

Sermon study Titus 2 'Advice'

Discuss the Problem:

False teaching is a disease that affects each of us specifically. It is a disease that is spread through the bad advice, or unsound counsel, we pass to one another every day.

Discuss the Central Proposition of the Text:

Belief affects behavior in every facet of life. False teaching is a disease that spreads through the church through bad advice. True teaching is the antidote that spreads through good advice. Herein Paul lays out the mandate, the means and the might of biblical counseling.

Discuss the Main Idea:

Biblical counseling is the application of sound doctrine to unsound behavior. It is the antidote to the disease of false teaching that affects every sphere of life.

Discuss the text:

The mandate for biblical counseling (Titus 2:1)

- What specifically is Titus to teach?
- What is it that accords with sound doctrine?
- Based on the rest of this passage how might this be taught? In other words, is preaching in view, or something else?

Read the following verses about sound doctrine for some to build a biblical case.

- 1 Timothy 1:3-10. What does not go with sound/healthy doctrine?
- 1 Timothy 6:3. What does go with sound/healthy doctrine?
- 2 Timothy 1:13. What does a pattern imply about the sound/healthy words of Scripture?
- 2 Timothy 4:3. What does not sit well with sound/healthy doctrine?
- Titus 1:9-16. What does sound/healthy doctrine rebuke?
- Titus 2:2, 8. What does specifically is sound/healthy? How does this relate to the previous verses?

- Discuss the following John MacArthur quote:

There may be no more serious threat to the life of the church today than the stampede to embrace the doctrines of secular psychology. They are a mass of human ideas that Satan has placed in the church as if they were powerful, life-changing truths from God....The result is that pastors, biblical scholars, teachers of Scripture, and caring believers using the Word of God are disdained as naïve, simplistic, and altogether inadequate counselors. Bible reading and prayer are commonly belittled as 'pat answers,' incomplete solutions for someone struggling with depression or anxiety. Scripture, the Holy Spirit, Christ, prayer, and grace—those are the traditional solutions Christian counselors have pointed people to. But the average Christian today has come to believe that none of them really offers the cure for people's woes.

For Older Men (Titus 2:2)

- Based on the sound advice Titus is urged to give older men, what might have been the unsound advice older men were used to getting? How about today?

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- Read and discuss this article with some unsound advice regarding unsound behavior: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/suzan-haskins-and-dan-prescher/midlife-crisis-how-to-have-a-better_b_2945142.html

- Read Hebrews 5:11-14. What is one attribute older men in the faith should have?

For Older Women (Titus 2:3)

- Based on the sound advice Titus is urged to give older women, what might have been the unsound advice older women were used to getting? How about today?

- Older women are to teach what is 'good.' Read Proverbs 31:10-31. What is to be modeled and taught by these women?

- How does this counsel differ from the counsel in this article: <http://www.eharmony.com/dating-advice/relationships/learning-to-love-yourself/#.UdEYNBbA6lg>

For Younger Women (Titus 2:4-5)

- Read 1 Peter 3:1-6. Based on the sound advice Titus is urged to give younger women, what might have been the unsound advice younger women were used to getting? How about today?

- 50 Shades of Grey is about a relationship between recent college graduate Anastasia Steele and manipulative billionaire Christian Grey. Steele is requisite by Grey to sign a contract letting him have complete control over her life. The Bible calls for submission to husband but the wisdom of the world calls for submission to a manipulative jerk. What does it say about women that read this as escapist fantasy?

- Here is one young woman's advice about this book: <http://momof3darlings.wordpress.com/tag/a-christians-perspective-on-50-shades-of-grey/>. Discuss.

For Younger Men (Titus 2:6-8)

- Based on the sound advice Titus is urged to give younger men, what might have been the unsound advice younger men were used to getting? How about today?

- Read 1 Samuel 2:22-25. What was so special about these women who Eli's sons laid with?...they were available. His sons were ruled by their lust. Today pornography is killing our church one man at a time.

- Read the following article and discuss: <http://www.crosswalk.com/church/pastors-or-leadership/how-many-porn-addicts-are-in-your-church-1336107.html>

For Bond Servants (Titus 2:9-10)

- Based on the sound advice Titus is urged to give servants/employees, what might have been the unsound advice servants/employees were used to getting? How about today?

- Read the following article and discuss: <http://powertochange.com/blogposts/2007/08/30/slacking-off-at-work-the-internet-makes-it-easy/>

- Read Colossians 3:23-24. How might we adorn the doctrine that Christ has saved us and that we are a new creation?

- Read 1 Peter 2:18-25. What is the credibility of the gospel tied to?

The means of biblical counseling (Titus 2:11-14)

- The school of grace is ironically the school of good works-you see Grace redeems us for good works and rewards us with good works that were prepared for us to walk in.
- Read Ephesians 2:8-10. What were we saved FOR?
- So much of our biblical counseling is pointing one another those good works set before them. A struggling marriage, job loss, sickness etc. - this is your gift to adorn the doctrine of God our savior. This is the school of grace.

The might of biblical counseling (Titus 2:15)

Titus 2:15 ¶ **Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority.** Let no one disregard you.

- Read Genesis 3:7. What did Adam and eve try to use to cover up their sin?
- Read Genesis 3:20-21. What did God use to cover up their sin?

Fig leaves don't work. Remember:

Biblical counseling is the application of sound doctrine to unsound behavior. It is the antidote to the disease of false teaching that affects every sphere of life.

Sound doctrine does not sanctify the status quo, it effects behavior in every sphere of life...that it is applied to. Lose the fig leaves and apply the real antidote. No more fig leaves. And stop handing them to others.

Discuss how to specifically apply this to your group?