



MESSAGE SERIES GUIDE

Timberlake Church

October 19 & 20, 2019

Pastor Ben Sigman

FOR LEADER:

In preparation for group discussion, take a few minutes to read through the scriptures and discussion questions

MESSAGE RECAP:

This week's message continues the "Resurgence" series and discusses elements of a bad religious experience and how to get back to an authentic faith.

The most recent message is available online at Timberlakechurch.com/messages for further study



Key Passage: Titus 1:10:16

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **Read Titus 1:10-16.** List the dangers that Paul asks Titus to be aware of in the churches that he is leading.
2. How did this teaching relate to Judaism (see also **Acts 15:1, 5-10; Titus 3:9; Colossians 2:8, 20-23; Galatians 3:1-3; 1 Timothy 1:6-7, 4:1-3**)?
3. What do you think the biggest danger our church or the Church-at-large is facing right now?
4. What action plan does Paul give Titus (and Timothy) to identify the false teachers and their teaching in order to get rid of the dangers that the Cretan churches are facing (see also **1 Timothy 1:3-4; 2 Timothy 2:24-25; 4:2**)?

*We don't know exactly what these people were teaching, but we know that whatever they were teaching was rooted in a misunderstanding of the difference between Christianity and culture. People were instructed that their primary identity was either as a Jew or a Cretan. **The Gospel says that believers in Christ take on a new identity as the family of God.** Paul was not telling Titus that Jewish people completely ceased to be Jewish or that Cretans ceased to be Cretan. But he was telling Titus to teach people that to be in Christ means that we are Jewish in a new way, or Cretan in a new way. Or American in a new way. To make nationalism or tribalism more important than the Gospel is to deny the faith. This sort of false teaching must be rebuked.*

—Jonathan Pugh

5. Does the church today struggle with separating our tribal, national, and cultural identity from our identity in Christ? How do we fail to make that distinction? Why is it important to place the Gospel ahead of our culture if we want to reach the world?
6. Share a situation where you had to place your own cultural identity underneath your identity as a follower of Christ.

Personal Reflection: How do you typically respond to others who have different biblical interpretations than you? Should you always respond to differences of opinion by severe reproof or by silencing the opposition? Why or why not?