

Vertical Church – Parking - Brian – Southern California – Series 'God's Design for Church' – Titus 2 (x5)

- Coming out of Easter – 340 people | 2 Campuses | 3 Services | **Member – Bapt. – Child**

Series Big Idea - Community Committed to the Course: God's Church...God's Way | Titus 2

The Mechanism God has chosen to display His will and work most powerfully is through the church!

Universal Church = Heavenly Assembly | Local Church = Earthly Assembly

Leadership & Discipline | Preaching & Teaching | Prayer and Worship | Community and Serving

False Dichotomy Killer – Two Opinions Are Presented as Mutually Exclusive

- "Science or Religion." | "Married or Lonely" | "Successful or Happy"
- Big Churches are healthier than small churches because they're growing in size
- Small Churches are healthier than big churches because they're growing in depth

Church Health is not defined by: Population – Property – Programming – Preference | Either Way

Health is determined by God's People: – Proclaiming God's Word – Relying on God's Power

Praying for God's Presence - Following God's Prescriptions | **God's Church...God's Way**

BIG IDEA – God Designed His Church to Represent Christ

¹But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. ²Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. ³Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, ⁴and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. ⁶Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled.

Church that Represents Christ Requires:

1. **Consistent Proclamation of Truth (1)**

1 & 2 Timothy – Titus are commonly referred to as the 'Pastoral Epistles' – Written by Paul to Pastors

¹But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine – 'But' – **Indicates comparison = False Teachers** (1:5-9 = Qualifications for Elders) | **Titus 1:10-12 / Titus 1:16** – Don't be like them!

- Profess know God...deny through unholy living – Detestable / Disobedient / Worthless good deed
False teachers are tested and found to be worthless and even dangerous

- Sound Doctrine = Approved by God | God's Word | Christian Ethics producing Spiritual Health

Healthy Teaching Develops the Ability to Think and Act Biblically = Discernment

Discernment = Ability to distinguish between Truth and Error– make decisions – act in accordance

- 'You' = Pastor...take seriously! **Funny – Creative | ACCURATE | Greatest Fears – I didn't say that**
⇒ **Prosperity – Poverty – Works – Social | Quit putting words front Gospel...Behind of Jesus Christ**
Tide came up gunk on my face – Dead Fish...soap and running water...what did I pick?

'Sound' – HYGENE- 'Being well and healthy' | Cleanses – Purifies – Healthy Doctrine...Healthy Living

- **Why church important? Hebrews 10:24-25** What are you immersing yourself in? Hygienic – Dead

Church that Represents Christ Requires: Consistent Proclamation of Truth...

2. **Contextualized Discipleship (3-6)** – Compromised for culture | Discipleship = Context

This is incredibly important as we move into the next section...and learn together...GOSPEL IN MIND

How the teaching of sound doctrine is exemplified, or manifested, in four different groups of people:

If you don't look at these imperatives through the lens of the Gospel = You will not see them clearly

a) Because: been made new – given life – sacrifice & serve – Representing Christ part of the Church

b) Our faith is both taught and caught – Learned and Lived | Informed and formed

Discipleship is...Growing in understanding & application – Failing learning trying again – NOT CHANGED

Age (+/- 40) & Gender (M / F) - Older Men – Older Women – Younger Women – Younger Men

i. **Older Men – Biblically Respected | Representing Christ**

²Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness

- **Sober-Minded** = Levelheaded...No High High's & No Low Lows | Biblical in Decision Making
 - Rightly uses God given Time – Talent – Treasure | All that matters in life is pleasing God
- **Dignified** = Nobility in morality and values | Integrity | Avoids sinful & ungodly
- **Self-Controlled** = Sensible | Not careless – fool words / behaviors | Physical passions & worldly
- **Sound** (Same) – **Faith** = Trusting | **Love** = God & People | **Steadfastness** = Time Tested Tenacity

Test I like to give myself to check for hypocrisy = Work – Home – Church – Vacation | God's Looking

ii. **Older Women – Biblically Revered – Don't get mad at me...in the Bible**

³Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, | **Representing Christ**

- **Reverent in Behavior** – Temple Fitting | Holiness | Reflecting the Character of Christ | Modest
- **Not Slanderers** – Malicious Gossips | Refuse to listen, much less spread slanderous/demeaning
- **Not Slaves to Much Wine** – Drunkenness | Enslaved...becomes more of a prison than an escape
Alcohol – Drinking in moderation sinful...no | Being intoxicated sinful...yes | Why?
Addiction is dangerous – destructive – deadly | Dishonors the Lord and His Church
Is any alcohol sinful for all...no | Is any alcohol sinful for some...yes

Older Men = Biblically Respected | Older Women = Biblically Revered | Biblically Replicated

(3b) 'They are to teach what is good, and so train young women | (6) Likewise urge young men...

Legacy of faith passed on | Biblical Mothers and Fathers reproduce (Multiply) themselves | TEA

iii. **Younger Woman – Strive for Biblical Reverence**

⁴and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, ⁵to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands | **Representing Christ**

- **Love and submit to their husbands** - Choosing to love – Suitable helper – Honor & Respect
Attitude and action – Men...be worthy of submitting to
- **Love their Children** – Practical | Physical | Moral | Spiritual – Raising Godly Children
- **Self-Controlled** – Common sense – good judgment
- **Pure** – Moral and Sexual Purity above reproach | Modest and Discrete | Set apart work of Lord
- **Working at Home** – 'Busy at Home' – **Not locking in the kitchen or closet – Draconian Intent**
Don't hear what I'm not saying...don't allow culture to deny you your God given strengths
'Managers of the Household' – 'Watches over the affairs of the household'
- **Kind** – Gentle | Considerate | Gracious | Merciful

For all of this...don't let culture define our rolls...let the God who made us / loves us...define them

(5b) that the word of God may not be reviled – Brought into question

Thomas Odin – "Christianity has an important stake in the home, its right ordering, its decency, its love, its capacity to enable growth. If Christianity does not act to guide and enable these values, it will not show its social worth and will in the long run become justifiably discredited"

iv. **Younger Men – Strive for Biblical Respect | I Love...young men get one | All we could**

⁶Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled | **Representing Christ**

- **Self-control** – **With what...yeah.** Emotions? | Sexual Passions? | Finances? | Alcohol? | Words?
Let's put a (+) over the spot where your strength is...and put a (-) where we need growth
Older men – (2) | Older Women (4) | Younger Women (5-6) | **Younger Men...well...just put a (-)**

God designed His Church...His Way – Consistently Proclaiming Truth – Contextualizing Discipleship

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