

**HUMILITY:** A MODEST OPINION OR ESTIMATE OF ONE'S OWN IMPORTANCE, RANK, ETC.

**WHY IS THIS WORD IMPORTANT?** BECAUSE OF WHAT I SEE IN THE BOOK/LIFE OF TITUS.

THIS YOUNG LEADER, NAMED TITUS, IS BEING ASKED TO LEAD DIFFERENT GROUPS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE THEIR OWN SET OF BELIEFS, AND ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR POOR CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR. AT THIS TIME IN HISTORY, THE CRETANS WERE REGARDED AS LIARS, REBELLIOUS, CRUEL, ARGUMENTATIVE, AND UNDISCIPLINED. THEY WERE VERY OUTSPOKEN AND COULD EASILY BRING CONFUSION, DIVISION AND HARM TO THOSE AROUND THEM. BUT WHAT WAS NEEDED WAS SOME HEALTHY, PURE, HOLY, OR GODLY LEADERSHIP.

BASICALLY, TITUS NEEDED TO **WORK WITH THE PEOPLE, NOT AGAINST THEM.**

**HOW DID HE DO THIS?**

HE BEGAN TO OFFER AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE PEOPLE. A WAY OF LIFE THAT WOULD BE MORE DESIRABLE FOR EVERYONE. ESSENTIALLY, HE WOULD ENCOURAGE THE PEOPLE TO WORK FOR THE GOOD OF THEIR COMMUNITY.

**TITUS 2:1-2,** 'AS FOR YOU, TITUS, PROMOTE THE KIND OF LIVING THAT REFLECTS WHOLESOME TEACHING. TEACH THE OLDER MEN TO EXERCISE SELF-CONTROL, TO BE WORTHY OF RESPECT, AND TO LIVE WISELY. THEY MUST HAVE SOUND FAITH AND BE FILLED WITH LOVE & PATIENCE.'

TITUS BEGAN TO **HELP THE PEOPLE SEE** WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO LIVE TOGETHER – IN GOD'S KINGDOM, AND UNDER GOD'S AUTHORITY.

I'LL USE FIVE WORDS TO DESCRIBE THESE CHANGES MADE TO THE SURROUNDING CULTURE.

- CHARACTER - PEOPLE WERE: **HOPEFUL, HELPFUL, AND HARMLESS**
- CONDUCT - THE PEOPLE PRACTICED: **HUMILITY, AND HOSPITALITY**

AS IN THE STORY OF TITUS, **GOD WANTS US TO COME TOGETHER FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF LIFTING EACH OTHER UP.** I BELIEVE THIS COVID-19 EXPERIENCE MIGHT JUST HELP US DO THAT.

BUT IT REQUIRES US TO **TAKE A POSTURE OF HUMILITY.**

HUMILITY IS PROBABLY NOT THE FIRST CHOICE FOR MOST PEOPLE – BUT IT IS THE BETTER ONE.

IMAGINE YOURSELF RECEIVING **2ND PLACE** IN A RACE. VERY FEW PEOPLE ARE OKAY WITH THIS. BUT HOW OFTEN DO OLYMPIC ATHLETES COMPLAIN ABOUT THEIR SILVER OR BRONZE MEDAL? – HARDLY EVER!

NOW IMAGINE YOURSELF, ACTUALLY DOING EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO **HELP SOMEONE ELSE** EXPERIENCE THEIR BEST RACE. AGAIN, THIS IS HUMILITY.

**JOHN MAXWELL** – SAYS HUMILITY MOVES US FROM THE CENTER TO THE SIDE.

YOU SEE GOD IS INTERESTED IN THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE. AND WE (AS THE CHURCH) NEED TO PUT GOD'S NEEDS AND THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITIES - FIRST.

WITH THE HELP OF TITUS, WE BEGIN TO SEE HOW WE ARE TO LIVE.

**WE** [THOSE OF US WHO ARE CALLED CHRISTIANS, FOLLOWERS OF GOD] **ARE TO LIVE IN SUCH A WAY THAT REFLECTS THE VERY GOSPEL - OR GOOD NEWS - THAT WE CLAIM TO BELIEVE.**

WE CAN NO LONGER MAKE LIFE ABOUT WHAT WE HAD, OR WHAT WE WANT – INSTEAD LET'S LOOK AT WHAT WE DO HAVE, AND HOW GOD WANTS US TO USE IT FOR HIM, AND FOR THOSE AROUND US.

LET ME BE CLEAR. GOD IS WITH US FOR THE VERY PURPOSE OF MAKING HIMSELF KNOWN. AND FOR THIS REASON, HE WANTS US TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS WITH HUMILITY & HOSPITALITY.

SO, LET'S RE-CONSIDER THE WORD HUMILITY. WHAT DOES GOD WANT US TO KNOW AND DO? **PHIL. 2:10-11** 'THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH... AND EVERY TONGUE CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD...'

- HUMILITY IS NOT THINKING LESS OF YOURSELF BUT THINKING OF YOURSELF LESS. – C.S. LEWIS
- A GREAT MAN IS ALWAYS WILLING TO BE LITTLE. – RALPH WALDO EMERSON
- IT WAS PRIDE THAT CHANGED ANGELS INTO DEVILS; IT IS HUMILITY THAT MAKES MEN AS ANGELS. – SAINT AUGUSTINE
- PRIDE IS CONCERNED WITH WHO IS RIGHT. HUMILITY IS CONCERNED WITH WHAT IS RIGHT. – EZRA TAFT BENSON
- FOR EVERYONE WHO EXALTS HIMSELF WILL BE HUMBLED, AND HE WHO HUMBLER HIMSELF WILL BE EXALTED. – JESUS, ACCORDING TO LUKE 14:11

YOU'VE HEARD THE SAYING THAT 'HOME IS WHERE MOM IS.'

WELL, I THINK IT'S ONLY FAIR TO SAY THAT 'HOME, IS WHERE GOD IS.'

**HEB. 4:16** SAYS, 'LET US COME BOLDLY TO THE THRONE OF OUR GRACIOUS GOD. THERE WE WILL RECEIVE HIS MERCY, AND WE WILL FIND GRACE TO HELP US WHEN WE NEED IT MOST.'

JESUS SAID, 'I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME' (**JOHN 14:6**).

GOD IS WAITING FOR THE WORLD TO SEE HIM -IN OTHER WORDS, HE IS STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THIS AND HE IS BRINGING THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD TOGETHER.