

# Godly Role Models Make a HUGE Difference

Message 03 of the series "#For334"

## I. Titus was on assignment to be a difference maker.

"This letter is from Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives... I am writing to Titus, my true son in the faith that we share. May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior give you grace and peace. I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there... The people of Crete are all liars, cruel animals, and lazy gluttons." Titus 1:1, 4-5, 12 (NLT)

*Life Application:* John Schmidt is on assignment to be a difference maker.

"I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." John 8:12 (NLT)

"Believe in the light while there is still time; then you will become children of the light." John 12:36 (NLT)

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)

## II. Titus made a huge difference by being a godly role model.

### a. Godly role models practice what they preach.

"As for you, Titus, promote the kind of living that reflects wholesome teaching... And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good works of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching. Teach the truth so that your teaching can't be criticized. Then those who oppose us will be ashamed and have nothing bad to say about us." Titus 2:1, 7-8 (NLT)

*Life Application:* We must be intentional about our faith and lifestyles.

"Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified." 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NLT)

### b. Godly role models pass their faith on to the next generation.

"Teach the older men to exercise self-control, to be worthy of respect, and to live wisely. They must have sound faith and be filled with love and patience. Similarly, teach the older women to live in a way that honors God. They must not slander others or be heavy drinkers. Instead, they should teach others what is good. These older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children, to live wisely and be pure, to work in their homes, to do good, and to be submissive to their husbands. Then they will not bring shame on the word of God. In the same way, encourage the young men to live wisely." Titus 2:2-6 (NLT)

*Life Application:* Getting older provides tremendous ministry opportunities.

"The glory of the young is their strength; the gray hair of experience is the splendor of the old."

Proverbs 20:29 (NLT)

"O God, you have taught me from my earliest childhood, and I constantly tell others about the wonderful things you do. Now that I am old and gray, do not abandon me, O God. Let me proclaim your power to this new generation, your mighty miracles to all who come after me." Psalm 71:17-18 (NLT)

*Life Application:* Older, more mature Christians are a tremendous resource of wisdom.

"Listen to your father, who gave you life, and don't despise your mother when she is old. Get the truth and never sell it; also get wisdom, discipline, and good judgment." Proverbs 23:22-23 (NLT)

- c. Godly role models work for an audience of one.

“Slaves must always obey their masters and do their best to please them. They must not talk back or steal, but must show themselves to be entirely trustworthy and good. Then they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive in every way. For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people.” Titus 2:9-11 (NLT)

“Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.” Colossians 3:23-24 (NLT)

*Life Application:* Our changed and surrendered lives give a powerful testimony for Jesus.

“Now (God) uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume. Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing. To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved, we are a life-giving perfume.”

2 Corinthians 2:14-16 (NLT)

- d. Godly role models live faithfully in this world while looking forward to the next.

“And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds. You must teach these things and encourage the believers to do them. You have the authority to correct them when necessary, so don't let anyone disregard what you say.”

Titus 2:12-15 (NLT)

*Life Application:* I am a role model for Jesus.

“And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.” 1 Corinthians 11:1 (NLT)

“The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.” 2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

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**“I am called to live in such a perfect relationship with God that my life produces a yearning for God in the lives of others, not admiration for myself. God's purpose is not to perfect me to make me a trophy in His showcase; He is getting me to the place where He can use me. Let Him do what He wants. Thoughts about myself hinder my usefulness to God.”**

**~Oswald Chambers~**

**“The Bible tells us to love our neighbors and also to love our enemies, probably because they are generally the same people!”**

**~G.K. Chesterton~**

## CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS:

1. UCLA's basketball coach, John Wooden, said, "The most powerful leadership tool you have is your own personal example." What comes to mind when you reflect on that statement?
2. Read Titus 2:1-6 (*also read in the Message version*). Name some things you see in this passage that a person should be doing to exemplify 'the kind of living that reflects wholesome teaching' referred to in verse 1.
3. Read Proverbs 22:1. How would you explain the meaning of this verse, and how could this be seen in life today?
4. Read Titus 2:9-10. How do you think these verses apply to Christians in the workplace today?
5. Read Titus 2:11-14 (*also read in the Message version*). In your opinion, why are verses 13 and 14 the key to us living out verse 12? How is this good news for us?
6. Paul started chapter two with setting an example. Then he wraps up with verse 15 in which he uses two key words, "teach" and "encourage". When we are discipling someone, how important is it to teach and encourage versus expect and demand?
7. Pray for each other that you will live a life that reflects wholesome teaching and that you will intentionally train the next generation of believers.