



STUDY GUIDE

We the Church 11.08.2020

[setting it up]

Last Sunday Pastor Josh taught us about the importance of self-control, and how self-control is a major way that we make the gospel look beautiful to others.

Rate yourself (1-10): How have you done with your self-control during the pandemic? Has it gotten better, stayed the same, or gotten worse?

What is the area of your life that you wish you had more self-control?

[digging deeper]

Read Titus 2:1-10.

What words or phrases stick out to you? What surprises you? What convicts you?

Verse 1 sets the foundation for the rest of the passage. Pastor Josh talked about the relationship between doctrine (what we believe) and ethics (what we do). He said that doctrine forms our ethics, and ethics adorns our doctrine.

This passage addresses four groups of people: Older men, younger men, older women, younger women. Paul is telling Titus to instruct the people of his church to be different from the other people on the island of Crete, who, according to their own people, say this: "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons (Titus 1:12)."

Pick whatever life stage you are currently: older man, younger man, older woman, younger woman (be honest 😊). Then, look back at the encouragements to that life stage. What is one area that you feel you are strong in? One area you feel you are weak in?

For the weak area, what is one action step you can take this week to grow in that area?

In the way that we use our bodies, our words, our thoughts, we must not let our lack of self-control mar the truth of the gospel. Verse 8 says that godly character will silence opponents both to you and to the gospel. The New International translation of the Bible says it this way, "so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us." Is there a personal story that comes to mind that helps illustrate this point?

[living it out]

Over the past week, Pastor Josh texted almost a dozen older people and asked this question: "When you were young, what are you glad you did (or did not do)?" Almost every person mentioned either sexual purity and/or abstinence from alcohol.

(over)

Do you have any helpful ways that you as an individual (and as a couple, if married) work toward sexual purity?

Have you developed clear boundaries around your use of alcohol? When, how much, etc.?

Pastor Josh gave us homework on Sunday. He asked that we read through Matthew 26-27 and answer this question: What did self-control look like in Jesus' trial and crucifixion? Did you do the homework yet? If so, what did you observe?