



Care Group & Equipping Ministry

Introduction

Ever felt like an expat in this world? As Christians, we seem to be slotted into a non-Christian world that sadly appears to be getting more hostile. Our values, Christ-cultural beliefs and motivations seem to leave us worse-off. Scripture even confirms this with its vernacular – “Treasures in heaven”, “Do not be conformed to this world”, “For you are strangers and sojourners...” We get it! Through the lens of Paul’s letter to Titus (and the larger church in Crete), we’ll explore the cultural differences as Christians in a non-Christian world and how to retain our Christ-culture.

Session 1 – Titus 1 – Realigning Influences

Influential people bring two things. The first is their lure, and the second is their impact. We are surrounded by influence and may be impacted, no matter how defiant we may be. Let’s explore how to recognise society-driven influence and its potential to sway us from Jesus.

Please pick and choose from the list of questions – you do not have to complete them all.

Part 1 – Titus 1:10-12 – Recognising the influences

- How easily swayed are you by external things?
- What is Paul trying to tell us in the verses?
- What do you consider to be your biggest challenge in keeping with your faith? How do you recognise the influences which keep you from your faith?
- Verse 10 talks about *rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception*. Can you spot this in some of your friends/family/circles? How are you impacted by these people?

Part 2 – Titus 1:13-16 – What to do with these influences

- Verse 13 paints a hard-line response to the ‘disruptors’ of the faith. What does this response look like in your world?
- What could rebuking sharply mean? Proverbs 27:17 says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”
- What should be the objective of your rebuke?
- How can we see rebuke as a blessing? What if *we* receive the rebuke?
- What condition should our hearts be before we rebuke? (Not angry or resentful, forgiven, in truth and love)
- How can we honour the person we are rebuking? (Does the rebuke honour God and does it honour the person as a child of God?)

Reflect

1. What has excessive leverage in your life that requires recorrecting?
2. How does recognise and rebuke keep us focused as Christian expats?



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Session 2 – Titus 2 – Raising Teachers

Very often, we think that a teacher needs to be at the front of the room, with qualifications. Whilst true in some settings, it is far from true regarding the Word of God. So then, who qualifies to teach others about Jesus? Paul writes in Titus 2 that **we all are to be teaching**, so how do we become great teachers? How do we go against the status quo that you have to *be* someone before you can teach *to* someone?

Please pick and choose from the list of questions – you do not have to complete them all.

Part 1 – Titus 2:1, 1 Timothy 4:12 – Who are the great teachers?

- According to the above verses, who is meant to teach?
- How do you feel about being called a teacher? What holds you back?
- Which teachers inspire you? What could you take and adapt from them?

Part 2 – Titus 2:7-8 – How to become a great teacher

- According to verse 7, what role does **integrity** play in being a teacher? How well do you learn under a teacher *with* integrity or *without* integrity? What differs?
- According to verse 7, what does **seriousness** mean to you? How can seriousness develop great teaching? (Seriousness does not equal boring. It means to be intentional yet also relational and adaptable).
- According to verse 8, what is **soundness of speech**? (We back up what we say). How could you show soundness of speech? (I.e. Your words and actions are aligned)
- What are the benefits and impacts of following the three items? (Verse 8 – blameless)

Part 3 – Titus 2:10b, Titus 2:11-14 – Why become a great teacher

- What benefit is there in pointing people to Jesus?

Reflect

1. How can teaching about Jesus keep you focused on your faith?
2. How can you *remain* teachable about Jesus?



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Session 3 – Titus 3 – Choosing Good

Paul places the spotlight on our personal salvation as the reason why we choose to do good. Contrary to popular culture, our doing good is based on our internal motivation of being loved by Jesus Christ, whilst culture dictates being loved by public gratitude, self-contentment or discovering purpose. Both are good, except the latter is based on different motivations and ultimately, does not last.

Please pick and choose from the list of questions – you do not have to complete them all.

Part 1 – 1 John 4:8, Genesis 1:27 – Are we born good?

The verses say we're made in the image of God (love), yet we're capable of atrocity.

- Are we born good, or evil? Expand

Part 2 – Titus 3:3, Romans 17:5 – Turning the tide on good

- Have you ever lived out Titus 3:3? What happened?
- Describe the tension of Romans 17:5 in your life

Part 3 – Titus 3:8 – The redemption of good

- What is *trustworthy* about this verse? Where have you seen this happen before?
- What have you trusted in God for, by doing good even when it was hard?

Reflect

1. Where is your motivation to do good derived from?
2. How can you break status-quo to do good and not expect anything in return?