

**Celebrate – Thank you to everyone who's responded so kindly to my son's accident – SMALL GROUP**

**TITLE - 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!**

**We collectively want a spiritually healthy church – populated by spiritually healthy people**

**Church Health not defined by: Population – Property – Programming – Preference | Regardless size**

**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 | Open your Bibles...**

**Finish Titus 2 – God's design for church. Paul ⇒ Titus important...succeed as God intends = CENTERED**

- Content – what's taught - talked about - what's emphasized | **Learn**
- Character – Leaders & people; Different kinds of people & different spheres | **Live**  
**Learning leads to Living | Belief leads to Behaviors | Orthodoxy leads to Orthopraxy**

**Context – Titus Teach what accords with Sound Doctrine – Grace that transforms – Work for glory**

**2:15 'Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.' | PRAY**

**I don't like to be deceived – Surprise Parties | Movies...I really don't like...When things matter**

**There's a lot of deception out there in the world...become cynical | Church Different**

**God designed his church to teach the Truth | LEAVE UP**

**So simple in its articulation - but both difficult and crucial in its application**

**Church susceptible drifting center – Fight wars not supposed win Kung-Fu ⇒ Quilting | Teach Truth**

- "Teach" – It's not just speaking truth – Speaking...instructs and builds up those who will listen.

**We sometimes get it wrong by two ditches on the same road**

- *Fail to teach by fighting* – Prove I'm right | Communicate truth with the hearers as the priority.
- *Fail the teach by fleeing* - Not every lesson is popular – Love doesn't spare the Truth  
**Math teacher 'Multiplication is tough... skip it...addition | 8 X 6 is whatever you want it to be**

**Our actions testify to our love & commitment to God...not enough! Inside & Outside = Teach | Paul...**

**2:15 'Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.'**

**Speak up and speak out to encourage and correct, under God's direction, for the benefit of all**

**1. Speak Up and Speak Out – 'Declare these things'**

- *Declare – Are declarations complicated?* It means to speak up with boldness and clarity
  - Isn't an event...it's an ongoing thing | Not just an hour Sunday...ongoing conversation.

**Always been true – Deuteronomy 6** - when God gives Israel the greatest commandment

<sup>4</sup>"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.<sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

**This truth is too valuable to be relegated to an event...it's a consuming lifestyle...what is 'it'?**

- *'These Things'* - Paul just wrote v1 – 'sound doctrine' - Truth of Gospel - life change flows from it
  - The truth of the grace we've received, and the behaviors and practices that to flow from it  
**When we speak or when we listen, we need to continually apply the "these things" test.**

**Whether: Cause or Crisis - Doctrine or Discipline...Test = "these things." | Speak Up & Speak Out**

**2. To Encourage and Correct – 'Declare these things; exhort and rebuke'**

- *Exhort* – Encourage...Use words to affect another through positive motivation...to comfort.  
**Speaking in such a way that it affects the hearer and draws them towards God's truth and His grace.**
- *Rebuke* – Correct...We get worried about this, but it's essential | **Be open to Correct & Correction**

**\*\*\*Careful with this: remember to refer to our source material – "these things"**

**Discipleship and teaching isn't about fixing: annoys you - Hobby - Sports - Philosophy on investing**

**It's about bringing them to a deeper understanding closer alignment with God's Word | Train Tracks**

**One thing matters with both: Relationship, that the one speaking is personal and present.**

**Not always one-to-one, but always relational | We have to 'Know and Be Known' | DAN TIME**

**If we're to grow & mature, correct & receive correction - God desires us = change agents for one another**

**Hesitant not sure whether we're capable....don't worry...Why? Look next...'with all authority'**

**3. Under God's direction – 'with all authority'** - Couple diff. words in Scripture translated authority

- One – Limited / Delegated Authority = Kings & rulers...authority given by God for limited purpose
- Second - Absolute / Unlimited authority = Few = Jesus...calm the storm / cast out demons | **HERE**  
**We're told to speak out with all authority. Why? Because we're not the authority – God's Authority**  
**Neither you, me, Billy Graham, or John Piper or anyone else is the authority**

**If we're in Christ & we're speaking His Truth – Appropriately - We can speak with authority**

**Because we're speaking based on God's eternal truth - This implies two things for us:**

**When it's time to speak the truth, do so with:**

- Confidence - This is God's truth, not yours
- Humility - This is God's truth, not yours

**This is key for correction whether speaking with a believer – in Christ | Unbeliever winning to Christ**

**KEEP THE TENSION WITH THE TEXT | Talk to the manager**

**Lots of people claim to speak about a lot of things authoritatively**

- Legitimacy based: Intelligence – Experience - Smooth tongue, or even their heritage

**When we speak, our words are only legitimately authoritative if & when based on God's eternal truth**

**Then we can exhort and rebuke with authority** - But it's not just about us being right

**It's about God using us to have an effect on those who hear - Look at the last part...**

**2:15 'Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.'**

**4. For the benefit of all – 'Let no one disregard you'**

**There are really two kinds of people that get heard in this world:**

- Those who scream loudly & persistently "listen to me!" – **They normally have a You Tube Chanel**
- Those who are saying something we need to know – **They normally write books**  
**Paul give this command based on everything he's said up til now, he's talking about the latter.**

**He's saying, don't give anyone a reason to disregard your words**

- This doesn't mean that everyone will want to hear them, or that everyone will agree.

**But we need to speak, and when we do our loves give reason to listen to what we have to say**

**How do we do this? Go back to the beginning – What would make our words impossible to disregard?**

- *Content:* What are you teaching? Does it accord with sound doctrine

**Gospel of God's grace...appeared with Christ & brought the salvation that everyone desperately needs**

- *Character:* How are you living in accordance to what you're teaching

**In every season of life (2-6), with leaders that lead honorably (7-8),**

**People who live their day-to-day lives in the community with integrity that adorns the Gospel (9-14)**

**Content and Character = The Right to Communicate with Authority**

**God's truth, when it's presented accurately by those whose lives conform to it, will be compelling**

**It will be attractive to some, and repulsive to others – In and out of the church**

**But it will never be disregarded – it can't just be ignored**

**We must love people enough to tell people the Truth and trust the outcome to God**

**Speak up and speak out to encourage and correct, under God's direction, for the benefit of all**

**Let's speak that Gospel: Truth in Love - Encouraging and Correcting**

**Confident in the absolute unchanging truth of God and his Word**

**For the benefit of those around us**

**That they might be brought to life and brought closer to conformity with the image of Christ...**

**Let's pray...**