

Being a Godly example

See service sheet online at www.knbc.org

Welcome and opening Scripture

Opening Hymn MP 237 Holy Holy Holy Lord God Almighty

Reading Psalm 40

Prayer

Fathers Video MP 128 father God I wonder

Notices leading into Mission Focus and then Prayer

Main reading Titus 2:1-15

Hymn: 333 In loving kindness Jesus came

Sermon Young men- **Being a Godly example**

Hymn: MP 272 "I have decided to follow Jesus"

Closing Prayer

Close -----

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The audio file is 21_06_20.mp3.

6 Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. 7 In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness 8 and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

**Welcome and pray**

I wonder which is the most beautiful garden you have been to? Ever wondered what the garden of Eden was like? There was a place not only that look beautiful but a place of abundant peace, satisfaction and joy. How wonderful to be there forever with God knowing you are fully loved, secure and valued. That is how heaven will be. With God who is Holy and perfect

there will be no suffering, no misery, no hurt, no confusion, no failure, no disappointment, no sickness, no death, but eternal bliss glorifying and enjoying God forever. God's perfect heaven will come to earth; it will literally be heaven on earth, a holy and perfect place.

✚ Will you be there?

Only Holy people will be there, those who have come to Christ to be made Holy and fit for heaven. - The alternative will be truly dreadful.

God's call to Holiness is directed to you, to everyone in this room. Why? Because that is what you were made for. Not to be religious, not spiritual but Holy that is set apart for God and Jesus Christ. Heaven will only be for those who are Holy. Do you want to go to heaven? Then prepare now. Want to be going that way? then heed the call. Paul said he had come to call people to Holiness, the church is a group of people **called to be holy**, 1Co 1:2 for it is the Holy or Godly who will live with God - and God with us.

It starts now **For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.** 1Th 4:7

In Isaiah God says **I made you for my glory**, to be a Godly man or woman, a Godly boy or girl, made by God – for God. Do you seek Godliness? Then look to Jesus Christ. This morning we are looking at not only being godly. But being an example of godliness to others.

In our passage this morning Paul turns his eye to the young men. 6 **Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.** There's not much in that v6 because he has already said it before: to older men, v2 and to the women, v4 in fact to everyone, to us all.

Let's us now hear - and apply the word of God.

■ A young man was asked by a friend, "What have you got to do with the British and Foreign Bible Society?" "Oh, said George, "I am a translator. "What! You a translator?" "Yes," said George, "I'm busy translating the New Testament into my daily *life*." Let us all be Bible translators!

Self-control

Paul says to these young Christian men they are **to be self-controlled**.

Most would agree, even if you have little, that self-control is a good quality.

But to control yourself does not change you, it does not change your heart. That is a work only God can do. To be godly you need a changed heart.

✚ Only Jesus can do that, - have you asked Him to do it for you?

Without Christ in you – and at work in you - you will never be Holy - and can never be Godly - no matter how hard you try to take control of yourself.

A strong willed man can control his actions, and to some degree his thoughts, and intentions, but not his loves. No man can create love for God. To love God he has to pour love into a cleansed and ready heart. The main aim of Christ's death on the cross is not to forgive you – but to free you – and enable you - to love God and glorify him. The high price he paid to forgive, is the means by which your guilt can be removed, the pre-requisite to that greater end – namely that you love God – and live a life that glorifies the God who made you. **Once made clean – you can be made Holy.**

I am the LORD, who makes you holy. Ex 31:13, Le 20:8, 21:15, 23, 22:9,16, 32.

It is Jesus we are told in Hebrews **who makes men holy.** Heb 2:11

✚ **Turn to Him - Without Christ you will never be Holy and fit for heaven.**

Paul explained to governor Felix about the Godly life. He summed it up in three words: **righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come.** Ac 24:25.

How to enter - how to live - how to leave. How to start - to continue - to end

Felix was afraid – it is good to be afraid, for it makes you take a sober look at things, fear helps you run to safety. Felix was at a fork in the road, he could turn towards Christ, or turn away. He turned away. He loved his life too much saying: **"That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you."** Do you think he ever did? No. I know many who have said: "later, another day". What a fool not to seize the moment.

■ There was a lady who came to church a couple of times. Then she stopped coming, "when I heard you speak about it being wrong to live together without being married I was offended.

She was like Felix, rather than change her ways and enter the doorway to heaven she said "that's enough, no more, I don't want to hear any more"

✚ **To repent of sin opens the way to the kingdom of God.**

Paul is referring here to young men who had done just that, they had turned to follow Christ. They had done so while still young.

■ If only I had done that, if only that had been me, what a fool I was for so many years, so many wasted years

These young men have their sins forgiven, their past is behind them, the Lord is now with them, they stand on a solid foundation and being made

Holy were fit for heaven. Now - to live a God honouring life in this world - requires self-control.

What are the particularly issues young men face? Over eager? hot headed? Thoughtless? quick to rush into things? – the answer is self - control.

Chrysostom (4th Century) declared: "Nothing is so hard at this age as to overcome pleasures and follies". Not much has changed Chrysostom!

They need to be wise, to be strong and to be serious in their choices and daily conduct. They needed mastery over their passions and appetites; to kill off lust, to kill off pride. To take on humility, to put on a servant heart, to learn to self-govern. Here are some home truths:

1. A young man who cannot govern himself, will not be useful or happy.
2. A young man who indulges himself with bad company and bad practices, will, sooner or later, bring ruin to his young life – in both body and soul.
3. Like anyone, you never know when you will leave this world, it is not in your control. To leave this world is to bring you before God.

■ I was checking my PC calendar – it goes up to the year 2121, that will do me. What length of calendar do you need to cover your life? 30? 20? 10? 5? This year? We don't know when July? Tonight? The sad truth is young people may well not live long despite their youth. You don't know

Surely a young man who knows he may be soon in the eternal world, cannot but be sensible and serious in mind. Let us all live and act as if we are now standing in the immediate presence of our Maker and Judge. That's to live wisely.

G A P

How old would you like to be? Ever asked yourself that question?

Young yes well, young and foolish, young and stupid? Oh yes you are right it is better to be old – and wise. That sounds good. Although it is very possible it to be old and stupid, the young do not have a monopoly here.

It is possible to be young and wise. But it is rare.

■ I certainly wasn't - At 16 I thought I knew it all, I was full of foolish pride, "no-one's going to tell me"

Young men can be wilful and head-strong; when they should learn to be humble, for there are more young people ruined by pride than by any other sin.

Young men are often not good listeners. Well actually selective listeners, they listen to their peers – who are usually no better than themselves.

Rehoboam son of Solomon when he became King chose to listen to the young men who grew up with him instead of the older men who knew Solomon's wisdom. **His peers lead him in astray and into trouble.**

This is where good example comes in,.....

Example

Paul says to Titus **7 In everything set them an example** x2

He says that because Titus is not only the leader – *and all leaders should set a good example* – but Titus is a young man as they are, he can and should model how a Godly life must be. Just as the older women are to set an example to younger women - so here man to man.

✚ **It is who people are that gets across, not what we try to teach**

There was a time when young men were like their fathers - but younger. They looked up to them as an example. Not now, at least not in this country. Society is split lengthways, young men spend their time with young men and everyone is partitioned off into age or interest groups.

✚ **Young men are often not a good example to other young men.**

■ My experience of leaving school and looking around me.

Who will be an example to a young man today? Where will you find good role models?

- Trendy young Youth leaders who look and act like any other youth, are not necessarily good role models.
- I remember working with a church in Nechells, the leader of the youth group was a great example, very concerned and loving towards them they greatly respected him, he was an old man, how often would these qualities be found in a teenager? Not often.
- One of our BCM Interns this year is 18, he is a good example, and very mature for his age, but that's increasingly rare.
- I have been very much influenced for good I can think of; Simon, Valdir, BCM leaders, Don Wrapson, Donald Davis; through one I learned zeal, another perseverance, another wisdom, another kingdom mindedness
- Learning to listen, count to 3 before speaking,

So Paul says to Titus a godly young man entrusted to lead the churches in Crete. – Live such a life that it is an example to the other young men.

✚ In other words: **"Let them see a living example of those virtues and graces in your life which must be in theirs."**

✚ **Lutheran theologian Albert Schweitzer said: "Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing!"—**

- Apprentership working in one department after another, working with one person after another. Some took an interest and took you under their wing, others not and you were left to pick things up as best you could. Guess which were the best areas looking back? - big difference.

Needing to change a wheel on the car

- 1- Go on and do it, 2- Explain how to do it, 3 - Encourage the person to do it, 4 - This is how let me show you, I'll do it with you.

Do it together with them is the best way

So in the Christian life, getting out and visiting others, sharing the faith, we can say "let's go together", and set an example in giving time and being busy in the kingdom and for the King.

So Titus is told - **In everything set them an example by doing what is good.** x2

Paul said: to Timothy **"You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance,"** 2Ti 3:10

- Quote from Jackie Pullinger's book "Chasing the dragon" p45 & 46

And to the church in Thessalonica he said: **"Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed."** 1Th 2:9-10 So says Paul may that be true of us here....

- Take Gweno, she was in our midst for several years. What kind of example were we to her in encouraging Godliness in her Christian life? If I gave her a list of name and asked her to put a mark against your name, would it be a tick for a good example, or cross for a poor example? score
- Maybe I should ask what my children would say of me? – or of you?

Let us all set a good example to each other in Godly conduct.

Imitate Paul and others **"Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you."** Php 3:17

Then there is Speech

7 In everything set them an example in your teaching by show integrity, seriousness 8 and soundness of speech - in your teaching

Paul mentions not only the **example** of **good** works but the source of all good works, & conduct – which is **sound teaching** done with **integrity, seriousness** **Integrity** x2 - sometimes rendered **sincerity** Eph 6:24, Or even **immortality** in Ro 2:7 2Ti 1:10; or **incorruption**, in 1Co 15:42,50,53,54; and therefore implies an *incapacity of decay*; making it synonymous with **purity**. Paul says to a young Timothy: “**set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.**” 1Ti 4:12 Jesus said **it is the pure in heart who will see God.**

Titus should speak with **Seriousness - or Gravity**. When Paul says to Timothy about the kind of man he should entrust carry forward God’s work he uses this word translating it **honest or reliable men** 1Ti 2:2. The sense here is, that the preacher’s message must be simple, serious, earnest. It should make good sense - from someone who understands the subject.

✚ **A sermon is never to entertain, we are surrounded by those who provide entertainment. Oh, we know that, but nor is it just to be interesting....**

Paul says Titus should speak with **Soundness of speech**. This word is commonly applied to the body, meaning being *health-ful, or whole*. (Barnes) He must use language that is true, pure, uncorrupted i.e. spiritually healthy and therefore helpful.

■ Martin Luther said, “Strong Biblical sermons make for wise and godly Christians, just as good and strong bricks make for sturdy buildings.”

Titus is to show **integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.**

Every faithful minister will have enemies. There will be those looking for faults to exploit, and holes to pick in their teaching or behaviour.

The answer is to make sure that what we preach is solely to advance the honour of God, in the interest of Christ and his kingdom, and for the welfare and happiness of souls. I am not here to forward secular views, give opinions, express human learning as if it is scripture, nor to display wit or clever affected speech or oratory.

✚ **It is soundness of teaching that silences those who wish to condemn.**

Combine that with a godly life as Peter says **For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men.** 1Pe 2:15

To sum up

Titus is told - **In everything set them an example.** He did. Will you too?

✚ **Don’t discourage - like Job’s friends did - but encourage!**

Paul told Titus to encourage them all **Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.** That is how to encourage – by being a good example.

When Jesus said **go and make disciples...** he also said **I will go with you.**

And when Jesus washed feet as a servant did he said: **“I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”** Joh 13:15

I'd rather have example than rules any day,
I'm glad my Saviour walks with me, not merely points the way.
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear:
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear.
The greatest of all teachers was my Lord Who lived His creed,
For to see good put in action is what all His people need.
I may not fully understand the doctrines I've received,
But there's no misunderstanding how Christ loved and lived.

God does not shout rules from heaven he comes down, as he did on Mt Sinai with Moses, and when Christ entered this world. The word of God in its entirety is seen in Christ’s life, to reveal, show and model godliness.

✚ **You won’t strive for Holiness without models to inspire you to copy.**

Christ calls you to follow him to heaven – but the way is through the cross – that hard road he has already trod **“To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.”** 1Pe 2:21

■ **A holy life will make the deepest impression, said D.L. Moody.**
Lighthouses blow no horns, they just shine.

Being a good example keeps us all on an even keel - and moves us forward together as a church towards Godliness.

Genesis – God shows in creation - the pattern for us as the New creation in Christ - One of ongoing separation to holiness - and adornment in holiness.

■ **Someone once asked a man after a meeting, "Are you a Christian?"**
"Yes." "How long have you been a Christian?" "Twenty-eight years, on and off." "More off than on, actually.

■ **I would rather be "out and out" than "on and off." The "out and out"**
Christians are the only ones whose lives adorn the teaching of Christ. End