

Raising the Standard

Study in the Book of Titus

Lesson 1: The Standard of Godly People

LESSON OBJECTIVE

For Christians to exhibit godliness in their behavior to increase the overall spiritual maturity of the church, to win others to Christ

INTRODUCTION

The coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers coined this phrase:



Q: Are we living in an era of time where **standards** are not valued as much as they were in the past.?

In your words write out what you consider to be a:

1. Personal standard:

2. Christian standard:

Q: Why have Christian standards declined? List three reasons:

1.

2.

3.

Background to the Lesson

A. Who is Paul?

List the two characteristics of Paul's identity in vs. 1

 of God

 of Jesus Christ

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What is the relationship between Paul and Titus

1. A Brother - 1:1-4
2. _____

B. Who is Titus:

- The letter was written to Titus, who was Paul's representative on the island of Crete.
- In 1:4, Paul calls Titus, his true child in the faith.
- Titus was a Greek, who had not been circumcised, Gal 2:3. We know from Gal 2:3 that he was in Jerusalem for the Jerusalem Council.
- He was proof that one can be saved by faith in Christ apart from circumcision.
- He accompanied Paul on the third missionary journey, 2 Cor 8:23.
- Titus, had a genuine concern for the people at the Corinthian church, 2 Cor 8:16-17. Titus was also responsible to help gather the financial collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem, 2 Cor. 8:16-23.
- Paul instructs Titus to deal with a difficult situation in Crete, 1:5.

The Biblical Lesson

Scripture Reference: Titus 1:1-4

Paul has set the bar for a servant of Christ. Through his life and body of Christian work, he has outlined the blue print of how Christians should serve the Lord. In other words, Paul has set the standard, the rule, the measure by which church leaders should serve God.

I. Reasons Why the Standard is Important:

1. It's the faith of the chosen
Q: Who are the chosen (Eph. 1:4, I Peter 1:1-5):

Q: What is their faith (Titus 2:12-13)

Q: Why is faith important in establishing the standard:

Why is the standard so important vs. 2 _____

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Appl: Think of an area of life that you consider important:

Q: Why is or is faith important in that area of life?

2. The Knowledge of the Truth

Q: What is truth? _____

3. According to godliness

Q: What is godliness? An attitude of devotion to God. The manner of life which is centered around God. Godliness is honoring God through one's living.

3 Words that help to establish Christian Standard

1. **Faith:** the basis for living
2. **Truth:** the essential facts for living
3. **Godliness:** the attitude for living

Appl: Improving the Christian Attitude

The Problem with the Christian's Attitude?:

Scrip Reference: 2 Cor. 7:6, 13 - What comes to mind about the personality of Titus?

- Galatians 5:22-23

II. The Reason to Uphold the Standard

The reason Titus has been sent to Crete by Paul is because he simply cares about the church. There is no doubt that Titus cares about God's people. He cares about the ***ministry of people***.

Read Titus 1:12 - Describe the Cretan people:

Q: How do you help people transform to what God wants them to do versus them doing what they enjoy and or accustomed to doing?

Think about this type of assignment for Titus. This does not sound like an easy job for Titus

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List two words that would describe what Titus needed to work with the Cretans (I Corinthians 13:4):

1. _____
2. _____

A. Appoint Elders Vs. 5-7

Scripture Reference: Acts 11:30, 14:23

The responsibility of an elder:

1. Above reproach
2. The husband of one wife
3. Having children who believe
4. Not accused of dissipation or rebellion - Eph. 5:18

Overseer

1. Must be above reproach - a steward - I Cor. 4:1
2. Not self-willed - 2 Peter 2:10 - an overbearing person, pushing to have their way
3. Not angry or quick tempered
4. Not addicted to wine - not a drinker
5. Not pugnacious - quick to argue or fight, combative
6. Not fond of sordid gain - obtaining with corrupt actions

But vs. 8

1. Hospitable - friendly and welcoming to guests or strangers
2. Loving People what is good -
3. Sensible - good practical wisdom
4. Just - person of integrity, and truth
5. Devout - holy, I Peter 1:16
6. Self-controlled - temperate, disciplined
7. Hold fast the faithful word

To be able to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict

B. The Responsibility of Elders vs. 9

1. To be faithful (Titus 3:8): _____
2. Have a ministry of the Word: Building up the church with sound doctrine. And refuting false teachers

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CONCLUSION:

Based on this lesson write three things the church needs to work on to improve godliness among the congregation:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____