

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders...

Titus 1:5 (NIV)

FOR GOD'S CHURCH TO THRIVE... GOD'S PEOPLE WILL NEED TO CARE MORE ABOUT HONORING GOD THAN THEY DO ABOUT HONORING THEMSELVES.

IF THE CHURCH WANTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY...

1. THEN SOMETHING WILL HAVE TO BEGIN HERE (IN OUR HEARTS) BEFORE IT CAN BEGIN OUT THERE.

Teach the older man to be...

Titus 2:2 (NIV)

Likewise, teach the older women to be...

Titus 2:3 (NIV)

Similarly, encourage younger men to be...

Titus 2:6 (NIV)

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

"Love God and do whatever you please" - St Augustine

"Your Jesus I like, but not your Christians. Why is it that your Christians are so unlike their Christ?" - Ghandi

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

Psalm 19:7-8 (NIV)

We need...

- Worship
- Prayer
- God's word

But as for you...

Titus 2:1 (ESV)

2. MAKING A DIFFERENCE, BY DEFINITION, WILL MEAN DOING SOMETHING DIFFERENTLY.

... exercise self-control, to be worthy of respect, and to live wisely. They must have sound faith and be filled with love and patience.

Titus 2:2 (NLT)

... They must not slander others or be heavy drinkers. Instead, they should teach what is good.

Titus 2:3 (NLT)

These older women must train younger women to love their husbands and their children, to live wisely and to be pure, to work in their homes, to do good, and to be submissive to their husbands.

Titus 2:4-5 (NLT)

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:21 (NIV)

"Most Christians during the plague showed unbounded love and loyalty, never sparing themselves and only thinking of others. Heedless of danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ - and many departed their lives supremely happy. They were infected by their neighbors and cheerfully accepted their pains. So many of them, in nursing and caring for others, transferred their deaths to themselves and died in their stead."
- Tertullian, circa 190AD

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us...

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)

... Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. No, don't be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children...

Genesis 50:19-21 (NLT)