



The following is the summary of the Sunday sermon that is sent to the body at Steadfast in an email called "The Weekly"

Titus 1:10-16

Dealing With Invasive Weeds

Ever since the church was born there have been weeds in the church that have had to be dealt with. Wherever God has planted wheat, Satan has planted tares (an injurious weed resembling wheat). Wherever God has sown truth, Satan has come along and sown lies. If these are not dealt with, they will take over, hinder growth, and destroy the beauty God desires for His church. Titus 1:10-16 talks about these weeds (otherwise known as false teachers). These verses talk about **their character, their motives, their behavior** and **what the leaders are supposed to do with them.**

Their **character** was rebellious (insubordinate and unaccountable). They made themselves the authority and refuse to be under authority. They were empty talkers which means that they were full of hot air, but sounded impressive to people. They were persuasive and presented their own opinions as truth. While they were great at talking, they certainly didn't practice what they preached. Their teaching was deceptive and because they were deceived by Satan they deceived others. What they taught sounded so close to the truth that it would suck people in if they didn't know the truth. It was a mixture of Jewish legalism and Eastern asceticism. They promoted dualism which basically says that the spirit is good, but matter is evil. As a result, they believed all appetites related to the body were evil and needed to be dealt with. Furthermore, they taught that true righteousness and spirituality came from abstaining from these things. They were leading people out of the liberty of grace into the bondage of legalism.

Their **motive** was sordid gain which means "dishonest profit." They were all about themselves! Their true motive was not to point people to Jesus, help people grow in grace, and experience the abundant life. Their motive was personal advancement and financial gain.

Their **behavior** showed that their walk did not match their talk. They professed to know God, but by their deeds they denied Him. To the pure all things are pure and to the defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure (their mind and conscience are defiled). Matter is not evil in and of itself. Material things can be used for both good and evil and it all depends on what's in a person's heart! If a person's heart is pure, then food (as well as drink and sex) can be sanctified (set apart for the glory

of God). However if a persons heart is defiled and they don't believe the truth, nothing is pure. In other words, it's not the food that defiles the person it's the person that defiles the food.

Titus and the elders of the churches were to reprove the false teachers so that they may be sound in faith. The heart of the Christian message is always restoration. It's imperative that this is the heartbeat of the believer even in confrontation and correction. Heavy handed punitive correction is not Biblical. Communicating sound doctrine is essential for spiritual growth, to protect us from the weeds, and to restore the fallen (misguided). The church grows by nutrition. It matters what you eat! As you seek to apply this passage to your life, ask yourself these questions:

- **Are you faithfully nourishing yourself with the truth?** Sound doctrine is the spiritual fertilizer that has in it the power to expose and destroy the weeds as well as the power to help grow and to restore. We need the truth to grow!
- **Are you willing to deal with your heart if it is defiled and divided?** It's possible, even for a believer to have a defiled heart. In **Psalm 86:11 (NIV), David says, "Teach me your way Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart that I may fear Your name."** The Word is a mirror and helps us see our hearts as we should. Allow God's Word to expose the lies as well as to restore you.

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