

### **Warm-Up Question**

Describe a time you heard someone refer to Christians as ‘hypocrites’ and the circumstances around that claim.

Why do you think non-believers pay so much attention to the behavior of believers?

### **Warm-up Activity**

Have everybody in the group choose a partner, then share with one another a Godly trait most evident and active in their lives and explain the benefits you have witnessed.

Was anyone surprised by what the other person recognized?

### **Can you relate?**

After addressing the weeds of false teaching stunting the growth and poisoning the reputation of the Cretan churches, Paul turns his attention to the lay leaders – they must return to sound, healthy doctrine and practice its Godly virtues. Paul focuses on five groups within the church family, exhorting them to Godly behaviors which will strengthen and heal individuals, families and the church. In doing so, believers ‘adorn the gospel’ as they make the gospel attractive to outsiders.

#### **1. Model Godliness**

*Our God is a relational God – He desires to have a healthy and growing relationship with His people, both individually and as a body of believers. In his message on Titus 1:1-4, Pastor Jim said, ‘Godliness does not come from imitation, but from inhabitation.’ As the Holy Spirit takes habitation, growth happens - we grow closer to God, and He grows us in godliness, as He develops in us the Christ-like traits He desires.*

- What are the five groups of people in the Cretan church family that Paul is exhorting Titus to address? In which group do you most closely fit?
- List the Godly virtues each are to exhibit, and the ungodly behaviors from which they are to refrain:

Older men

Older women

Younger women

Younger men

Bondservants

(Note – Bondservants held equality with all believers in the church. According to The Bible Project, the fear was they would take advantage of this equality to disrespect their masters.)

- All of us are on our own sanctification journey, growing closer to Jesus as He reveals areas in our lives in which we need to grow. Which traits are the most difficult for you to live out and why?
- Why is self-control listed repeatedly? In what areas of life do you most struggle with self-control? How does one develop self-control?
- Stop here and pray for God’s promised help to strengthen these godly virtues in your group members.

## 2. **Looking Inward, Turning Outward**

Crete was well-known for treachery, greed, and sexual corruption. The island was unsafe and violent, and false teaching had infiltrated the church leading to a breakdown in the belief in and practice of sound doctrine.

- Discuss why the message of Titus 2:1-10 is needed just as much today as it was in the first century church.
- What are some of the personal spiritual benefits gained when older seasoned believers pour into the lives of those younger? What are the corporate benefits?
- Do you currently have someone you mentor? Are you currently being mentored? If so, describe these relationships and the benefits gained.
- Read Titus 2:8. What is the **end goal** of the Cretan church living out and displaying Godly virtues?
  - How have you witnessed ‘evil’ spoken about Christians?

### **Live it Out**

- Discuss tangible actions you can take from Titus 2:1-10, and this week choose at least ONE from this list:
  - Ask God’s help to grow in the Godly virtues you recognize lacking in yourself.
    - If you need help identifying hindrances that keep you from a closer walk with Christ, or are eager to break free from habitual sin, check out Soul Therapy, offered here through the Grace Prayer ministry. <https://www.whatisgrace.org/prayer>.
  - Find a mentor/begin to mentor
    - Grace Fellowship offers Women to Women mentoring as well as Men’s Mentoring. <https://www.whatisgrace.org/spiritualformation>.

- Continue to or begin to intentionally teach and mentor your own children and grandchildren in godliness
  - The family unit is the most natural setting for mentoring relationships. Share with the group any teaching/mentoring ideas, books, studies that have led to spiritual growth in your family unit.
- Encourage at least one person this week as you share with them the Godly virtues you see active in their life
- Purpose to LIVE in a Godly manner so that you ‘adorn’ the Gospel of Jesus Christ

***Encourage members of the group to commit time to praying for one another, encouraging and meeting one another’s needs, fellowshiping together, and interceding for the other members. Contact absent group members and encourage them to continue to meet and to return together at the next scheduled gathering.***