

## A Sound Christian Living

Text: Titus 2:1-8

### Background:

One of Paul's main concerns was the false teachers teaching a different gospel. Either they are teaching a false doctrine or mixing their doctrine with their former mystical or traditional superstitions. Titus was assigned to Crete to oversee the churches in different towns. He was told to assign elders to advance and support the expansion of the kingdom of God.

However, Crete is a paganistic, superstitious place where standard of morality is quite unthinkable. Prostitution was prominent, pleasure and addiction to alcohols, lies and fake news spreading easily and the worst, they do not revere God at all.

Hence, the necessity of preaching the gospel to these people. A sound teaching of doctrine. And an instruction of how to live the Christian life. A gospel-centered life.

### Main Idea:

Many say *doctrine is sooooo important*—yet they do not live in accordance with what they believe. Others say doctrine is not important as long as we show our love to one another. But according to our passage: (Main point) **Right Doctrine leads to Right Behavior.**

Right doctrine and right behavior correlate with one another. Each is important. Each one is vital to Christianity. The next question is how to achieve these goals?

Reading the verses from 2, it focuses on men. Verses 3-5, focuses on women. Lastly, verses 6-8, points to the younger generation. In here, we see that churches during that time were already a mixed-age congregation. There are adult men, adult women, young adult, and young people.

Young people look at the adults, tell them that they are part of the church—we need you. Adults, look at the younger generation (nextGen), tell them—we need you, do not leave. Let us work together.

The problem of many churches, the lack the discipleship zeal. Discipleship is not a mere information but rather a lifestyle. Read the instructions for men and women. These are not something that you can buy from a bookstore, read it, teach it, and magic—everything is now in a better situation.

No! Adults wake up. These are practical life lessons. Something experiential and personal. The young generation needs models. They need people whom they can look up to. Why do we expect our kids to prioritize church, if we ourselves do not prioritize attending church services? Why do we expect these younger generation be generous givers to the ministry, if we ourselves struggle to let go of our cheques in our hands?

Fathers, as stated, you are to model self-control, love, steadfast, and sound faith. Can we see these in your life? If yes, praise God. If not, strive harder. We need you to model these qualities so we can learn and conform to these teachings.

Mothers, older women, as stated, you are called to model Christian living. Not just in actions, but also with your words. Not slanderers, but the truths about Christ. Teach them to love as well. Love your family so they will also love their family in the future.

Also, young people, youth listen. Respect the adults. Honor your parents. As stated, learn from these people. They may be a well-spring of wisdom coming the fount of Christ. There are many things that you can learn from them. Practical life lessons. Do not just spend time playing and doing social

media. Start scheduling sessions with the adults. You can talk to them personally. Learn from their mistakes and failures.

Likewise, adults spend time with these kids. It does not need to be in a big group. Invite them over your place, coffee, merienda, kabayan. It is fine if it has nothing to do with our spirituality, pure conversations. No hidden and personal agenda. Just listen. Love them for real, genuinely, not just treat them like an insurance for the church.

To everyone, I have been observing, it seems natural for many to utter bad words, or curses. I understand that it might be the norm expressions. Yet let us strive more with better expressions. I am not saying to suppress your expression, what I am saying is to deny yourself with those unpleasing words.

Amidst this fallen world, let us exemplify integrity, dignity, sound speech, and model good works. Why? Because if we cannot see any difference from people who live outside Christianity with us, then nothing is attractive with our relationship with the Lord.

Illustration: Carl Lentz, Hillsong NYC. What is the sense of being a Christian if you are just living like the others? Think twice.

Again, right doctrine leads to right behavior. Sound teaching of the gospel is necessary for us to manifest sound Christian living. I may sound negatively right now, but I am positively affirming to the words stated in our passage. May these words lead us to transformed lives.

### **Application:**

Live a sound Christian life. Meaning, do not say that you believe this, then you live your life in a different way. If you are kind here in our church, you should also be kind outside. If you are generous with your friends, then you should also be generous when it comes to your tithes and offerings.

Do not live a double life. Who or what you are in your home should also be who or what you are with your friends, workplace, or even here at the church. Again, you are not a secret agent who needs to hide your identity. You do not have multiple identities. If you are a Christian, your identity is in Christ.

Do not hide your weaknesses, vices, and hidden sins. It will and will later manifest. We are all wretched and corrupted. Indeed, the church is a hospital for sick people. Yet likewise, you go to hospitals to get well. Christ does not want us to stay sick, let us be well in the Spirit. Live a sound life.

### **Conclusion:**

Both in verses 5b and 8b, it implies that people around are watching us. The whole world is watching these followers of Christ. Are they really living what they say? As they say, “walk the talk; or practice what we preach.” Are these members of UCBC Living a Sound Christian Life? Are we?

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