

TITUS

truth that transforms

announcements

Partner Class • January 25, 12:30-2:30pm: Where appropriate, challenge your group to make the commitment to the mission of North Rock Hill Church. At Partner Class they can learn about what it means to be an official NRHC Covenant Partner.

Men's and Women's RoundTables begin the week of February 1. There are several studies on office. Check out the website or app for all the details.

Titus 1:10-16

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THIS PASSAGE

- 1. False teaching is motivated by wrong desires.** Paul identifies that false teachers were spreading deception “in order to get money dishonestly” (v. 11). Their teaching wasn’t driven by love for God or people, but by selfish gain.
- 2. False teaching has real consequences.** These teachers were “ruining entire households” (v. 11). Bad theology doesn’t stay theoretical—it impacts families, relationships, and communities.
- 3. Truth requires bold defense.** Paul instructs Titus to “rebuke them sharply” (v. 13). Sometimes love means speaking difficult truths to protect others from harm.
- 4. Corruption reveals itself in actions.** “To those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; in fact, both their mind and conscience are defiled” (v. 15). What we believe shapes how we see and interact with the world.
- 5. Actions reveal truth beliefs.** “They claim to know God, but they deny him by their works” (v. 16). Authentic faith produces authentic transformation. We can impose rules on ourselves and others, but we can’t keep them. Rules don’t give us any power or motivation to live in a godly way.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPENER: What’s one piece of advice you received that turned out to be completely wrong? How did you realize it wasn’t true?

1A. What specific characteristics does Paul use to describe the false teachers (v. 10-11)?

1B. How can we discern between genuine spiritual teaching and ‘empty talk and deception’. What safeguards can we put in place?

1C. In what areas of your life might you be susceptible to “empty talk and deception”? *Consider social media, cultural trends, financial advice, relationship guidance, etc.*

2. Verse 11 mentions that these false teachers were motivated by “dishonest gain.” In what ways have you used “godliness” (appearing religious or moral) as a cover for selfish motives?

3A. Paul quotes a Cretan prophet in verse 12 who calls his own people “liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.” What defines American culture?

3B In light of our culture, why is it so important that we stand on the truth of the gospel?

4A. In verse 13, Paul tells Titus to “rebuke them sharply.” What is the goal of this harsh correction? *That they may be sound in faith.*

4B. What’s the difference between correction that builds faith versus criticism that tears down? How can we “rebuke sharply” with love today? *Biblical rebuke isn’t about harshness or superiority—it’s redemptive correction aimed at restoration. When we see fellow believers embracing falsehood or living in contradiction to their faith, remaining silent isn’t loving; it’s abandonment. Yet our approach matters immensely. We must speak truth seasoned with grace, motivated by genuine concern for their spiritual health, not by judgment or self-righteousness.*

5a. Paul writes in verse 15, “To the pure, everything is pure.” How does our spiritual condition affect how we view the world around us? *When our hearts are surrendered to Christ, we see His presence and purpose even in difficult circumstances. Conversely, a defiled conscience distorts reality, making us suspicious, cynical, and unable to receive God’s goodness. Purity isn’t about perfection but about sincerity and authenticity before God.*

5b. What circumstances have clouded your vision? What can you do about it? *It begins with confession and continues through daily surrender. We must examine our hearts honestly and ask God to purify our hearts so that we might see His world clearly and reflect His character genuinely in all we do.*

6. Verse 16 describes people who “claim to know God, but by their actions deny him.” How do you evaluate whether your own actions align with what you say you believe?

THIS WEEK’S CHALLENGE break into groups of 2 or three

Paul highlights the gap between professing God and denying Him by works (v.16). Identify one specific area of your life where your actions haven’t matched your “claims to know God.”

PRAYER ask someone to lead this in advance

Read Psalm 51:10 together aloud. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Pray that God would:

- Work in our hearts to purify them.
- Grant us a steadfast spirit that remains faithful to the truth in both our words and our actions.