



The Missing Link

Titus 2:6-8

Big Idea: Surrender is the “missing link” between sound doctrine and godly character.

Principle: Sound doctrine should affect the way we live. (2:1) Paul points out five specific groups to show what sound doctrine should look like.

Matthew Henry: Note the stress laid by St. Paul upon Christian practice as the result of sound doctrine. Mere talk is absolutely worthless.

Specific application: Why the command to “encourage?” Why does he single out young men?

- a. Critical years
- b. Young men – (Hebrew culture - 13 years old at Bar Mitzvah)
- c. Problem: What our culture states is the norm is the norm for young men and what the Scriptures say is the norm are two distant worlds.
- d. God calls you “up”

The Missing Link: “To be self-controlled” or “sensible”

- a. A human approach – own strength – drawn to what isn’t good for us
 - a. Yes, we have been buried and raised up with Christ
 - b. Yes, we have the bonds of sin broken in our life.
 - c. But Yes, we still live in this body of flesh that drags us down
- b. Paul means something different - something deeper
- c. He uses the term “self-control” or “sensible”
 - a. It is Christ-likeness manifested in the life of a Christian who has yielded his life to the Spirit of God.
- d. Choice to surrender to the Spirit of God in our lives. It’s a choice we make every day.
- e. Why? Choose to put aside our fleshy approach to embrace and allow the Spirit to manifest Christ-likeness in any given situation.
- f. “Teaching show” – NIV “In your teaching *show*”
 - a. Good theology is shaped in the character of a follower of Christ that surrenders every moment to the reign of the Spirit.

The life transformed: A life to choose

Person: Integrity

Life: Dignity

Speech: Sound speech (without reproach)

What is Paul saying? What you say publicly, what you believe privately, who you are in the darkness of the struggles of life are all the same especially when there is a personal cost to you.

THERE IS NO VARIATION.

The proof: of a life surrendered to the control of the Holy Spirit

- a. “Will be put to shame”
- b. Words will be thrown
- c. Not one word will stick

Close: The Missing Link between “Great Thinking (Theology)” and “Great Action (Character)” is choosing to surrender to the control of the Spirit in every area of your life.

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

Big Idea: Surrender is the “missing link” between sound doctrine and godly character.

Read Titus 2:6-8 each day.

The theme is Great Theology (Thinking) and Great Choices (Action) produce Great Character. The problem comes between Great Thinking and Great Action. There seems to be a gap at times that causes a disconnect between the two. The reason for the gap is that we have a leaning away from the things that are good for us: To bridge that gap is to choose to go against our human leaning and the world to be godly in our lives.

Monday: The “Missing Link” between Great Thinking and Great Action is making a conscience choice throughout your day to allow the Spirit of God to manifest the character of Christ in each and every action. Take one step forward today. Add a new moment in your schedule each day to acknowledge your need for the Spirit to empower you to live out the life of Christ to those around you. Begin this very moment.

Tuesday: Sometimes the start of this journey begins with confession. We all have had times when we have chosen not to honor God in our actions. To choose not to honor Christ is to choose to dishonor God. It grieves the Holy Spirit who indwells us. Ask the Spirit of God to bring to mind times you didn’t honor Him. Now receive His forgiveness. It’s a new day that God has given you to now honor Him.

Wednesday: We are to have integrity in our whole being. In other words, what we think, say and how we act should all be the same. Ask the Spirit of God to help you today to live out Christ-likeness in the world in which you live.

Thursday: We are to show dignity in the life we live before others. In other words, the way we treat others, especially those we don’t get along with, should reflect the character of God. Ask God to help you show grace, love and forgiveness, if necessary, to someone who has not treated you kindly.

Friday: We are to demonstrate our godliness by the words that we speak. In other words, our words should be for building people up, not tearing them down or defending ourselves. Ask God to give you words of encouragement to those you have contact with today.

Saturday: Ask the Spirit of God to show you the areas of your life that need strengthening. We all have blind spots in how we see ourselves. Ask a trusted friend, who knows you well to identify one area you can focus on in becoming more like Christ.

Note for Connection Groups: *The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: www.cypressbible.org and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.*