

TOUGH GRACE IN DIFFICULT PLACES A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF TITUS

STUDY SIX

Making Your Testimony Slam-Dunk Convincing

Titus 2:4–10

There is no more powerful testimony to a changed life than authenticity—being real.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

IN all of Paul's letters, he urged his readers to show the world the reality of the gospel through their changed lives. When Christians live what they believe, people are more likely to hear what they say. Authentic Christians, those who match their beliefs with their behaviors, offer the most convincing testimonies for the truth of Christ and His transformational power.

Authenticity is best cultivated in relationships as one believer models Christian character and encourages another believer to follow his or her example. "Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ," Paul wrote (1 Corinthians 11:1), illustrating the principle of mentoring through modeling.

Unfortunately, in our transient and generationally fragmented culture, mentoring doesn't happen as often as it should. Many people have replaced person-to-person sharing with impersonal data gathering. As a result, a common malady in our information age is detachment.

Paul's mentoring strategy brings people together in relationships that are real, not artificial. Flesh-and-blood, not virtual. The result? Authentic followers of Christ. Follow Paul's plan in this passage and make your life a convincing testimony to the reality of Christ.



PREPARE YOUR HEART

As you study this passage, open your heart to hear God's message. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you areas in which you can grow.



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TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

In the previous section, *Titus 2:1–4*, Paul listed the Christlike qualities that Titus should teach older men and women. In this section, *2:4–10*, Paul listed the Christlike qualities for younger women and men and also for slaves. Notice that instead of Titus teaching the younger women himself, Paul instructed Titus to charge the older women to “train the younger women” (2:4). It’s not wise for men to cultivate close, mentoring relationships with young women in the church. Rather, Paul reserved that role for older women.

Let’s look closer at the truths Titus should pass along to the mentors in the churches.



Observation: Three Groups in the Church

In this section of Scripture, *observe* what Paul says without projecting an interpretation.¹ We’ll explore meaning in the next phase of *Searching the Scriptures*. Read the passage in at least three Bible versions and note how the translations vary.

Young Women, Especially Mothers—Titus 2:4–5

What are older women in the church to train young women to do, according to *Titus 2:4–5*?

In this context, Paul has in mind young married mothers with children at home. He doesn’t exclude young single women or women without children. Older women can mentor them too, but some issues won’t apply to them. Why should young women exhibit the virtues Paul listed, according to the last phrase of *Titus 2:5*?

Mentoring is not just instructing. It’s living the Christian life while spending time with another person. It’s being available, accountable, and willing to pass along principles that work. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Young Men, Including Titus—Titus 2:6–8

Paul told Titus to train the young men directly, man-to-man. What did Paul instruct in [Titus 2:6](#)? Where else in Titus 2 did Paul highlight this central virtue?

What additional character qualities should Titus model for young men in [2:7–8](#)? Why should Titus exemplify these virtues, according to the last phrase of [2:8](#)?

We who live for the cause of Christ are somebody's hero. Let's not let them down.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

Slaves in Households, Serving Christ—Titus 2:9–10

By addressing slaves, was Paul endorsing slavery? No, slavery has no place in a Christian worldview. In fact, Paul laid the groundwork for the eventual collapse of slavery when he wrote, “There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For we are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). Paul was simply helping slaves manage their current situation. Their path to freedom was not by waving a flag of revolution but by shining the light of Christ and living spiritually free in Him. What Christian virtues did Paul teach in [Titus 2:9–10](#)?

In our culture, we can apply Paul’s counsel to Christian workers. Through these same qualities of hard work and trustworthy character, employees can “adorn the doctrine of God our Savior,” even on the job (2:10 NASB).

All the way through the Bible, there's an emphasis on living as we should so that people will believe the truth. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Interpretation: Christian Moral Standards

Interpretation finds the meaning in the verses and draws out timeless principles that apply to all believers. Review in the chart below the summary of Paul’s moral standards in *Titus 2:4–10*.

Young Women	Young Men	Workers (Slaves)
Love husband and children	Live wisely	Be subject to boss
Live wisely	Do good works	Be pleasing
Be pure	Show integrity, seriousness	Don’t talk back
Work in the home	Teach the truth	Don’t steal
Do good		Be trustworthy
Be subject to husband		

We can group these moral standards under four general headings. Find the qualities that emphasize the following themes, and then, in the space provided, write down a principle about the centrality of that overall standard for Christians.

Love and good deeds

Wise and sensible living, self-control and purity

Work and diligence

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Submission to authority

Paul said that when Christians display these qualities, they honor “the word of God” (Titus 2:5), put to shame “those who oppose us” (2:8), and “make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way” (2:10). How is this true?

Summarize what Paul taught about mentoring.

There’s nothing that cuts away morale in a workplace like an argumentative, negative spirit. Paul says, “Don’t do that.” If you do, why would anyone want to follow your Lord? —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Correlation: Roles in Marriage

Paul goes into more detail about the Christlike qualities of submission with regard to the roles of wives and husbands in [Ephesians 5:21–33](#). What additional insight can you glean from this passage about how God designed husbands and wives to minister to one another? For a helpful article on the subject, read “[What Are the Roles of the Husband and Wife in a Family?](#)” at gotquestions.org. Write down your conclusions in the space below.

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Devoted husbands who serve their wives and families display the kind of loving leadership that Christ displayed in sacrificing Himself for the church. In the security of such devotion, wives respond in love like the church responds to Christ by respecting their husband's leadership and bringing honor to the name of Christ.



Application: A Principle for All of Us Who Know the Lord

Let's wrap all the points from our study together around a single principle that sums up the essence of Paul's instructions for Christians: *The most convincing presentation of the gospel is a believer living a Christlike life.*

Can you think of an example of a person whose Christlike life gives credibility to the truth of the gospel? Or perhaps, the opposite—an example of a person whose life discredits the faith?

Followers of Christ aren't perfect, but they should be maturing in Christlikeness. In what ways have you seen growth in your relationship with Christ? How has your walk with Christ transformed your behavior?

In which quality on Paul's list of moral standards would you like to see growth? How can you make progress in this area? With whom can you share your desire to grow?

Paul's mandate to the church in his day was for all believers to be in mentoring relationships. Take him up on this challenge! If you haven't already, build a spiritual friendship with a fellow believer with whom you can grow together. It's the best way to match your beliefs with your behaviors and show the world that Christ really does make a difference in your life.

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A FINAL PRAYER

Father, Christ alone is the object of my praise. Deliver me from putting my faith in religion and not in the person of Christ. Draw me closer to Him and change my heart so that living as He lived becomes a natural expression of my life and a convincing testimony to the world. In Jesus' name, amen.

ENDNOTE

1. To learn more about Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* Bible-study method, go to the web page, "[How Does Pastor Chuck Swindoll Study the Bible?](#)"

For the 2024 broadcasts, this *Searching the Scriptures* Bible study was developed by Bryce Klabunde, vice president of *Searching the Scriptures* Ministries, based upon the original outlines, charts, and transcripts of Charles R. Swindoll's messages. Copyright © 2006, 2024 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. All rights are reserved worldwide. Duplication of copyrighted material for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

