

Dear Friends and Family,

Perhaps you took the time to watch the superbowl this weekend.

I remember as a kid when this was a big deal, a great event.

The game was good, the commercials were clean and family friendly, and quite frankly I don't recall ever watching the halftime show because that was the time to run away from the TV and get something to eat and chat for a while.

Turn the clock ahead to our day and the same cannot be said.

As a parent, I had to be quick on the remote to turn off the commercials.

There was no way we were going to watch any of halftime.

And there was no guarantee the game would be that good.

We held our regular Sunday evening worship at the church at 6:30, just about kick-off time.

I arrived home when halftime was already underway, and the TV was turned off.

Within hours however, the "Christian" community was divided about the halftime entertainment.

Articles and social media posts were already hitting on both sides of the issue.

Some calling out the debauchery of the show,

Others praising the entertainment.

Who's right? What's going on?

*in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, **so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.***

Titus 2:7-8

Pastor's Point of View

The big question: **Who's really hurt when the Christian community disagrees on morality?**

Day 1 - READ Titus 2:1-5

1. Remember that chapter 1 of Titus ended with Paul's exhortation that some profess to know God "but by their deeds they deny Him."
2. Paul immediately transitions to tell Titus to speak the things of sound doctrine. Notice however, that what follows is action oriented.
3. What does Paul instruct the older men to DO?
4. What are the older women to DO?
5. Note specifically that all of our actions are to be honoring to the word of God.

6. Notice here that Paul encourages women to teach. Something he “forbid” in 1 Timothy 2:12. The generic use of the term *man* in 1 Timothy can be misleading. The term there is specifically the Greek word for husband, and the context of verses 13-15 show this to be the case. Paul never forbade women to teach, in fact he encouraged it. He did however, uphold God’s order for the family.
7. What does he encourage the young women to do?

Day 2 - READ Titus 2:6-8

1. In this passage, Paul moves his attention to the young men .
2. Look back at Titus 2:5 for a moment. Two very similar words are used in verse 5 and verse 6. Both are translated as *sensible* in English. The instruction to young women is to be sensible in *regards to modesty* (something I’ve been told was greatly lacking in the halftime show). The word could be translated as *discrete* or *temperate*. The slight variation in the word as it refers to men translates *to be right minded*. It could also be translated as *sound mind* or *sober*.
3. How different would our culture be today if young women were discrete and young men were sober minded? What does this look like when action is taken on these two commands?
4. How different would the church be today if we did not disagree on this Biblical issue?
5. It is no accident that the enemy draws cultural norms further and further away from Biblical truth. As culture moves away from Scripture, so too is the church tempted to do the same.
6. Men, we must lead the way in changing the tide. Write out this list of character traits listed in Titus 2:6-8. Post them on the bathroom mirror, in your closet, or on the fridge! I challenge you to strive each day to live by them.

Day 3 - READ Titus 2:9-10

1. Bondslaves are those who willfully choose a life-time of service to a master. READ Exodus 21:5-6.
2. As Christians, we are in perpetual service to the Lord. We should not be found speaking negatively of Him or teaching anything that opposes His word. Read Matthew 12:22-28. How does this Scripture relate to that concept?
3. Read Ephesians 5:1-33. How shall we live?
4. Go to Google. Search “Bible verses about living above reproach.” 80-100 verses will appear. Most of these are found in the books of Titus and Timothy. What does this tell you?
5. How are we all called to act as bond servants of Jesus Christ?
6. What benefit to the kingdom is it that we act in this manner?

Day 4 - READ Titus 2:11-15

1. Does verse 11 teach that all WILL be saved? Sadly, no. Salvation was brought to all through Jesus Christ, but not all will confess with their mouths and be saved (Rom. 10:9-10).
2. The importance of this passage is what our salvation brings. Once we are saved, we begin the sanctification process. Look at these qualities and see how they have been slowly built up in your own life and walk with Christ. Were you immediately able to deny ungodliness? How about worldly desires? It is a slow and steady process by which we become more Christ-like.
3. The Baptist Faith and Message states, "Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life."
4. Memorize verse 14. This is a perfectly concise life verse for every disciple of Jesus Christ.

(Christ Jesus), who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

Titus 2:14

If all who claim to be Christians would stand firm on the truth of Scripture, there would be no divisiveness within the church, and those outside the church would have "nothing bad to say about us." Instead, too many followers of Christ still want to be in control of their own lives, rather than living by the Spirit. They speak out of the desires of their own heart and ever-changing emotions, rather than from the word of God. None are perfect, we will all slip and fall, but in those times, I pray that we have the courage to admit our sin and repent, rather than flaunt it and attempt to justify it.

May we refuse to live like the world, and choose to live like Christ!
Pastor Matt

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message. “May the LORD bless you and keep, may He make His face shine upon you.” Numbers 6:24-25

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*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us **RUN** with endurance the race that is set before us -- Hebrews 12:1*