



Guarding the Good Life
Titus 1:10-16
Pastor Tony Scialabba
June 28, 2026



GOD'S DESIGN FOR A LIFE THAT TRULY SATISFIES

SERMON NOTES

The good life must be guarded from teaching that sounds spiritual but damages people, distorts truth, and denies God.

Three Reasons the Good Life Must be Guarded

1. Because false teaching damages people, it must be stopped. (vv. 10-11)

False teaching does not stay theoretical. It works its way into homes, relationships, churches, and consciences.

2. Because false ideas distort truth, they must be corrected. (vv. 12-14)

A cultural value becomes dangerous when it starts functioning like biblical truth.

Biblical correction is not cruelty. Biblical correction is care.

3. Because empty profession denies God, it must be exposed. (vv. 15-16)

A polished platform is not the same thing as a proven life.

When teaching sounds spiritual but seems off:

1. Test it by the Word
2. Get clear on what is wrong
3. Bring it to the right people
4. Correct it with truth

CHECKLIST FOR EVALUATING CHRISTIAN TEACHERS AND TEACHINGS

1. Orthodox Doctrine Alignment – Does their teaching consistently align with historic creeds, catechisms, and our church’s statement of faith?
2. Scripture-Based, Not Speculative – Do they base their teachings solely on Scripture, avoiding claims of secret knowledge, novel interpretations, or personal prophetic declarations like “God has said to me...” that elevate their own authority over Scripture?
3. A Theology of Suffering – Do they preach the whole counsel of God, addressing all aspects of Scripture—including suffering—rather than selectively focusing on health, wealth, or personal success?
4. Rejection of the Prosperity Gospel – Do they reject the prosperity gospel, emphasizing grace, spiritual growth, and endurance over material wealth or physical well-being?
5. Financial Integrity – Is the teacher’s ministry free from excessive personal wealth accumulation, avoiding signs of extravagant financial gain?
6. Support for the Local Church – Do they affirm and support the importance and authority of the local church in guiding and discipling believers?
7. Embodied, Transparent Leadership – Is this teacher a real, embodied leader—someone I can see, hear, and connect with in real life, rather than just a YouTube, Instagram, or TV personality? Do I know who has influenced them, and can I verify where they received their training?

Suggested Resources:

Study Bibles

- ESV Study Bible.
- NLT Study Bible
- The NET Bible, Full Notes Edition

Systematic Theologies

- Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem
- Christian Theology, Millard Erickson
- Systematic Theology, John Frame

Commentaries

- New Bible Commentary, 21st Century Edition, Wenham, Motyer, Carson, and France
- Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible
- New International Bible Commentary, F. F. Bruce

CVC's Curated Resources at 10 of Those

- <https://us.10ofthose.com/partners/cvconline>