

A Family Devoted to Our Father's Business

Titus 2:11-14

Welcome

- So good to be here
- Missed you.
- Been away and so but humbled God move

RHNL Update

- Really tired, but so encouraged
- I have never felt so in the farmer analogy
 - Clearing the field, prepping the ground, planting seeds
 - And be consistent to water, tend
 - Seen amazing fruit and it feels like the field is ripe for God to move
 - Be a fun, crazy year

Thank you

- Consistent support, prayer and love
- Couldn't have done it without you all!

Been asked to come to start off this month of this series

- Looking at our history, heritage of what has made up Reality (our DNA)
- What I'm going to look at is specifically to what it means and looks like for the church to be a family

To direct our time and what's been formative here as well for shaping Reality Honolulu is a section of scripture from

- ***Titus 2:11-14***
- One of my favorites

Titus 2:11-14 NLT

11 For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people. 12 And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God, 13 while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. 14 He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

Pray

I have had this amazing but unique lens to be the oldest and the youngest simultaneously

- We call it church birthing, more than planting
 - Labor of love, time consuming
 - We are in it for life

A bit about myself

- I grew up here
- Christ through Reality Carp and Reality Fam has made me who I am
- Been here since the church started
- Been on staff since 2006, 21

Involved in every church plant

- been here when they've come
- Seen them through the detox

Been involved in prepping for the birth

- and the birth of each one
- seen them grow

God pulled a fast one, finally it was time to get out of Mom's house

- God called us out, to move and start Reality Honolulu
- It's been such a fun, exciting thing seeing something new come from nothing

What my time here showed me:

- Is that the church, at its core is to be a family
 - God is Relational, and we are to be also
 - This is been an invaluable gift

Our text today gives us a great framework to work off of what the local expression of God's church should be like

- Reminding us what God has called us to be

Context:

- Titus, Paul, Crete, Elders, Church, etc.

There's two things that jump

- 1st one -
 - His people called to be “devoted to God”

A Devoted Family

God's “very own people”

- Scripture would make it clear;
 - Body of Christ, Bride of Christ

When we are saved (*Romans 8:14-17*)

- Adopted as sons and daughters

*We are a family, a Faith family
As Disciples, as Christians, as the Church*

We are set apart as the church from the world

- To be different, to look diff
- Image bearers of God, Holy, etc.

We very much feel that God has and is calling us to view this local expression as a family

What's important to us

- Community, Relationships
 - We care about being a health family
 - Not a dysfunctional one

So much more than an institution

- An organization or a Show
 - A people centered around Christ

Starting a new church has beautifully reminded me of that

- There's nothing but people
 - And not many
 - So that's all we got, that's all that matters
 - God meeting his people
 - Hawaii + Ohana

We have had the unique, special, privilege, gift to be a family of churches

- And we are in every sense of the word
 - That's is not normal to have in churches

Like any family we've had it all

- joy, laughter
- pain, sorrow
- drama
- hard times and the best times
 - Trust me, a messy one also
 - Everything that a family is

Here's the beauty

- The greatest theatre for the Gospel to be displayed is in relationship
 - In Community

Because:

- Confronted with all our junk
- Sin, shortcomings
- Lends for opportunity to be sacrifice, grow and be unified

What you've shown me, how beautiful church can be

- Truly believe it's the best vehicle to see God move in the world
- If there's anything that you've taught me is what it means to truly be devoted to Christ, to one another and to a local church

There is a rich legacy of saints here that has shown us what it looks like to be a devoted church family

- Been faithful, steadfast & obedient

- Angela Saragossa
- Mike & Helen Ernst
- Fritz and Penny
- Glenn and Candy Ornee's
- Paul and Jeanine Morgan's

Incredible Staff Families

- Merrick's
- Smiths

- Morgan's
- Stolz'
- Branning's
- Volpei's
- Jesse

*What you have done is echo what scripture tells us we should be
A Family gathered around our father*

What we first and foremost want to be: Devoted to Christ & one another

- But also that we are devoted to this family and the care of it
- We all participate
- Engage in it
 - All to be parts, pull our weight
 - But it doesn't stop there

If it stopped there, we'd be so weird

- Insular
- Stagnant
- Self-centered, bubble

A Committed Family

The second thing in our text that stands out:

- Is the idea of being "committed to good works."
- There's this idea that we are to as a devoted family, be committed to our father's works

Jesus uses this Phrase in *Luke 2:49*

- Context

Luke 2:49 NKJV

49 And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

Our father business is all about doing good things for humanity

- We are to be part of those good things
- What that is: is seeing the God's kingdom coming and going forth into the world

- Showing and sharing of the love and grace of God to all that don't know

Our father's business is:

- Regeneration
- Redemption
- Restoration

He desires for people to be reconciled unto himself

- We are his ambassadors of this reconciliation:

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 NASB

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:^[a] The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin^[b] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Our call:

- To our neighbor
- To the far corners of the earth

In the next Chapter of Titus, *Chapter 3:14*

- Paul elaborates on the Church's call to serve people locally and meet needs and as they come

Titus 3:14

¹⁴ Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

This has always been a part of who we are (Our DNA)

You have always risen to the occasion

- Our family bands together & met whatever needs are presented
 - Built this building
 - Built orphanages
- Our time, our people, our resources, our finances
- So thankful to Jesus for your example of this!

As Paul would tell Titus, the devoted people of God, need to be “totally committed” to this!

We are to be committed to this

- We have to be
- We want to be
 - We all need to be going for it
 - I’m all in!
 - 100%

It’s is what pleases the father

- We should care what God cares about

Application

To sum it up:

- I want to come here to honor you
- Thank God for what He’s done in you
- By no means are you perfect, we’re for sure messy but...

*Remember your heritage
Its rich, its deep!*

Before I Left (Prophetic Word)

- Prophetic word (later glory better than former)
 - Momma, I know you may be tired
 - Lots of kids, long haul already
 - But the kids are out of the house
 - The best years are ahead of you

Remember who God had called you to be

- A family devoted to our father’s business
- Keep the faith, Finish the course!
- What God is doing here is literally affecting the whole world
 - Affecting Europe
 - South Pacific and Asia

Take up the mantel and be devoted to Christ, each other and committed to our’s father’s

business!