

“Adorn”
Titus 2:1-10
July 8, 2012

Intro: How many of us when we rolled out of bed this morning and stumble into the bathroom, looked in the mirror and , I wonder how I can make myself more unattractive today. Ladies, you did not take your lipstick and paint it under your eyes like the New England Patriots’ football players, nor did you choose to put five layers of eyeliner, eyeshadow, blush and mascara on to make yourself look beautiful. You did not pick out the ugliest shirt in your wardrobe that was cool twenty-five years ago decide to rock it this morning, did you? Men, don’t act like you don’t care how you look and present yourself. What man wakes up and says, I think I’ll pass on the brushing my teeth and throwing on some deodorant pieces this morning? What man takes a glob of hair gel and stacks a mound of it right on the top of his head and wears it like a yarmulke?

We would all agree that most sane people want to make themselves look presentable and attractive, and I am not here this morning to tell you that you should not give thought to your appearance. It’s a great idea! In fact, the loving thing would probably be to tell some of us that we need to spend a little more time making ourselves look presentable! But why do we spend billions of dollars and inordinate amounts of time each day, getting ready, not to mention all purchases to get the latest (gear) to make ourselves look a little more attractive? In fact, Americans spend \$8B on cosmetics annually and another \$10B on cosmetic surgeries. What is driving all of this behavior? Is it love for our neighbor, and the fact that we don’t want people to be repulsed when they see us throughout the day? I doubt it.

Why do people in their 20s buy anti-aging cream and many beautiful women never seem satisfied with their appearance? So they try harder? Makeup didn’t cut it, so let’s invest in some botox, how about some plastic surgery? It’s *not* just because that’s what Glamour, Cosmopolitan, GQ, and Men’s Health are telling us to do. Here’s the reason: what we really crave beneath it all is for someone to notice us, for someone to think we have it together, for someone to love us . . . for what we look like.

Trans: But what if God designed our lives, not to obsess with how we look, but to point to how great he looks? What if we were put here to showcase how gloriously appealing and attractive God is?! In Titus 2:1-10 Paul is going to teach us the key to true beauty. These ten verses will teach us that...

The Point: The church should adorn the doctrine of God through godly living and discipleship relationships.

Trans: . . . Here’s the first encouragement.

I. Cultivate godliness though living out the implications of sound doctrine (2:1-10).

Sound doctrine is essential to healthy Christian living.

Verse 1: Doctrine & Life...

- “Teach what accords with sound doctrine...” Titus’ job, in contrast to the false teachers described at the end of chapter one, is to teach what accords with sound doctrine. He is to speak that which is “consonant with” sound doctrine. Here is some sound doctrine...
- **Five Solas: *Sola Scriptura, Solus Christus, Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Soli Deo Gloria.***
- You might expect that Paul would follow this statement with a systematic theology of sorts moving from teaching on creation, to the triune nature of God with his communicable and incommunicable attributes, moving to God as Father, Son, and Spirit, and then bring us into the doctrine of man, made in God’s image, entirely effected by the fall, expounding harmartiology, or the doctrine of sin..... salvation (justification, sanctification, glorification.... Ecclesiology... Eschatology... you get the picture...
- BUT That is not what he does... He actually lays out practical instructions for how different groups of people should live their life in a way that honors God. Paul understood that Jesus called people to a way of life, a life of obedience, so when he says to teach “what accords with sound doctrine,” he means should live in a way that is consistent with the teaching about the character of God and the gospel.
- App: This is, btw, why we preach applicational sermons. It’s not just the truth, but it’s the truth for our lives. The reformers said true preaching is the explanation and application of the Word. That’s it. That’s what we

seek to do each week, because we Jesus called us to live a godly life. There is no replacement for godly character.

- So how should we live? Paul provides specific encouragements for the new believers in Crete in vv. 2-10.

Unfortunately, we do not have time this morning to pick apart these godly characteristics for each group of people, but we can provide several encouragements. By the way, if the specific instruction doesn't fit your stage of life, know that you should be looking for and praying for these things to be true of your other brothers and sisters. Here we go:

- Older men: If anyone should be mature in the church it should be the older crowd (men & women). Paul says they should be sober-minded (they should be clear headed and of all people should hold mature views on life), dignified (or worthy of respect. Older men, do people view you as someone who commands respect?), self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness (closely mirroring the 'faith, hope, love' trio of 1 Cor. 13, Paul says, people in the church should be able to find an example in older men of those who possess faith in God, love for others, and perseverance in life). There is something about a man who has stayed the course and displayed a life of faith, love and perseverance. (Job 29 speaks of... ???)
- Older women: likewise, they should be reverent (holy in their disposition), not slanders (watch their mouth) or be unbecomingly prone to get tipsy on too much wine. On the contrary, they are to teach what is good and to train young women. So part of their job as godly women is to pass on what they have learned and lived in the faith. Thus, what follows as a description of the godly younger women, should also be true of godly older women.
- Young women:
 - 1) love their husband and children; 2) practice self-control and purity, 3) work at home and be kind"
 - This does not mean that women can't work. It does mean that their priority should be the home. It doesn't matter if a woman is employed with full or part-time job, or if she works full time in the home, the goal is that should would be caring and nurturing for her family in such a way that they are thriving. And, it may be a combination of the two: this is the picture we have of the P31 woman (as my woman likes to call it - yeah, after six years with me, she's thug.) P31 as in Proverbs 31. She can work with her hands and be industrious, yet the priority of her life and her primary ministry is to her family. Ladies, own that chapter, P 3 1. Added to that she is
 - "kind" and "submissive to her husband." When we see the command to submit it means to voluntarily put oneself under the leadership of another. Others have described it as a disposition to yield and inclination to follow the leadership of their husband. Wives, God would never have you follow your husband into sin. At the same time, this is how he has chosen to order the home and our greatest example of one how loved to submit to was the Lord Jesus who submitted his words (Jn. 7:16, 12:49), his will (Jn. 4:34, Luke 22:42), his power (Jn. 5:30, 8:42), his knowledge (Mt. 24:36; Jn 7:16), and his status (Mt. 7:21, Mk. 8:50) to the Father. Moving on. . .
- Young Men: be self-controlled. Full of energy, full of passion, and often full of sinful desires. Live under the control of the Holy Spirit. And Titus, you need to be a model of good works...
- Bondservants/Employees: Cultural gap. Paul never endorses slavery, in fact in 1 Tim. 1, he denounces it. At the same time, slavery in the first century does not compare to what we think of as Americans with our history of slavery. Nearly 1/3 of Roman citizens were slaves and treated, in most cases, with respect and dignity. The parallel for us would be employment. He says, "submit to those in authority over you (respect your superiors), do your job with excellence, not cutting corners, but displaying great loyalty to your employer.

Now, old men, old women, young women, young men, employees, how can we grow in godliness? Here's one overarching encouragement to take with you today: ***Pursue godliness through a rigorous pursuit of God.*** As you hunger and thirst for God and find your daily satisfaction in him, godliness will fill your heart and pour out of your life by his grace. So #1, we are to cultivate godliness through living out

II. Cultivate godliness through intentional relationships in the church (2:2-9).

We find a pattern of intentional investment in the church. We know that the church, simply put, is a community of disciples, a community of people who have heard the call of Jesus, and responded by repenting, believing the gospel and following Jesus. The church is not simply a community of disciples who kind of hang out, show up on Sundays, hear a sermon, and sing kumbayah. No, the church is a community of disciples who make more disciples. We're about

the mission of Christ. Our mission is to be a community of disciples, transformed by the gospel, who are making more disciples. That's it.

One of our goals and prayer points for 2012 is to see more disciples making disciples. It is happening, but forgive us if we are greedy for the things of God (which is not a sin!). Everyone is on the hook for this. This is in the job description of every follower of Christ. Paul says describes it in several ways throughout this chapter but we see it in the words teach (3 times), train, and model.

Ministry of example

- What should discipleship look like in the church? We need examples. We need to have the courage to say, **"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."** (1 Corinthians 11:1, NIV) Is there anyone in your life to whom you are saying, "Follow me as I follow Christ."??

This is what Paul said to Timothy in one of his earlier Pastoral letters when he wrote: **"Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."** (1 Timothy 4:12)

PIC: This week at Soccer Nights, how will teach little kids how to play Soccer? How will we create little Renaldos and Messis? We are not teach them with words and demonstrate with examples and action.

Someone may say, well, it's clear older women should invest in younger women, but the men are left out. Well, even if we concede that the instruction is for older women to teach, train and equip younger women is explicit, and then argue that this doesn't hold for older and younger men, don't the very words of in verses 3-5 refute that argument? After all, these were whose words? Paul, older man. Written to whom? Titus, younger man. Case closed. We believe this is the healthy pattern throughout Scripture and one that we will continue to implement at RHC. Does it always have to be chronological? It's preferable, but most importantly, we see the need for depth of maturity.

We all need this. There is not a person in this room who does not need this. I need this. I receive this. From two men in my life and from you (CG, guys I'm discipling (peer to peer)...))

App: We need more of this in our church. We need to pray for generational diversity...

What do you value more than making disciples? Your time? Your convenience? Your isolation? Your casual approach to Christianity? There are two primary places for you to make disciples at Redemption Hill:

1) Community Groups: In many ways, CGs are the most natural place for discipling relationships to happen. You have a group of people, some older and further along in the faith than others, who can take someone who may be a couple steps behind or a lot of steps behind in their faith journey and help them grow in the faith. You say, well, what if I'm on the bottom of the totem pole in terms of my faith journey. Three responses: 1) No problem. Get disciplined! 2) No problem. There should be new people and new believers in your group soon. 3) there are plenty of places for you to make disciples. You remember I said there are two primary places for you to invest in discipling relationships. The first is CGs. You ready for the second?

2) Wherever you are!!! Make disciples, as you are going. We should always be looking for opportunities to display and declare the gospel. It doesn't matter if you meet someone at work, on the soccer field, or at the grocery store, we should always be looking for opportunities to point people to Christ. God may give you an opportunity to disciple someone who is willing to explore what it means to follow Christ.

A Few Practical Encouragements

Select, Spend time. Declare the gospel. Display the gospel. Empower for Ministry. with the goal of maturation & reproduction.

Now, here's the beautiful thing, when we really get after this, who the one who is blessed in the relationship? The one who is investing, or the one who is being invested in? YES!! Cultivate godliness through intentional relationships in the church. And finally,

Do you want this? Connection Card (I want to be disciplined. I want to make a disciple. Or preferably aBoth!!)

III. Cultivate godliness in order to highlight the glory of God (2:10).

Why is this important? Boston is a lot like Crete. Very few believers. Very immoral and pluralistic society... Society that was antagonistic to the claims of Christianity. Paul tells Titus that their behavior will could have three different outcomes, and each of these really serve as motivators toward godliness. Keep in mind that the focus is the effect of our godliness on those who do not have a relationship with Christ.

Motivator #1: Live a godly life so “that the word of God may not be reviled.” (2:5)

People are doubtful, skeptical. Paul wanted to make sure that these new Christians lived in such a way that the teaching of God would be held in honor among those who do not believe. He wanted them to live in such a way that people might say, you know what, I don't believe what they believe, but I cannot deny that what they believe has transformed their life for the good, and if I'm being honest, if everyone embraced this Christian way, our whole city would change.

The motivator toward holiness here is that godly conduct will keep God's message from being spoken against. If we do not live consistent with the faith we profess, people will probably fail to see the transformative power of the gospel.

Motivator #2: Live a godly life so that “have nothing evil to say about us.” (2:8)

- The early church was constantly under scrutiny and criticism. People were just waiting to pounce on them to bring an accusation against them.
- Reputation was on the line...

Motivator #3: Live a godly life “so that *in everything* they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.” (2:10)

(Don't doubt the appeal of inner beauty... because that beauty is what reveals the beauty of God. 2) When we display godly character it reflects on the gospel. Conversely, when we fail to display it potentially brings reproach on the gospel.

- Adorn... - to cast a spotlight on God (flood lights on a home..)
- Pic: Jewelry for Marsha..... not that the jewelry does not have the ability to steal from her beauty, but it should serve to highlight her beauty, to point to her beauty...
- When we fail to live consistent with the doctrine of God, rather than highlighting the validity of the gospel, we cast a shadow of ___doubt___ on the gospel....

App: Soccer Nights:

- How will you respond when that six year old kicks the cone over for the fourth time in ten minutes? Self-control...
- How will you respond when you have to explain the same drill again and again and again? Sound in steadfastness
- How will respond when kids are pushing each other trying to be the first in the line? Sound in love
- Etc. etc. self-control... sound in love, sound in steadfastness, model of good works... .

This is a tall task. How can we possibly do this? Answer. The gospel. The gospel saves us and teaches us to live for God.

Conclusion:

- (MAYBE SAVE THIS FOR THE END) Oliver Stone interview with Piers Morgan...
- Perhaps he was put on the spot. But Oliver, said, “Filmmaker.” Piers begged for more, That I was a good citizen I hope, I mean I never ran for public office.” is that all you've got man? Seriously?
- What kind of legacy will you leave?
 - Let me urge us this morning to leave the legacy of a godly life lived to point to the glory of God. And part of that will surely include passing on this sound doctrine to others who will follow in our footsteps and be disciples of the King who continue to make disciples!