



BIG IDEA

False teaching confuses people, but God's truth sets free.

BIBLE

Titus 1:10-16

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Titus has to deal with people who were saying things about God that weren't true. Paul reminds us that what we believe and how we live should match up-and that we need to know the truth of God's Word.

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

HOOK – Have you ever believed a lie?

- Have you every believed something that turned out to be totally false?
- Maybe you heard...
 - If you swallow gum, it stays in your stomach for 7 years.
 - Your blood is blue until it hits oxygen.
 - If you sneeze with your eyeballs open, your eyeballs will pop out.
- Some lies are harmless... but some have bigger consequences.
- Today we're going to talk about spiritual lies – false teaching – and how to know what's true when it comes to God.

CONTEXT RECAP:

- Titus was left in Crete to bring order to the church, teach truth, and help people live new lives that reflect the grace of God.
- Paul warns him about false teachers – people who pretend to teach the truth but lead others away from Jesus.

Titus 1:10-16 Highlights:

- In verses 10-16 Paul gives Timothy instruction on how to handle these false teachers:
 - False teachers are rebellious and deceptive (vs 10)
 - They're influencing whole families, and their motive is selfish gain. (vs. 11)
 - Paul says to silence them and rebuke (call them out when they're doing something wrong in a way that will help get them back on the right track) them sharply (vs 11-13)

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

- **False teaching is like a rip current**
 - From the surface, it seems safe – but if you don't know the warning signs, it can pull you away from the truth.
- So how do we spot false teaching? We have to know truth.
 - Optional Illustration: Do you know how people spot counterfeit money? It's actually not from studying counterfeits. It's from studying the real thing. When they know what a real \$100 bill looks like, they can compare and determine which bills are fake.
 - In the same way, we can discern truth from lies by being so firm in the truth that we can tell when something smells fishy or doesn't look right.
- Here are three tests we can use to spot false teaching:
 - Who do they say Jesus is?
 - How do they say we get to God?
 - Is the Bible the ultimate authority as it's written, or do they try to add or take away from it?

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

- As you live your life, learn to test what you hear or see. Whether it's online, in music, or even from a friend, learn to ask:
 - Is this about Jesus? And does it line up with what the Bible says is true.
 - If you don't know, ask a leader, parent, and learn how to search the Bible for yourself. Don't just take someone else's word for it.
- Study the truth so you can spot the lie.

Closing // Set up discussion

- The truth of God's Word is a gift. It doesn't just correct us- it frees us.
 - Pray and dismiss to small groups.
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