

How to Make An Impact - Part 1

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Introduction.

- A. Morning people are the significant ones of our day but they often marry night owls.
- B. I asked my daughter to watch the sunrise with me and she said, “Daddy, if God wanted people to watch the sunrise he would have scheduled it much later in the day.”
- C. You don’t need another conference but you need to hear from heaven.
- D. One of the briefest books in the New Testament is power packed. (Titus)
- E. Eugene Peterson in *Run with the Horses* talks about why people live badly; there is little to admire in the famous people of our culture as we have celebrities not saints. Aimless and bored people amuse themselves with trivia while the pursuit of goodness gets no headlines.
- F. What kind of a person does it take to make a permanent impact on society?
- G. I want to investigate the background of Titus.
- H. I want to secure an overview of the book.
- I. I want to underscore the value of this book in terms of our society

I. Background,

- A. The place is the island of Crete.

It is located southeast of Greece in the Mediterranean, about 155 miles long and 35 miles wide. It is hilly and covered with caves. In 65 B. C. the Romans took it over for military use. The military inhabited Crete and they were immoral people. Slaves also lived on Crete, socially low people. It was not a choice area for an evangelistic enterprise. It was kind of like Hong Kong in our day. There was no conscience, no love and no hope, just death. This made it a great place to launch the Gospel because resurrection works best in a cemetery.

Not long ago Christians were a majority in influence anyway, as even non Christians ere honest. This is no longer true as our morality is rapidly diminishing. Our downward spiral is alarming and should galvanize us to ask how we can make a permanent impact. Paul wrote that Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons. (Titus 1:12)

B. Purpose.

- 1. Paul wrote that he left Titus in Crete for two reasons.
 - a. To straighten out what was left unfinished.

- b. To appoint elders in the cities.
 - 2. The Gospel had had great success though Paul had to leave the island.
 - 3. Titus was to finish the work Paul had begun by building disciples.
- C. The big picture.
 - 1. The parts only take on meaning in light of the whole.
 - 2. The theme of the epistle is the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness (Titus 1:1)
 - a. The Bible was not given to make you smarter.
 - b. It was given to make you godly.
 - 3. The key to the book is Jesus Christ who gave himself for us.
 - a. To redeem us from all wickedness—this is salvation. (Titus 2:14)
 - b. To purify for himself a people of his own—this is sanctification.
 - c. Salvation and sanctification encompasses all the Christian life.
 - d. The expression “eager to do that which is good” occurs 7 times in the 46 verses of this book.
 - e. Christianity is not to make us feel good but to make us be good.
 - f. Jesus is more interested in our holiness than happiness.

II. The overview of the book.

- A. There are three main sections to Titus plus an introduction and a conclusion.
 - 1. An introduction in verses 1-4.
 - 2. A section on orderliness in the church. (Titus 1:5-16)
 - 3. Godliness in the home. (Titus 2:1-15)
 - 4. Righteousness in the world. (Titus 3:1-11)
 - 5. Conclusion. (Titus 3:12-15)
- B. We function in a church, in a home, and in the world.
 - 1. The primary task of the church is to prepare you to function in your home.
 - a. We equip parents to function in their homes.

- b. The measure of a church is how well it prepares parents to train up their children.
- c. A pastor boasted that his church had an activity every night of the week.
- d. This can harm the home.
- e. The church needs to help the family become strong.
- f. Establishing churches with a faulty purpose is futile.

2. The second task of a church is to prepare the home to equip in society.

- a. We don't want to remove people from society but to function in society.
- b. We dare not hide our light under a bushel.

C. Three emphases.

1. In first section the emphasis is on leadership.

- a. Leaders are becoming scarce.
- b. The heart of leadership is not skill but character.
- c. Quality leadership requires you focus on what kind of person you're developing.
- d. Skills are important but only if under control of godly men.
- e. A businessman told me he needs half a dozen lawyers today to be sure he's not being ripped off.
- f. I spent a week with a leader developing team and looked for the bottom line.

1. Ethics was the bottom line.

2. The question was how to develop an ethical person.

3. Harvard was given 14 million to develop a new values course but could not come up with values, so not to lose the money they devised a course on the value of values.

4. An ounce of layman is worth ten pounds of clergy.

2. Chapter two the emphasis is on learning.

- a. As long as we learn we live and if we stop learning we stop living.
- b. We need to perpetuate the learning process.

- c. We're not excited by the truth, we're embalmed by it.
- d. The home should be a place of quintessential learning.
- e. The schools cannot do what parents must do.

3. Chapter three the emphasis is on lifestyle.

- a. This is not image but integrity.
- b. It is a supernatural lifestyle.
- c. Jesus said if we want to save our lives we must throw them away.
- d. He did not say grab all the gusto you can get.
- e. What values are you committed to?

III. The importance of the book has three values.

A. The book is relevant.

- 1. It was written for our generation.
- 2. Paul is not answering questions that no one is asking.

B. The book is real.

- 1. Paul spoke not to theory but to life.
- 2. The Bible is always to reality.
- 3. To live by faith is to embrace the truth of the Bible.

C. The Bible provides the remedy to our problems.

- 1. The U. S. leads the world in preventative medicine.
- 2. Some treatments have side affects.
- 3. The Bible goes right to the heart of the matter.
 - a. The Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty. (2 Corinthians 3:17)
 - b. I repudiated legalism years ago but am still recovering from its effects.
 - c. Legalism is perhaps the greatest parasite that ever hit the church.
 - d. We have people bound so they cannot do what Christ created them to do.

- e. Yet Corinthians says we behold the face of the Lord and are being transformed in to Christ's likeness with ever increasing glory.
- f. Could you say this about your life?
- g. University students tell me not to hang a trip on them because they are free.
- h. I tell them yes, they are free to jump out the window if they want, but once they do they come under the law of gravity whether they like it or not.
- i. Real freedom is to become the people God created us to be.