



Who Are You Looking At

Adapted from “Christian Discipline” series by Dennis Marquardt

Imagine a culture where telling lies was a normal part of life; where people only looked out for themselves; where people didn't get involved unless there was something in it for them. Lest you think this is only the culture of today, it was also the culture of Titus' day on the isle of Crete.

Some things never change in society. God raised up His church in the context of such lax morality. Christians were called to be pillars of virtue amidst cultures lacking virtue. This of course raised many challenges. The world was looking in on the church and on Christians specifically. What did they see? What do people in our world see when they view us as Christians? Our culture today emphasizes education over ethics, mental development over moral development, personal gain over virtue and character.

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“There is no paradox more tragic than a high mentality and a low morality.”¹ A compass is narrow-minded. It always points to the magnetic north. That seems like a very narrow or singular purpose, but a compass is supposed to be. If it pointed to other points simultaneously, ships at sea and planes in the air would be in danger. We must personally discipline ourselves to fight any deviation from the course Jesus set for us. We cannot be tolerant of any other course. “To deviate is to sin.”²

We cannot afford as believers to live by the standards of the world. We need to reflect the disciplines of Christian ethics in everything we do. The Bible teaches that Christians are to live a life of godliness and virtue in a world that sorely needs to witness and realize God’s power.

¹ Croft M. Pentz, *The complete book of zingers*, (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1990), as cited in the sermon series “Christian Discipline” by Dennis Marquardt.

² Billy Graham and Edythe Draper, *Draper’s Book Of Quotations For The Christian World*, (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1992), entry 9965.

COURAGE Level Questions

C1: What do you think being a Christian should look like? Be specific?

Exercise #1: Read and answer the following.

Titus 2:11–15 (ESV) For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.



C2: Today, much like in the time of Titus, discipline seems to be at odds with godly morality. Describe why you feel that godly discipline and morality seem to have lost its voice in society.

C3: Christians are to live a life of godliness and virtue in a world that sorely needs to view God's power in a human life. Why do you feel this view is so important and needed today?

C4: As a follower of Jesus, you must accept that people watch you. What do they see as they observe your life?

C5: How are you reflecting self-control in living a life of high morality? And in living according to God's disciplines?

C6: What does it look like for you to say “no” to things that are ungodly?

Exercise #2: Over the next 60 days, find three men with whom you can meet. Discuss how badly much of human society is misaligned with God’s Word. Also, discuss how people might view your walk with Christ, and the importance of the Holy Spirit enabling power to help you say “no” to the world and “yes” to godly principles.

STRENGTH Level Questions

Exercise #1: Read and answer the following.

Titus 2:11–15 (ESV)

S1: How much strength does it take to say “no” to the world?

S2: Where do you find the strength to live by godly principles as you follow Christ?

S3: What does it mean to you personally to reflect the disciplines of Christian ethics today?

Exercise #2: Read and answer the following.

Titus 3:1–11 (ESV)

S4: Paul shared with Titus the importance of being a pillar of virtue. How does that look in a man’s life today? What are some things to which we must say “no” that happen to be popular or in demand by our society or culture?

S5: To you, what does it mean to “*walk worthy of the calling?*”

S6: Regardless of what you may think, people are watching. What do they see reflected in your lifestyle? Be specific.

S7: Men must challenge each other (accountability) to walk closer to God. How can you appropriately help another man be accountable in his Christian life?

Exercise #3: In the next 60 days, discuss with three men how you view or describe your lives as Christians. What do you think you're getting right? Where do you frequently fail? What things are you not sure about?

This will be a difficult discussion and will take honesty and a willingness to hear things about yourself you don't want to hear. Remember, the goal is to help you grow closer to Jesus, not beat you up emotionally.

ENDURANCE Level Questions

Exercise #1: Read and answer the following.

Titus 2:11–15 (ESV)

E1: What godly principles are most important when it comes to reflecting the disciplines of Christian ethics?

E2: What comes to mind when you hear the words “Christian ethics?”

E3: How are those ethics displayed in your life?

E4: How do you think society or your culture views and/or reacts to those ethics?

E5: How do you appropriately display, teach, and promote Christian ethics in an unbelieving society?

E6: What does “*walk worthy of the calling of God*” look like to you?

Exercise #2: Read and answer the following.

Titus 3:1–2 (ESV)

E7: How can you be submissive to rulers and authorities who are not godly?

Exercise #3: On a scale of 1-4, with 1 being *very well* and 4 being *not very well*, rate yourself on how well you live out verse 2.

My rating:

Now, write out a plan to improve in this area of submitting to ungodly rulers and authorities as taught in Titus 3:1-2.

E8: Whether we want to admit it or not, people are watching our lives. What do people see when they look at your life and life choices?

Exercise #4: In the next 60 days, find three men with whom you can discuss the importance of living out godly principles despite what is popular with society and/or your culture.

Talk specifically about how a narrow view of God’s discipline affects our lives. Encourage each man to be accountable and challenge him to “*walk worthy of the calling*” of being a godly man. Discuss specific ways you can challenge each other to be accountable in a society with low morals.