

## Truth In A Shifting Culture

### Session 2

#### How to bring God's word to a culture who sees truth as meaningless?

## 2. Embody It

On October 3, 2024, the New York Times wrote an article saying, "Around Dallas, the church scandals seem to have no end."

As a result, pastors who minister in this part of Texas with a clean reputation is not to be taken for granted.

We need to be watchful of my own life. We need to embody it, live out our faith.

Paul calls Titus to embody the truth. A pathway to credibility; helping us from discrediting ourselves or discredit our Saviour.

"<sup>7</sup>In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness <sup>8</sup>and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us."

Titus 2:7-8

### How To Embody The Truth?

- a) We are to model good works that believers can follow (verse 7). In all respects, in all areas of our life, we need to model it.

The reality: Christian excellence is broader than secular excellence.

Example: You can still make it to the hall of fame for any sport even though you cheat on your wife.

Christian excellence needs to be in everything.

"<sup>12</sup>One of Crete's own prophets has said it: "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." <sup>13</sup>This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith"

Titus 1:12-13

Every person has baggage in this world. They need to hear the truth, but also to see the truth.

## b) What does Embodying the Truth Look Like?

### Read: Titus 2:1-8

Older Men: To be temperate, worth of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love, and in endurance.

Older Women: reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.

Younger Women: love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, their relationship with their husband will not cause dishonour to God's word.

Younger Men: Be self controlled

\* The people who impacted you the most spiritually are people that are described in verse 2-6

If you are going to bring out truth to a skeptical culture, then live it in a way that cannot be denied.

## c) Your Living Will Setup Your Teaching vs. 7-8

### 1. God's Word has Integrity

When we show integrity (teaching matching how you live), seriousness towards living out God's word, and speak good words, opponents will not be able to discredit the person sharing God's message.

Reality: The person is the message. A person's message from God's word is always linked to a person's lives. Or else, our message will be written off by others.

### 2. God's Words have dignity

We need to remember what you are teaching. It is the Word of God.

They are dignified words that need to be taken seriously; those words need to have weight to them. **This focus will cause you to teach dignified.**

### 3. God's Word has Soundness

God's word is sound doctrine. Therefore, God's word is healthy teaching that leads to healthy believers.

"Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness—" – Titus 1:1

- Knowledge of truth leads to godliness

"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. <sup>8</sup> This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone."

Titus 3:4-8

- As we believe in the doctrine from God's word, our lives will move to being devoted toward good things.

#### d) Why Sound Words? Vs. 8

- They may not agree with our message, but they cannot discredit us because of how we live.
- We must embody the truth so believers can follow us and opponents cannot discredit us.

*Can I actually live up to the Standard?*

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. <sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

- Grace of God has appeared for you to be transformed. Jesus came to train you, and shape you

**So Seek God's Grace**

## **Deployment:**

Ask your closest friend,

“Does my life bring credit to God’s Word?”

“What areas in my life should I be pursuing discipleship?”

In what ways do you seek God’s grace each day so you can live out God’s message?