

Exhort and Rebuke with All Authority (Titus 2:15)

Paul is commanding Titus to continue to:

1. Remind the Cretans about the imperatives and the indicatives of the Christian life

Titus must continually speak to the Christian communities in Crete about “these things”

What are “these things”?

Imperatives (v.2-10, 12, 14):

- The imperatives are the commands of the Christian life. These are the duties and “calls to action” for those who have been redeemed and who are being purified.
- The various groups in the church (old men, old women, young women, young men and slaves) were struggling to live faithful, Christ-like lives.
- All of those who have been redeemed and purchased must renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and must live upright, godly and self-controlled lives (v.12).
- How can we be lukewarm and apathetic towards our Lord considering all that He has done for us?

Indicatives (v.11,14):

- The indicatives tell us what Christ has done for us.
- Christ gave himself for us and has redeemed us (apart from any good works, merit, or goodness in and of ourselves).

*There is a synergistic relationship as He trains us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions and as He helps us to live godly, upright and self-controlled lives.

*As Christians, we stand between two epiphanies. We live between the First Coming (v.11) and Second Coming (v.13) of Christ. In this “waiting” we are to live for Him.

2. Exhort and Rebuke

Exhort:

- It means in the Greek “to come along side and summon/call to action.” This word has been used twice in Titus (1:9,2:6). It is the building up of confidence. “Continue to do this” or “you must do this.” It speaks of a positive command or encouragement.

Rebuke:

- It means to bring to light that which was hidden with the implication that there is adequate proof of wrongdoing.
- The Lord uses four sources for reproof: others, the conscience, the Word of God, and the Spirit of God.

- Proud people will never seek to understand the rebuke; they will shift blame, deny, and be defensive before the correction is fully communicated (even if the rebuke is not a matter of sin).
- While conviction may be the consequence of a rebuke, repentance is the redemptive quality of it if the rebuke is a matter of sin.
- A God-honoring rebuke is properly measured in words, weighed in prayer and considerate of how it will be received. How it will be received must not compromise the seriousness and integrity of the rebuke.

3. Speak with authority regarding the Word of God

Titus must speak with authority because:

- A. He was commissioned by the apostle Paul.
- B. He has the Word of God and speaks as a herald for God:
 - Titus' authority ultimately does not rest in his position but in his faithfulness and boldness in speaking the Word of God. The Word of God is the authority.
 - The word "authority" stresses the command to speak. It is more than the style of the preaching; it is the power of the Word of God to save and sanctify.

4. Let no one despise/disregard you regarding the Word of God

Most translations use the word "disregard" or "despise".

- Disregard: to toss to the side or ignore an argument.
- Despise: The Greek for "despise" means to "think around." It refers to someone who projects personal biases on present realities towards a person. There is an element of hatred towards the recipient that is not present in disregarding. Despising is usually towards the person and not the position of the person being despised.

Why would people despise Titus?

- When life and doctrine are not in agreement.
- When the Word of God is delivered in a casual, half-hearted manner that can be perceived as insincere and cowardly.
- When his motives were influenced by anything other than the glory of God and the good of man.
- When his message assaulted the will of those who refuse to submit to the Word of God.

Paul is telling Titus to make sure his life and his doctrine are right so that he does not bring any reproach on Christ or himself (2:7).

We must be continually reminded of all "these things".