

We Are Difference Makers

Message 01 of the series “#For334: Be The Difference”

1. Jesus taught His disciples to be difference makers.

“You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)

Life Application: Our faith is meant to be personal but not private.

2. Jesus taught His disciples to make disciples who would be difference makers.

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.”

Matthew 28:19 (NLT)

Life Application: We are the current generation of disciples.

“Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world... I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message.” John 17:18, 20 (NLT)

3. Paul taught His disciple, Titus, how to be a difference maker on the island of Crete.

“This letter is from Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I have been sent to proclaim faith to those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives... I am writing to Titus, my true son in the faith that we share. May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior give you grace and peace. I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there...”

Titus 1:1,4-5 (NLT)

- a. Titus was challenged with being a difference maker in a culture that had false teachers, liars, cruel people, lazy people, and people who eat too much.

“For there are many rebellious people who engage in useless talk and deceive others. This is especially true of those who insist on circumcision for salvation. They must be silenced, because they are turning whole families away from the truth by their false teaching. And they do it only for money. Even one of their own men, a prophet from Crete, has said about them, ‘The people of Crete are all liars, cruel animals, and lazy gluttons.’ This is true. So reprimand them sternly to make them strong in the faith.”

Titus 1:10-13 (NLT)

Life Application: God intentionally positions us in places where we can make a difference.

“Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world.”

1 Peter 2:12 (NLT)

Note: Where we live and work is an assignment, NOT an accident.

“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

- b. Paul gave Titus a short list of character qualities that would help him recognize mature believers who could help him make a difference on Crete.

“I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there and appoint elders in each town as I instructed you.

- An elder must live a blameless life.
- He must be faithful to his wife, and his children must be believers who don’t have a reputation for being wild or rebellious. For an elder must live a blameless life.
- He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered;
- He must not be a heavy drinker, violent, or dishonest with money.
- Rather, he must enjoy having guests in his home,
- And he must love what is good. He must live wisely and be just.

- He must live a devout and disciplined life.
- He must have a strong belief in the trustworthy message he was taught; then he will be able to encourage others with wholesome teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong." Titus 1:5-9 (NLT)

Life Application: God doesn't call all of us to be pastors or elders, but He does want all of us to become mature in our faith and character.

"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ."
Ephesians 4:11-13 (NLT)

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***"Whichever way God engineers
circumstances, the duty is to pray. Never allow the thought- 'I am of no use
where I am,' because you certainly can be of no use where you are not."***

~Oswald Chambers~

Connect Group Questions:

1. What is your definition of a difference maker? Who has made the greatest difference in your life, and how did they do it?
2. Matthew 28:19 tells of a responsibility for all believers. How do we make disciples of Christ today?
3. Read Titus 1:10-13. How excited do you think Titus was having to go work in Crete? Why do you think he went?
4. Read Ephesians 2:8-10 and Romans 8:28. Do you believe that God has planned good things for you to do? What if the circumstances are not ideal?
5. Have you ever left or wanted to leave a job, association, or other opportunity due to an unchristian environment? Is there any reason you would share with others on why they might consider staying in such an environment?
6. Read Titus 1:5-9. Paul puts together a list of qualifications for pastors/elders. What is on the list, and why do you think each one is important?
7. Read Ephesians 4:11-16 and Titus 1:16. Can others tell if someone is being hypocritical? How do we strive for maturity as a believer?