple others, who can disciple others (cf. 2 Timothy 2:2)
- Paul tells Titus to live a life of showing and telling (v. 7)
- Older women are called to teach the younger women (v. 3)
- Titus 2 is painting a picture of the church family as it relates to one another. It’s a picture of what Ephesians 4:11-16.

Creating a Heavenly Display

- Three times in these verses we see Paul’s purpose statements:
 - Verse 5 – “...that the word of God may not be reviled.”
 - Verse 8 – “...so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.”
 - Verse 10 – “...so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.”
- Gospel living leads to gospel witness
- The way we live shows that the word of God is believable and the gospel is beautiful
- The local church is the fullness of Christ and the brightest display of God’s glory here on earth – “through the church the manifold wisdom of God is made known.” (cf. Eph. 1:23; 3:10)
 - The point is not community but to point to Christ who holds the community together

Questions

Discussion Starter: *Do you often think of (or think others think of) Christianity not just saying “No” to bad things, but compelling us to say “Yes” to the best thing? Why is this important to understand?*

1. Read Titus 2. Discuss the connection between Titus teaching “sound doctrine” and the list of behaviors/character traits that follow? What does this tell us about the nature of “sound doctrine”?
2. What role do verses 11-14 play in Paul’s instructions?
3. Discuss the similarities in the instructions for older men/women and younger men/women? Why do you think that there are so many similarities? How does this inform your being disciplined and discipling others?
4. Discuss the differences in the instructions for older men/women and younger men/women? Why do you think Paul highlights these differences? How does this inform your being disciplined and discipling others?
5. As you look at your life, how do Paul’s words here encourage you and/or challenge you?
6. How does Paul tell Titus to live among the Christians? How does this inform the way we are to live among each other?
7. Have group members share how they have learned from and/or been encouraged by others in the church in formal/informal discipling relationships.
8. Notice the “so that” statements in verses 5, 8, 10. These can be connected tightly to the immediate previous verse, but are also indicative of what happens when each group lives this way.
 - a. What does it mean “that the word of God may not be reviled”?
 - b. What does it mean “so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us”?
 - c. What does it mean “so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior”?
9. Practically speaking, how does Restoration Church live so that the word may not be reviled and adorn the doctrine of God our Savior?

Accountability Question: *What “type” of person are you? As you look at your life, how do Paul’s words here encourage you and/or challenge you?*