

Growth Group Lesson

February 11-12

Titus 1:10-16

Spend some time praying with your group. Ask God for help and guidance in your discussion today. Ask him to reveal

Last week: Paul gave us a clear picture of what the doctrine, character, and behavior of elders should be, as they give an example for the church to follow. Behavior flows out of character, and character out of doctrine, meaning the church should guard what they believe closely.

Get to know one another:

1. Paul allows one of Crete's prophets to describe it like this, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." Are there any sayings that people use to describe your area?

In this letter to Titus, Paul emphasizes the importance of appointing leaders in the church who hold firmly to the truth and who are able to correct false teaching. He charges Titus with rebuking false teachers in Crete who are affecting the unity and mission of the church.

Read Titus 1:10-14

2. What are the dangers to the church that Paul wants Titus to be aware of?
3. Paul often calls out the "circumcision group" or "Judaizers" for teaching Christians that they need to follow the Jewish law to be saved (be circumcised, eat kosher, attend Jewish feasts, etc.). What is incorrect about their teaching? **Galatians 1:6-9, 3:1-15, 5:1-12**
 - a. Why is Paul so harsh in rebuking those who teach this doctrine?
 - b. In your life, how have you been tempted to gain salvation, favor, or acceptance from God through your actions?
 - c. What has this looked like recently?
4. What do the lives and fruit of false teachers look like? **Verse 11, 1 Timothy 6:3-10, 2 Peter 2**
 - a. What is your reaction to the harsh words that Paul and Peter have for people who lead God's people astray through false teaching?
 - b. Why do you suppose your response is similar to or different from theirs?
 - c. How does Jesus respond to these people? **Matthew 18:1-9**
5. What is the goal of Titus' rebuke? **Verse 13**
 - a. We have all been in the shoes of the false teachers, in one form or another. How has your status with God changed in your life and why did it change? **Romans 5:6-11, Ephesians 2:1-10**
 - b. What should our attitude toward these types of people be? **2 Timothy 2:25-26**
6. What cultural trends and ideologies would Paul warn us about if he lived in our culture? How can we guard ourselves from these ideologies?
7. What cultural trends can you easily fall into? What are some of your blindspots or tendencies?
 - a. In your life, how do you discover what your blindspots or tendencies are?

Read Titus 1:15-16

Paul tells Titus that “to the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupters and no not believe, nothing is pure.” For those who have been made pure by the sacrifice of Jesus through faith, external actions and teaching that honor God are pure. For those who are not in Christ, no religious act or good deed is pure, for “without faith it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6).

8. Can non-believers do good things? Why or why not?
 - a. Can non-believers please God? Why or why not?
9. How do believers receive purity? **Ezekiel 36:25-27, Hebrews 10:19-25**
 - a. How does this truth impact your view of yourself?
 - b. How will this truth change how you live your life this week?
 - c. How will this truth change how you interact with other people this week?

Spend your ending time praying

- Pray for discernment: Ask God to help us recognize false teachers and their teachings, and to give us the wisdom to distinguish this in ourselves.
- Pray for courage: Pray that we would have the courage to stand up against false teachings and to defend the truth of the gospel, even when it is unpopular or uncomfortable.
- Pray for sound doctrine: Ask God to help us grow in our understanding of his Word, and to teach us to apply biblical principles to our lives.