

Paul instructs that the way we live can either support or undermine what we say we believe -- in what specific areas of your daily work life do you find the greatest tension between your stated faith and your visible actions?

The sermon describes self-control not as willpower but as submission to the lordship of Jesus -- what desire or appetite in your life most consistently resists that submission, and what would it look like to surrender it to Christ today?

Paul establishes a relational progression where older believers invest in younger believers rather than relying solely on pastoral instruction -- how does your church community reflect or fall short of this model of generational discipleship?

The sermon draws a distinction between a flawless example and a faithful example, noting that people need to see believers confess sin and return to grace -- how does the pressure to appear spiritually put-together in your community hinder authentic, life-on-life discipleship?

Trust in pastoral and church leadership has fallen dramatically over recent decades -- in what ways do you think the personal integrity of everyday believers, rather than platform personalities, carries the greater weight of the gospel's credibility in your community?

Paul calls enslaved believers in Crete to work in a way that makes the teaching about God our Savior attractive, even within an unjust system -- what does it mean for Christians today to pursue excellence and trustworthiness in their work as an act of gospel witness rather than mere professional ambition?

The sermon asks who is close enough to you to see you following Jesus in your everyday decisions and struggles -- what practical barriers prevent believers from cultivating that kind of transparent, accountable relationship, and how might those barriers be overcome?

Paul tells Titus in Titus 2 verse 1 that sound doctrine must be matched with sound living -- where do you observe the sharpest disconnect between theological belief and practical behavior in the broader Christian culture today, and what does that cost the gospel's witness?

The sermon emphasizes that the gospel is already good and that our lives do not make it good but can either reveal or obscure its goodness -- how does this reframe the way you think about your responsibility as a witness in your workplace or neighborhood?

Considering the three G's presented -- govern yourself, give others an example, and gain people's trust -- which of these three is most underdeveloped in your own discipleship, and what one concrete step might the Holy Spirit be calling you toward this week?

Small Group Guide

Titus 2:6-11 | Making the Gospel Visible

Before You Meet

Encourage group members to read Titus 2:1-11 on their own before gathering. Ask them to come prepared to share one thing that stood out to them from the passage or the sermon.

Key Takeaways

The Big Idea: If we believe the gospel is good, then we will live in a way that shows its goodness.

Paul gives Titus three practical ways the goodness of the gospel becomes visible in the lives of believers:

1. **Govern Yourself** -- Self-control is not achieved through willpower alone. It comes from surrendering our desires to the lordship of Jesus and depending on the Holy Spirit who lives within us.
 2. **Give Others an Example** -- People need more than instruction. They need trustworthy relationships with believers who will walk alongside them and show them what following Jesus actually looks like in everyday life.
 3. **Gain People's Trust** -- The way we work, the way we treat those in authority over us, and the way we handle responsibility either supports or contradicts what we say we believe about the gospel.
-

Getting Started

Use one of these questions to open your time together and help the group warm up to the topic.

- What is one job or responsibility you have had in your life that you genuinely enjoyed? What made it meaningful?
 - When you think about the people who have had the greatest influence on your faith, what made their example so compelling to you?
-

Discussion Questions

Work through these questions at a pace that fits your group. You do not need to cover every question. Let the conversation go where the Spirit leads.

On Governing Yourself

1. The sermon described self-control not as a matter of willpower but as the result of surrendering our desires to the lordship of Jesus. How does that reframe the way you typically think about self-control?
2. Paul addresses self-control to every group in Titus 2 -- older men, younger women, younger men, and the whole church. Why do you think self-control is so central to the Christian witness? What happens to our witness when self-control is absent?
3. The pastor invited the group to name honestly the desire that most often tries to control them. Without requiring anyone to share publicly, take a moment of quiet reflection. What would it look like practically to surrender that desire to Jesus this week?

On Giving Others an Example

4. The sermon made a distinction between a flawless example and a faithful example. What is the difference, and why does that distinction matter for how we relate to one another in community?
5. Paul did not direct Titus to personally disciple the younger women in the church. Instead, he assigned that responsibility to the older women. What does this tell us about the importance of appropriate, life-on-life relationships in discipleship? How does your group reflect or fall short of this kind of intentional investment?
6. The pastor asked, "Who is close enough to you that they can see you following Jesus?" How would you answer that question honestly? If no one comes to mind, what is one step you could take this week to change that?

On Gaining People's Trust

7. The enslaved believers in Crete were called to live in a way that made "the teaching about God our Savior attractive," as described in Titus 2:10. In your own workplace or daily responsibilities, what does it look like to make the gospel attractive through the way you work?
 8. Trust is built over time through consistency, honesty, and integrity. Is there a relationship in your life -- at work, at home, or in the community -- where trust has been damaged? What would it look like to begin rebuilding it?
 9. The sermon said, "Our lives can help people see the goodness of the gospel, or it can give them a reason to dismiss what we believe." When people who know you find out you follow Jesus, does your life make that believable? Where is there a gap between what you profess and how you live?
-

Going Deeper

For groups that want to explore the passage further, consider these additional questions.

- Read Titus 1:16. The false teachers in Crete claimed to know God but denied him by their actions. In what ways can Christians today fall into the same pattern without realizing it?
 - The sermon noted that trust in church and pastoral leadership has dropped significantly over the past four decades. How does this reality shape the responsibility that ordinary believers carry as representatives of the gospel in their communities?
 - Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:1 that believers should follow his example as he follows the example of Christ. What would it take for you to be able to say something similar to someone in your life?
-

Practical Applications

Choose one of the following to act on before your group meets again. Be prepared to share how it went.

- **Identify one desire** that regularly competes with the lordship of Jesus in your life. Write it down, pray over it specifically, and ask a trusted believer to check in with you about it this week.
 - **Reach out to one person** -- someone newer in their faith or younger in spiritual maturity -- and invite them to share a meal, a conversation, or a time of prayer with you. Simply let them see you walking with Jesus.
 - **Examine your work habits** honestly. Are you someone your coworkers, employer, or employees would describe as trustworthy, cooperative, and consistent? Identify one specific area to improve and take a concrete step this week.
 - **Repair a broken trust.** If your attitudes or actions have damaged a relationship at work or elsewhere, take responsibility. Apologize where needed and begin the work of rebuilding.
-

Closing Prayer

Close your time by praying together as a group. You may use this prayer as a guide or pray in your own words.

Father, thank you for the truth of your Word and for the goodness of the gospel. We confess that our lives do not always reflect what we say we believe. We ask you to help us govern our desires under the lordship of Jesus, to give faithful examples to those around us, and to live in a way that earns trust and makes the gospel visible. Holy Spirit, show each of us one act of obedience from

what we have studied today, and give us the courage to do what you say. To you be all the glory.
In Jesus' name, amen.

For Further Study

- Titus 2:1-15
- 1 Corinthians 11:1
- Galatians 3:28
- Colossians 3:17
- 1 Peter 2:12

5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide

Living the Gospel Visibly: Faith That Can Be Seen

Day 1: The Gospel Demands a Visible Life

Reading: Titus 2:1-10

Devotional: Sound doctrine is never meant to stay in the mind. It must move through the hands, the feet, the posture, and the words of the person who holds it. Paul's instructions to Titus reveal a church where belief and behavior must align. The people of Crete had witnessed leaders who claimed to know God but denied him through their actions. That contradiction is a warning for every believer. What we say we believe about Jesus will either be confirmed or contradicted by the way we live. Ask the Lord today where your life and your beliefs are out of alignment.

Day 2: The Governed Life

Reading: Galatians 5:16-25

Devotional: Paul's instruction to young men in Titus 2 is remarkably brief: be self-controlled. That brevity does not signal a small task. Self-control is the fruit of a life yielded to the Holy Spirit, not the product of personal willpower or moral resolve. In Galatians 5, Paul describes the war between the flesh and the Spirit that every believer navigates. The desires of the flesh make poor masters. They promise satisfaction and deliver bondage. But the Spirit produces in us what we cannot manufacture ourselves. Surrender the desire that most often controls you. Ask the Spirit to govern what you have been unable to govern alone.

Day 3: The Power of a Faithful Example

Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:1, Philippians 3:17, 2 Timothy 2:2

Devotional: Paul never called believers to follow a flawless example. He called them to follow a faithful one. The difference matters enormously. A flawless example invites comparison and breeds discouragement. A faithful example invites imitation and breeds hope. When Paul said follow me as I follow Christ, he was pointing beyond himself to the one worth following. He was simply saying, walk with me and we will walk toward Jesus together. Faithfulness means

returning to Christ when you stumble, confessing sin honestly, and receiving grace without hiding. Who in your life sees you doing that? Who could benefit from seeing it?

Day 4: Trust Built Over Time

Reading: Proverbs 20:6-7, Luke 16:10-12

Devotional: The enslaved believers in Crete were instructed to become people who could be fully trusted. That trustworthiness was not merely a professional virtue. It was a gospel witness. The way a person handles responsibility, keeps their word, and acts with integrity when no one is watching either supports or undermines what they claim to believe. Jesus himself taught that faithfulness in small things qualifies a person for greater ones. Trust is not declared. It is demonstrated over time through consistent, honest, and responsible living. Consider the places where your reliability is tested daily. Your faithfulness in those ordinary moments is a form of gospel proclamation.

Day 5: Making the Gospel Attractive

Reading: Matthew 5:14-16, Colossians 3:23-24, 1 Peter 2:11-12

Devotional: Paul closes his instructions in Titus 2:10 with a remarkable purpose statement. The way enslaved believers carried themselves in their work was meant to make the teaching about God our Savior attractive. The gospel is already good. It does not need our help to become true. But the lives of those who believe it can either open a door for others to consider its truth or give them a reason to dismiss it entirely. Your workplace, your home, and your neighborhood are not interruptions to your faith. They are the primary stage where your faith becomes visible. Live today in a way that makes people curious about what you believe.