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Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

- 1 Titus was a young pastor and Paul's protégé. Read Titus 1:5. What was Titus' task while in Crete?
- 2 Crete boasts magnificent beaches, but Titus *wasn't* there on vacation—*this was hardship duty!* Read Titus 1:10-13 & 16. How would **you** go about the task of pastoring a church full of Cretians?
- 3 Read Hebrews 13:17. Describe how church members **ought** to respond to their leaders—and **why**?
- 4 What chance do you think Titus had of receiving such a response in Crete?
- 5 Elders lead churches. Read Titus 1:5-9. How do you imagine Titus would go about finding Cretan men who were qualified for such a role? What should he do if **none** qualified to be elders?
- 6 Read Titus 2:2-8a, and review the demographic descriptions and exhortations for each group.
- 7 Paul—who described himself as an "older man"—was about sixty years old when he wrote Titus. Likewise, "older women" would have been those who no longer had child-rearing responsibilities. "Young men/women" would have been married adults under those ages.
So, in which category are you? older man older woman young man young woman
- 8 Divide the group by gender and discuss the list of exhortations directed at you. How are you doing?
 - TCC provides environments—community groups, Bible studies, ministry teams, biblical counseling, (and many, many more)—to *"transform ordinary people into extraordinary followers of Jesus Christ who **Know** Christ, are **Growing** in Christ, and who are **Showing** Christ to others."*
- 9 In which of TCC's environments are you currently participating? How is it transforming you as a disciple? 10
- 11 Second Timothy 2:2 outlines multiple generations of disciples. Who is pouring himself into you? Into whom are you pouring yourself?

Talking To Others About This Week's Message

If a neighbor or friend at work asked you, "*What kind of stuff do they talk about at your church?*", how would you summarize the most important ideas of this week's sermon and the key lessons you intend to apply to your life? Can you explain it in **plain language** anyone could understand?

- 1 • “set in order what remains” (ie, organize all the churches we planted when I was with you)
 - “appoint elders in every city” (ie, set qualified leaders in place in each local congregation)

- 2 • I’d “pray without ceasing!” (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
 - I’d make sure I had **qualified** elders in every congregation
 - I’d assign every member to the care of a specific elder
 - I’d teach the Word systematically
 - ...

- 3 • “obey” (peitho) literally means “to be continually persuaded.” The inclination of our hearts should be toward, not away from, allowing the teaching of our leaders to be persuasive in our hearts and lives.
 - “submit” means to give way to, to not resist. • make it a joy for them to watch over my soul

- 4 According to their fleshly natures—**zilch**. But if they would yield to the Spirit, they’d be a joy to lead.

- 5 • By prayer and fasting—see Acts 13:2-3.
 - We are **not** biblically authorized to place unqualified men in the role of elder. If qualified men could not be found, then Titus should keep on praying and discipling men, til they qualified.

- 6 Of course, various translations will use different words, so have group members locate the qualifications in each quadrant of Ryan’s sermon notes.

- 7 These age distinctions are approximate, but have each member identify himself in one of the categories.

- 8 Designate a leader for each of the groups so that the discussion can be guided profitably.

- 9 TCC’s **mission statement** (“*Transforming ordinary...*”) and **strategy statement** (“*Know...Grow...Show*”) are accomplished through our **tactical statement** (“providing environments”). Together these statements explain the “what” and the “how” of TCC day-to-day operations.
After explaining (and, as needed, discussing) those statements, ask the first question (wait on # 10).

- 10 This is a **critical** question! Realize that some group members tend toward optimism (seeing anything as evidence of good) and others toward pessimism (having too high a standard for what qualifies as growth). You’ll want to moderate answers as needed—probing for more substantive answers from some and helping others come up with any answer! Be prepared to lead with your own answer, if needed.

- 11 This too is a **critical** question. If folks don’t have an answer for this (and a substantive one at that), then they’re not really engaged in the discipleship strategies of TCC. Be ready with your answers, if folks need the “pump primed”. Pastor Dan is building into you through this “Leaders’ Guide”, and you’re pouring into them by leading this Community Group. Obviously, this is just one of many answers.

Sermon Summary (Key Text: Titus 2:1-8)

How does a Christian reach maturity in their walk with the Lord? The pathway to Godliness is discipleship. Titus 2:1-8 gives us **five important truths about discipleship**.

1. Discipleship's source is correct teaching (2:1). Sound doctrine will result in sound faith and sound speaking. Healthy doctrine produces healthy spiritual living. The gospel is to produce godliness in the lives of those within the church, whether old or young, male or female.

2. Discipleship starts with mature believers (2:2-3). Titus ⇌ Pastor/Elders ⇌ Congregation

3. Discipleship succeeds in relationships (2:4-7a). Relationships is the only avenue to persevere sound doctrine. Otherwise false teachers will continue to lead people astray, but relationships keep them close to accountability. Who is someone in your life the the Lord has used to teach you how to follow Jesus? How did they do this? Who are you seeking to pour your life into?

4. Discipleship shows others how to live for Christ (2:7b). We are all teaching somebody. Discipleship is caught more than it is taught. Jesus said: "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

5. Discipleship strives to honor God above all things (2:8). We must seek to make disciples with a full head and a hot heart. A full head with cold heart will hurt people (= hypocrisy). An empty head with hot heart only serves temporal needs (= humanitarianism). A full head and hot heart will change the world (= holiness). What ultimately brings God honor?

Older Men

- Teachers (implied from verse one)
- Self-Controlled - temperate, free from intoxications
- Worthy of Respect - dignified; never frivolous, trivial, or superficial
- Sensible - discernment and discretion from walking many years with God
- Sound in Faith - trust the Lord in all things. Level-headed, doesn't over-react
- Sound in Love - the distinguishing mark of their lives. Everything is motivated by love
- Sound in Endurance - Their lives have stood the test of time. Long-suffering and patient

Older Women

- Reverent in Behavior - literally "temple-fitting", her life is a reflection of the Lord she serves
- Not Slanderers - speech is always positive and seeking to honor the Lord
- Not Addicted to Much Wine - she is in control; nothing controls her
- Teach what is good to young women - a godly home will orbit around a godly wife and mother

Young Women

- Love Their Husbands
- Love Their Children
- To Be Sensible
- Pure
- Good Homemakers
- Submissive to Their Husbands

Young Men

- Sensible about everything
- Set an example of integrity and dignity
- Shame brought upon opponents

Titus 2:1-8

¹ But you are to proclaim things consistent with sound teaching.

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.

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

**God's Word makes extraordinary promises—
to those who are willing to discipline themselves for the purpose of godliness.
Each day this week, read over Proverbs 2 and decide one way you'll follow its wisdom...**

Proverbs 2

¹ My son, *if you will* receive
treasure
² make your ear attentive to
incline your heart to
³ for if you cry for
lift your voice for
⁴ if you seek her
search for her
⁵ *then you will* discern
discover
⁶ *For* the LORD gives wisdom,
from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.
⁷ He stores up sound wisdom for the upright,
He is a shield to those who walk in integrity.
⁸ guarding the paths of justice, and
He preserves the way of His godly ones.
⁹ *Then you will* discern righteousness, and
justice, and
equity, and
every good course
¹⁰ *For* wisdom will enter your heart, and
knowledge will be pleasant to your soul,
¹¹ discretion will guard you,
understanding will watch over you,
¹² to deliver you from the way of evil,
¹³ from the man who speaks perverse things;
from those who leave the paths of uprightness
to walk in the ways of darkness,
¹⁴ who delight in doing evil, and
rejoice in the perversity of evil,
¹⁵ whose paths are crooked, and
who are devious in their ways.
¹⁶ To deliver you from the strange woman,
from the adulteress who flatters with her words;
¹⁷ that leaves the companion of her youth, and
forgets the covenant of her God;



Proverbs 2 makes extraordinary promises—to those who seek discipleship. (See the "Digging Deeper" section of your Talking Points, Walking Points for the text in the form of a mechanical lay-out for easier observation.)

Choose an age-appropriate verse or two to share with your children. Then...

- **Read it to them as you sit down to dinner early this week.**
- **Ask them what stands out to them from it, and what confuses them?**
- **Be prepared to share how those verse(s) impacted you personally.**
- **Ask them to "keep on the look-out" for examples of it in their own lives.**
- **Close in prayer. (Then, revisit that passage again later in the week.)**