Faith Talk
Sunday. November 1, 2026
Series. Titus: A Healthy Church in a Chaotic Culture
Sermon. The Church: Doctrine in Daily Life

Scripture. Titus 2:11-13
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, [12] instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, [13] while we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Sermon Summary

A healthy church is not just a place where people gather to learn — it is a community where people are trained to live what they learn.

In Titus 2, Paul lays out a vision for what that looks like across every generation and life stage: older men and women living with character and endurance, younger men and women being trained by their example, and all of it rooted in the grace of God that both saves and instructs.

The principle is simple but powerful: values are passed on not primarily through what we say but through how we live, and the older generation has a responsibility to model faith for the younger generation at home and in the church.

Paul gives one reason for all of this three times in the same chapter: so that the Word of God is not slandered, so that no one has anything bad to say about us, and so that we adorn — make visibly beautiful — the teaching of God our Savior.

Grace is not just how we get saved; it is the force that trains us to live differently once we are saved. Jesus gave Himself as a substitute, redeemed us from sin, and cleansed us to be His treasured possession, and the natural result of that reality is a life zealous for good works.

The sermon's closing question is one of the most personal in this series: if the people closest to you only knew Jesus by watching you, what would they conclude?

Discussion Questions

Conversations with Adults

1. Paul says the older generation should teach the younger not just by word but by example. Who is an older believer who has shaped your life by the way they lived — and what specifically did you learn from watching them?
2. The sermon said if our lives don't match our message, people have a reason to reject the message about Jesus. Where do you find the biggest gap between what you believe and how you actually live — and what would it look like to close it?

3. Paul says grace both saves and trains us. In your own life, where do you most clearly see grace doing its training work right now and changing something about the way you think, speak, or act?

Conversations with Youth

1. The sermon said values are passed on more by what we do than by what we say. Think about the adults in your life — what are you actually learning about faith, marriage, and character from watching them?
2. Paul tells younger men to be self-controlled — not to chase every thought and feeling but to keep in step with the Holy Spirit. What's one area of your life where that feels hardest, and what would it look like to take one step toward more self-control there?
3. The sermon asked: if the people closest to you only knew Jesus by watching you, what would they conclude? What do you think your closest friends would say about your faith based on what they observe?

Conversations with Kids

1. The pastor talked about older men who took time to teach him and showed him how to live. Who is an older person in your life — a grandparent, teacher, or someone at church — who shows you what it looks like to love God?
2. Paul says grace teaches us to live differently. What's one way you think living for Jesus should look different from the way people who don't follow Him live?
3. The sermon said we should make the beauty of the gospel visible through how we live. What's one thing you could do this week that would show someone in your life what Jesus is like?

Prayer

*Father, **thank You** that grace is not just the way we entered into relationship with You — it is the force that keeps training us, day by day, to live in a way that reflects who You are. Thank You for the older men and women who have modeled the faith for us, whose lives taught us more than their words ever could.*

***We ask** You to make us that kind of person for someone else — faithful, enduring, and willing to invest in the generation coming behind us. Show us where our lives are not adorning the gospel the way they should, and give us the humility and courage to change.*

***We commit** to closing the gap between what we believe and how we live — in our homes, our relationships, and our hardest circumstances — so that the people closest to us can see Jesus clearly in us. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Family Activity: The Hard Way

What you need: Just yourselves and a willingness to be honest.

What you do: Sit together and take turns finishing this sentence: *"One thing I learned the hard way that I wish someone had told me sooner is..."*

Let everyone share — parents included, and as honestly as they're comfortable being. Then ask a follow-up: *"How did that experience shape the way you live now?"*

After everyone has shared, close with the question from the sermon: *"If the people closest to us only knew Jesus by watching our family, what would they conclude?"*

Talk about it openly — not to pile on guilt but to be honest about where you want to grow together. Then pick one thing as a family to work on this month, and close with a short prayer asking God to make your home a place where the gospel is easy to see.