

It Takes a Village The Book of Titus

For 13 years I poured into the teenagers of BRC as their Youth Pastor!
I did it because I dared to believe that 1 Timothy 4:12 could be a reality!

I loved being in youth ministry, & I still do! So why am I pastoring all of you now, rather than just being the pastor to your children & grandchildren?

I had 3-5 hrs. a week of in-person contact with the teens of this church, but **that was a fraction of the time that other influencing factors had with them on a weekly basis!** To make a stronger/lasting impact, more was needed!

One of the biggest reasons for me becoming the Lead Pastor here at BRC, was **the hope of being more effective in reaching our young people by pouring into the whole family, rather than just pouring into our youth!**

As the Lead Pastor, I could speak to moms/dads/grandmas/grandpas/older & younger siblings/the whole church family/friends/neighbors, etc. – I believed that if I could just get these relational touchpoints aligned, then the impact would increase significantly, & 1 Tim. 4:12 could be attainable!

But even that is naïve thinking, because how can I expect that the one hour that I get to spend with most of you on any given week, could provide what is needed for such instruction, accountability, & alignment to take place!

More is needed...much more! **1 sermon, 1 point of contact, from 1 person each week could never provide what is needed for true spiritual growth!**

Thankfully the Apostle Paul knew, & shared, a better way! He knew what it would take to plant, cultivate & harvest spiritual fruit in the lives of others!

He learned it while in prison, while traveling, while recognizing his own human limitations! He couldn't be everywhere, & everything, to everyone!

As significant/influential the Apostle Paul was, he was only one person who could only be in one place at one time! If he was here, he couldn't be there!

I too had to learn this same truth, as well as make sure that the people I led understood my limitations as well! **I couldn't always be there for them...**

I did try a different tactic, that actually worked for a few teenagers over the years. I found a way to help our teens fight temptation within relationships!

We talked about relationships a lot & the temptations that come w/ them! I couldn't always be present with them in moments of increased temptation, but maybe I didn't have to! A series of commercials with a trunk monkey!

Though this was effective for some, **there's still a better way – the village way!** You've heard it said, "It takes a village..." These words are so true!

The village approach requires all of us to play a significant part in the lives of one another! I often wonder what could be possible if every member of a church played the part they are called to - pastors/elders/deacons/moms/dads/women/men/children/the elderly/etc.? H.C. #55

My calling as the Lead Pastor of BRC is to proclaim the Truth of God, administer the sacraments, raise up leaders, & equip the saints for ministry!

Do each of you know your calling, the part you are to play in this village? We all are needed! We all have a responsibilities! **We all are ministers!**

The letter from Paul to Titus lays out the village initiative for the Church!

This is a letter written, **"for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began."**

If you are a part of God's family, you have a part to play. Listen for the words that speak to you, in your context, stage of life, and calling!

This is more than just a letter from Paul to Titus. These are God's words, and they speak to us today, leading us further into God redemptive plan!

I am going to read the whole letter, & I want to wrap up with a time of silence, allowing us time to process what God's Word has said, & what action steps we need to take to live into our part in the village (the Church)!

This book is not just words on a screen, but a personal letter in your hand!

A trunk monkey may have it's uses, but **let's not resort to a monkey with a shotgun, or a pastor with a Messiah complex, to be about the work God has called us to as the Church!** It takes a village... Let's be one!

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