

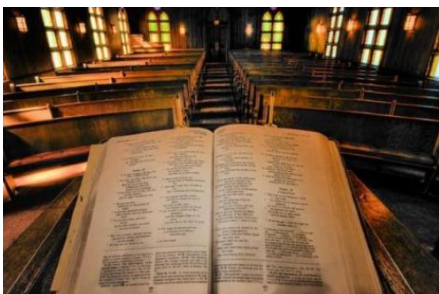


Qualities of a Sound Church (Titus 2:1-10)



Doctrine affects life. Ideas have consequences. The people who turned from the truth had their mind and consciences defiled, and "in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (Titus 1:16)

For this reason, Paul exhorts Titus to "speak...the things which become sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1).



DISTINCTION IN THE PULPIT

A. The Agent of Sound Doctrine

"Speak **thou**..." The words in verse 1 are directed specifically to Titus. As a pastor, Titus is to be the agent of sound doctrine and the exemplar and doctrinally sound living.

B. The Content of Sound Doctrine

The content of sound doctrine is inspired truth. And the pastor/Sunday school teacher/Bible study group leader must therefore "give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine" (1 Timothy 4:13); to "study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

As a Bible-believing church, we have nothing to give but the Word of God, and we do not want to give but the Word of God.



DISTINCTION IN THE PEWS

Distinction in the pulpit is NOT enough. There must also be distinction in the pews.

From Titus 2:2-10, we can make several general observations.

- In the church, there are legitimate distinctions between age and gender. While all sinners are equal in salvation, believers – on account of age and gender – have different functions and different responsibilities.
- In the church, there must be interaction between the different ages and genders (1 Timothy 5:1-2)

A. Aged Men

- Sober – clearheaded
- Grave – dignified
- Temperate – self-controlled
- Sound – sensible

B. Aged Women

- Becometh holiness – reverent
- Not false accusers – not gossipers and slanderers.
- Examples and teachers of good things.

C. Young Women

- Discreet – self-controlled, temperate (Titus 2:2)

D. Young Men

- Sober-minded – to be in the right mind (Luke 8:35), to exercise good judgment
- Pure in doctrine, life and speech

E. Servants

- Obedient
- Honest and faithful



CONCLUSION

Believers are to “adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things” (Titus 2:10). To “adorn” means “to enhance.”

Christians adorn the doctrine of Christ when we order our lives in such a manner that is consistent with the doctrine that we espouse so that our lives will attract unbelievers to our Lord Jesus Christ.