

REVERB::TRANSFER::Disciple-Making 101:lesson three

FAMILY DEVOTION

It happens every year during the Grammys, Oscars, or some other awards ceremony: Someone who is infamous for excessive partying, drinking, and promiscuity will receive his or her award and “thank God.” As believers, we cringe when this happens because we know that throughout Scripture it is clear that our words and lives should match up.

Maybe celebrities want to keep one foot in the door in the event that when it’s all said and done there really is a God. Still, God’s Word makes it clear that there is no middle ground. We can’t live life with one foot in the door of the Kingdom of God and one foot out. It’s all or nothing.

“Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.”

Read Titus 2:11–3:2 together as a family. Paul wrote to Titus, who was a close friend, disciple, and young pastor. Titus was living on the island of Crete in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, continuing the ministry that he and Paul had begun during one of their missionary journeys together. The people of Crete were known for laziness, gluttony, lying, and evil. Sound familiar? In this letter, Paul gave Titus personal encouragement and counsel but also emphasized the importance of teaching other believers how to live among Godless people. As believers in Christ grow and seek God, our lives should look less and less like the world around us and more and more like Jesus’ life. The letter to Titus gives clear instructions of what it means to live a Godly life. God does not want us to be unGodly, disobedient, foolish, and out of control but rather self-controlled, pure, obedient, good, peaceful, considerate, humble, and truthful.

God did not leave us in the dark either. Scripture spells out to us exactly what God expects a believer’s life to look like. Everything we need to know is written down for us to see and understand. The Bible teaches us to say “no” to the wrongs around us and “yes” to what is right. And God gives us more in the way of “yes” responses than “no” responses. All of God’s commands are for our good and our protection. If we live as He has taught us to live, in many ways our lives will be less complicated.

Now we have a responsibility to pass on what we know to other believers. How will young believers around us, like the ones in Crete, know how to live without someone teaching them? We all have people in our lives who can benefit from what we know. Other people have so faithfully taught us, so now it’s our turn to be like Paul and Titus and pass these truths on to others.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the meaning of the phrases “His life spoke so loudly that I could not hear what he was saying” and “I can’t hear the message because of the messenger.” Have you ever known living examples of these statements?
2. Who is instructing you right now about the things of God? Who in your life right now can you be teaching the truths of Scripture?
3. What is our responsibility in living out a Godly Christian life? What is God’s part?
4. Why is it important that we not only do the right thing but allow Him to transform us on the inside too?

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