

“JOIN THE DECORATING COMMITTEE”

TITUS 2:6-10

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

INTRODUCTION

Well, it is good to know that (within reason) God also is concerned about how things look. He wants his Gospel to be beautiful and nicely “decorated” and arranged for the world to see! He does not want it to be ugly and distorted. *Yet, these distortions are the picture of the Lord and His Gospel that the Church and Christians often give to the world.*

- Distortions in the teachings and doctrines themselves. **BUT, MORE OFTEN THE CASE CONSISTS OF:**
- Distortions in the lives of the leaders of the church and in the members of the church.

The picture that the unsaved world has of Christ, His Word, his Gospel message is often ugly and distorted because the lives of professing Christians are often ugly and distorted pictures of what God expects of us!

In this passage Paul speaks about 3 groups: the young men, the servants/slaves/workers, and the leader of the churches. For each of them Paul has certain lifestyle requirements so that we might **set in order** [cosmos—verbal form, our word cosmetics], **beautify, decorate** “the doctrine of our God and Savior in every way!”

YOU MUST JOIN GOD’S DECORATION COMMITTEE.

- I. THE LIVES OF THE YOUNG MEN (6)—These young men must be sober, sensible, and self-controlled. Young men especially are inclined to be somewhat impetuous and unrestrained in conduct.
But, notice that Paul used this same word to describe the character and behavior of both the older men in v. 2 and of the younger women in v. 5—and I would suggest that the older women are included too!
Therefore, they are to be of sound mind, reasonable, sensible, and to exercise self-control; their total life was to be under the control of their sanctified minds (cf. Rom. 12:3—have sound judgment, not to think of oneself too highly).
But, the leader must lead by example—not merely by his preaching and teaching!
- II. THE LIFE OF THE YOUNG LEADER (7-8)—“**Be an example**”—a type, the cast of a die—the exact image of what God expects of others! [Cf. the *similar command to Timothy in 1 Tim. 4:12*]
In how much? The answer is **in all things**. Then Paul gives three examples:
 - A. Good Deeds—his entire lifestyle should reflect the demands of the gospel and the word of God.
 - B. Teaching and Preaching methods and motives (7)
 1. Purity—incorruptible; **integrity in doctrine.**
 - Purity of motive
 - No desire for inappropriate gain
 - Showing no respect of persons
 - Purity and accuracy in teaching, “not infected with the lies and distortions of the adversaries.
 2. Dignified—*dignity, reverence, seriousness*
 - C. Contents of Teaching and Preaching (8)—“speech” here is “word”—the content of the spoken words.

1. Healthy—in itself and bringing spiritual health—cf. v. 1 “healthy doctrine” and v. 2 “healthy faith.”
 2. Un-condemned—preaching beyond reproach and just rebuke; any criticisms prove to be without merit.
 - Those who “stand opposite, take the opposite side, may be “put to shame.”
 - Nothing “foul”, stinking, bad is shown to be true about the preachers—Paul & Titus.
 - This term applies especially to actions/behavior.
- III. THE LIVES OF THE ORDINARY BELIEVERS—The workers/slaves/servants (9-10)
- A. Be Under the Authority of your Masters/bosses
 1. Continually submit—present tense
 2. Submit “in everything”—stop making exceptions and excuses! [**The only real exception is when the authority crosses God’s authority and commands wrongdoing**].
 - B. Be Pleasing to your masters/bosses—make life pleasing to them!
 - Note that everywhere else Paul uses this term he speaks of pleasing God (e.g. Rom. 12:1, 2).
 - The fact that Paul here connects the term with the slave’s demeanor in relation to his master **highly elevates** the value of this responsibility and its purpose (438). For a slave to grasp and adopt this concept would mean a lessening of the evils of the system and would also evidence in a clear way “the power of Christianity to transform the most difficult relationships.
 - C. Be not Argumentative or Antagonistic
 1. The term applies **both** to words and to actions.
 2. The present tense show the behavior to be continuous.
 - D. Don’t pilfer—**steal** from the company, take small benefits not rightfully yours. **BE HONEST**
 1. The only other place this term is used is of Ananias and Sapphira; they “set aside for themselves.”
 2. This practice is almost universal and costs companies billions of dollars annually.
 - E. Demonstrate Faithfulness/faith
 1. All faithfulness in everything in every way.
 2. Showing faithfulness “to be good.”
 3. The result is the “adorning—decorating—God’s doctrine/teaching/gospel.
 4. The doctrine is adorned in every way.

CONCLUSION

I would suggest that this last summary of the faithfulness of the slave/worker extends to all three groups mentioned above: The young men showing sensibility and self-control, the preachers being an example of good works, the workers being subject, well-pleasing, honest, and faithful.

All of this decorates and makes the Gospel more beautiful to the world!
In these ways we all become part of God’s divine “decorating committee”!

YOU MUST JOIN GOD’S DECORATION COMMITTEE.