

Seeing “US” in Titus: Character

Vs.1-4 Big Picture

- Paul's a big-picture guy. Are we? Let's always remember what it's all about?
- The big picture? God saves. He doesn't leave His creation in the dark. He delivers help and does so at the proper time. He doesn't lie and gives hope.
- Titus. We know he was a traveling companion who helped in Corinth and Crete. He's only mentioned a few times: Galatians 2 and 2 Timothy 4, along with 2 Corinthians and this letter. Titus is also the individual Paul refused to have circumcised to make a point. He was special as the Lord's apostle.

Vs. 5-9 Good Character

- We've recently discussed the qualifications of Deacons. I want to consider these qualities through an “us” lens. Generally speaking, we should all strive to be such people.
- Family focused:
 - Faithful to our spouses. Coming home should be a safe haven for your loved one. Remember, Peter warned of false teachers whose eyes were full of adultery. Faithfulness has always been a problem. Jesus taught that not committing adultery wasn't enough - you've got to keep from lusting. Yes, God wants us to be “one-woman” men. He wants you to be a “one-man woman.”
 - Invested in our children. Actions speak louder than words. What we do says everything about who we are. Parenting has to be more than telling our kids what they shouldn't do (although many parents drop that ball). It's got to be doing what we should. Why wouldn't we know what's going on with our kids? Why wouldn't they tell us if they're struggling? Why are they struggling?
- Neighbor focused:
 - Consider the humility required for such an individual. Arrogance is obvious, but many times, anger has to do with pride as well. Such a person has learned to deal with life challenges head-on, and such an individual understands there's more than one person in this world. Maybe others need our help, hospitality, and example.
 - Yes, we need to be people who hold to God's word. Can you instruct anyone? Can you stand for truth? Do you stand for truth? Are there individuals in your life who get a pass for acting the way they shouldn't?

Vs. 10-16 Bad Character

- It begins with rejecting authority. They don't realize their words' emptiness because they lack truth and love. Those in Crete had a long-standing reputation. Paul quotes from one of their own prophets (before his time). His name was Epimenides, and “he was considered one of the seven wise men of Greece” (Patton, pg. 271). Paul is basically confirming the statement. They even had a saying, “To cretize” was to lie.
- Yes, such people have tainted hearts and minds, and therefore, all they do is tainted. How will you know? Their works expose them, and their teaching and behavior give them away. They don't love their neighbors; they take advantage of them. They can't be ignored.