

Week 4: Self-controlled and Submitted

Scripture Passage: Titus 3:1-2, 2-10
21

Sermon Discussion from Sunday, May

3:1 Remind them to submit to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, 2 to slander no one, to avoid fighting, and to be kind, always showing gentleness to all people.

2:2 Older men are to be self-controlled, worthy of respect, sensible, and sound in faith, love, and endurance. 3 In the same way, older women are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not slaves to excessive drinking. They are to teach what is good, 4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands and to love their children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, workers at home, kind, and in submission to their husbands, so that God's word will not be slandered.

6 In the same way, encourage the young men to be self-controlled 7 in everything. Make yourself an example of good works with integrity and dignity in your teaching. 8 Your message is to be sound beyond reproach, so that any opponent will be ashamed, because he doesn't have anything bad to say about us.

9 Slaves are to submit to their masters in everything, and to be well-pleasing, not talking back 10 or stealing, but demonstrating utter faithfulness, so that they may adorn the teaching of God our Savior in everything.

Theme: *We live as examples to others, so be self-controlled and submitted!*

Week 4 Icebreaker: Who is someone that you consider a mentor, and how has their example shaped you?

Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together, teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen

Intro: Last week we talked about the character of church leaders. While it is important that leaders are "blameless" this does not mean that those who are not official leaders are free to behave however they choose. Whether you have an official leadership role in the church or not, we are all examples of Jesus Christ in our homes, church and community. Paul challenges all believers to live self-controlled and submitted lives, in order to help others, come to know the love of Jesus Christ.

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Quick Overview: Read Titus 3:1-2, 2-10 (above) once and quickly answer the following questions.

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- Who are the different groups of people that Paul is addressing in this portion?
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- Our theme through Titus is *devoted to good*, how did this week's message touch on this overall theme? Were you encouraged to be devoted to good? How?
- Review the comments and questions you made in your first week, in regard to this week's passage in Titus. Were any of these questions answered? If so, how?
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Self-Controlled and Submitted: This week we are challenging the people of God to be self-controlled, keeping your behavior in check, and submitted, living humbly toward others. These are characteristics that are countercultural and challenging to live out.

- Why do we have difficulty being self-controlled and submitted?
- How is being self-controlled and submitted countercultural?
- Why are these important characteristics to have if we are to be faithful followers of Jesus?
- How did Jesus model being self-controlled and submitted while here on earth?

Titus 3:1-2 *Remind them to submit to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to slander no one, to avoid fighting, and to be kind, always showing gentleness to all people.*

Paul is giving Titus instructions for how we, young & old, male & female, slave & free, are to be so that we can be effective witnesses for Jesus.

- As followers of Jesus, what should our lives look like?
- Does this mean that we are to blindly follow leaders? If not, then what might Paul be getting at when he says to submit and obey?
- How does being disobedient, slanderous, and argumentative negatively shape our witness?
- How can offering goodness, kindness, and gentleness draw people to Christ?
- How have you seen Titus 3:1-2 lived out positively and negatively in our culture.

SUBMIT: To submit or be submissive has a negative connotation in our culture. We tend to view it as a loss of our individuality and giving into the impulses and demands of another. The Greek word that is often translated as submit can literally be translated “stand under.” In other words, as followers of Jesus we are willingly standing under others offering our support. We are called to stand under others so that we can understand them in order to best show them the love of Christ.

- Does this idea of “standing under” change your perspective on “submitting” to others? If so, how?
- How does striving to understand someone model a Christlike love for them?

Titus 2:2-6 *Older men are to be self-controlled, worthy of respect, sensible, and sound in faith, love, and endurance. 3 In the same way, older women are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not slaves to excessive drinking. They are to teach what is good, 4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands and to love their children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, workers at home, kind, and in submission to their husbands, so that God’s word will not be slandered. 6 In the same way, encourage the young men to be self-controlled in everything.*

Use the chart below to list how older men and women and younger men and women should strive for Christ-like living.

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- As you look at this chart, what does it say about how God's people, regardless of age and gender, are to live as examples to others?
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- Why do we struggle with self-control?

Galatians 5: 22-23 The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and **self-control**.

The fruits of the spirit are attributes cultivated in us when we are living in harmony with God's spirit. As we seek to follow God and live in Christlikeness we are empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is through the work of the holy spirit that we can truly express love, joy, and self-control.

- How can knowing that the Holy Spirit is empowering you to be self-controlled help you live as a Christlike example in your life?

Titus 2:9-10 *Slaves are to submit to their masters in everything, and to be well-pleasing, not talking back or stealing, but demonstrating utter faithfulness, so that they may adorn the teaching of God our Savior in everything.*

Slaves: Slavery is abhorrent! Some people are upset that Paul does not renounce slavery and call for an end to such treatment of people who are created equal in God's image. This is difficult to understand and hard to justify. Unfortunately, a quick reading of this verse and you can see how people have used it to unjustly treat others and demand their ungodly obedience. For the purpose of this study, we will follow the leading many modern scholars will change the focus from slaves and masters to employees and employers. While it does not address all of the issues, it does help us understand how we can live Christlike in our current cultural contexts. .

- How does this section show us how to live as examples in the workplace?
- Why do you think it is important to have a faithful presence even in the workplace?
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Titus 2: 7-8 *Make yourself an example of good works with integrity and dignity in your teaching. 8 Your message is to be sound beyond reproach, so that any opponent will be ashamed, because he doesn't have anything bad to say about us.*

Paul encourages Titus to live as an example to those around him in both word and action. Paul understands that Titus is setting an example for other Christians. By being a person of integrity and dignity, he is living as a faithful witness of God's grace and kindness to the people of Crete (who are liars, lazy, and gluttons).

- If you were to sum up the charge Paul gives Titus, what would it be?
- Once again Paul focused on character. Why does character matter as Christians?
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- Why do we have difficulty being self-controlled and submitted?
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SUBMIT: To submit or be submissive has a negative connotation in our culture. We tend to view it as a loss of our individuality and giving into the impulses and demands of another. The Greek word that is often translated as submit can literally be translated “stand under.” In other words, as followers of Jesus we are willingly standing under others offering our support. We are called to stand under others so that we can understand them in order to best show them the love of Christ.

- Does this idea of “standing under” change your perspective on “submitting” to others? If so, how?
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Titus 2:2-6 *Older men are to be self-controlled, worthy of respect, sensible, and sound in faith, love, and endurance. 3 In the same way, older women are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not slaves to excessive drinking. They are to teach what is good, 4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands and to love their children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, workers at home, kind, and in submission to their husbands, so that God’s word will not be slandered. 6 In the same way, encourage the young men to be self-controlled in everything.*

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- How can knowing that the Holy Spirit is empowering you to be self-controlled help you live as a Christlike example in your life?

***Titus 2:9-10** Slaves are to submit to their masters in everything, and to be well-pleasing, not talking back or stealing, but demonstrating utter faithfulness, so that they may adorn the teaching of God our Savior in everything.*

Slaves: Slavery is abhorrent! Some people are upset that Paul does not renounce slavery and call for an end to such treatment of people who are created equal in God's image. This is difficult to understand and hard to justify. Unfortunately, a quick reading of this verse and you can see how people have used it to unjustly treat others and demand their ungodly obedience. For the purpose of this study, we will follow the leading many modern scholars will change the focus from slaves and masters to employees and employers. While it does not address all of the issues, it does help us understand how we can live Christlike in our current cultural contexts. .

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Paul encourages Titus to live as an example to those around him in both word and action. Paul understands that Titus is setting an example for other Christians. By being a person of integrity and dignity, he is living as a faithful witness of God's grace and kindness to the people of Crete (who are liars, lazy, and gluttons).

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Week 4: Self-controlled and Submitted

Scripture Passage: Titus 3:1-2, 2-10
21

Sermon Discussion from Sunday, May

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Theme: *We live as examples to others, so be self-controlled and submitted!*

Week 4 Icebreaker: Who is someone that you consider a mentor, and how has their example shaped you?

Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together, teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen

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Week 4: Self-controlled and Submitted

Scripture Passage: Titus 3:1-2, 2-10
21

Sermon Discussion from Sunday, May

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6 In the same way, encourage the young men to be self-controlled 7 in everything. Make yourself an example of good works with integrity and dignity in your teaching. 8 Your message is to be sound beyond reproach, so that any opponent will be ashamed, because he doesn't have anything bad to say about us.

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Theme: *We live as examples to others, so be self-controlled and submitted!*

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Opening Prayer:

Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. As we gather together, teach us how to devote ourselves to good works for pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful. Amen

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Week 4: Self-controlled and Submitted

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Theme: *We live as examples to others, so be self-controlled and submitted!*

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- Our theme through Titus is *devoted to good*, how did this week's message touch on this overall theme? Were you encouraged to be devoted to good? How?
- Review the comments and questions you made in your first week, in regard to this week's passage in Titus. Were any of these questions answered? If so, how?
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Self-Controlled and Submitted: This week we are challenging the people of God to be self-controlled, keeping your behavior in check, and submitted, living humbly toward others. These are characteristics that are countercultural and challenging to live out.

- Why do we have difficulty being self-controlled and submitted?
- How is being self-controlled and submitted countercultural?
- Why are these important characteristics to have if we are to be faithful followers of Jesus?
- How did Jesus model being self-controlled and submitted while here on earth?

Titus 3:1-2 *Remind them to submit to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to slander no one, to avoid fighting, and to be kind, always showing gentleness to all people.*

Paul is giving Titus instructions for how we, young & old, male & female, slave & free, are to be so that we can be effective witnesses for Jesus.

- As followers of Jesus, what should our lives look like?
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- How does being disobedient, slanderous, and argumentative negatively shape our witness?
- How can offering goodness, kindness, and gentleness draw people to Christ?
- How have you seen Titus 3:1-2 lived out positively and negatively in our culture.

SUBMIT: To submit or be submissive has a negative connotation in our culture. We tend to view it as a loss of our individuality and giving into the impulses and demands of another. The Greek word that is often translated as submit can literally be translated “stand under.” In other words, as followers of Jesus we are willingly standing under others offering our support. We are called to stand under others so that we can understand them in order to best show them the love of Christ.

- Does this idea of “standing under” change your perspective on “submitting” to others? If so, how?
- How does striving to understand someone model a Christlike love for them?

Titus 2:2-6 *Older men are to be self-controlled, worthy of respect, sensible, and sound in faith, love, and endurance. 3 In the same way, older women are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not slaves to excessive drinking. They are to teach what is good, 4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands and to love their children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, workers at home, kind, and in submission to their husbands, so that God’s word will not be slandered. 6 In the same way, encourage the young men to be self-controlled in everything.*

Use the chart below to list how older men and women and younger men and women should strive for Christ-like living.

Older Men	Older Women	Younger Women	Younger Men

- As you look at this chart, what does it say about how God's people, regardless of age and gender, are to live as examples to others?
- Perhaps the most repeated word in this challenge is for self-control. What does it mean that we are to be self-controlled? Why is that important?
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Galatians 5: 22-23 The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and **self-control**.

The fruits of the spirit are attributes cultivated in us when we are living in harmony with God's spirit. As we seek to follow God and live in Christlikeness we are empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is through the work of the holy spirit that we can truly express love, joy, and self-control.

- How can knowing that the Holy Spirit is empowering you to be self-controlled help you live as a Christlike example in your life?

Titus 2:9-10 *Slaves are to submit to their masters in everything, and to be well-pleasing, not talking back or stealing, but demonstrating utter faithfulness, so that they may adorn the teaching of God our Savior in everything.*

Slaves: Slavery is abhorrent! Some people are upset that Paul does not renounce slavery and call for an end to such treatment of people who are created equal in God's image. This is difficult to understand and hard to justify. Unfortunately, a quick reading of this verse and you can see how people have used it to unjustly treat others and demand their ungodly obedience. For the purpose of this study, we will follow the leading many modern scholars will change the focus from slaves and masters to employees and employers. While it does not address all of the issues, it does help us understand how we can live Christlike in our current cultural contexts. .

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Week 4: Self-controlled and Submitted

Scripture Passage: Titus 3:1-2, 2-10
21

Sermon Discussion from Sunday, May

3:1 Remind them to submit to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, 2 to slander no one, to avoid fighting, and to be kind, always showing gentleness to all people.

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