

## Small Group Questions

### Titus Week TWO

#### Introduction

What is your current favorite hobby, activity, sport, or thing to do for fun? How often do you get to participate in it a week? 2 hours? 4 hours? 10 hours? 20 hours?

If you were to analyze your time, outside of work, what would show up the most and are you happy, surprised, or frustrated with it?

#### Discussion

This week Stephen continued our study on the book of Titus and he said that when we talk about our belief, its not just acknowledging it but that it should impact our world and consequently how we live. This has been a reoccurring theme at New Denver.

How have you grown or stumbled in this truth? In what area are you strongest? And in what area are you weakest?

Stephen brought up an interesting thought about how most people view organization as a positive thing in just about everything except in religion and crime. (*Titus 5: 5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.*)

What is it about organization that gives religion a bad rap? What personal experiences have you had that ring true with this perspective? Have you had any experiences that illustrate the positive impact on organized religion?

Read Titus 10-12

*<sup>10</sup> For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. <sup>11</sup> They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. <sup>12</sup> One of Crete's own prophets has said it: "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons."<sup>[c]</sup>*

Have you had a similar religious/church experience where there was a group of people causing issues, quarrels, or problems within the church? Maybe regarding worship preferences, music, teaching, lifestyle issues, etc.? How did you process your decisions on whether they were right or wrong? Ill-motivated or good?

Stephen offered four cautions to help us avoid deception.

1. Trust and verify.
2. Beware of someone who tells you publicly to do something God told them privately. (Being cautious in acting on something that only "God" has told them.)
3. Examine their lives to see if what they "preach" or say rings true to how they live.

4. Choose your closest friends wisely. Who and what you listen to will affect what you do.

Which of the four do you think people neglect the most and why? Do you have any other cautions you would like to share with the group from your own experience?

**Prayer**

Lord help us to learn from this week's passage and to grow in our ability live what we believe and to stay grounded in your truth.