



ESTABLISHING A CULTURE: Paul's Instruction to Titus



HONOUR:

Give respect, be ready to learn, live with gratitude

GENEROSITY:

Welcome, sacrifice, serve with excellence

ACCEPTANCE:

Demonstrate kindness, patience and forgiveness to all

AUTHENTICITY:

Shine with truth, integrity & purity

COURAGE:

He's a big God - have a go!

"It's one thing to define a culture – it's entirely another to establish it"

We would love your feedback on the culture – please email culture@kingsarms.org

Paul sent his young colleague Titus to Crete to establish in the churches there the culture he desired. His instruction gives great insight into creating culture in any setting – whether in smallgroups, workplaces, new businesses or whole churches.

1. Establishing a culture is a work In progress

“The danger with so clearly laying out our culture is that people will use it as a stick to beat us with!”

Titus 1:5 ‘This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order’

2. We must first start with leadership

Titus 1:5b ‘appoint elders in every town as I directed you’

Titus 2:7 Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, & sound speech that cannot be condemned

Leaders at every level must live the culture. They will typically set the high water mark for honour, generosity, acceptance, authenticity and courage.

“One of the major issues that the UK has to deal with is the issue of fatherlessness” Paul Manwaring

3. We must deal with rebelliousness!

Titus 1:10 'There are many rebellious people...ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach...Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith'

Some people will rebel against any change in culture either through brokenness, fear or sheer pride. Particularly if they are promoting their alternate culture to others it must be dealt with quickly – for their own sake and the sake of others!

But there is a warning for all of us. We will all be tempted to rebel!

*Heb. 3:7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not **harden your hearts** as in the rebellion.... But **exhort** one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."*

Exhort = summon, encourage, to implore

4. We must apply the culture to different groups

Titus 2:1-9 'older men, older women, young women, young men, workers and employers'

Who has God put within your sphere of influence that you can help train and develop in this culture?

5. We must root it in identity and not performance

Titus 3:3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

As we exhort and encourage one another we must appeal to identity not law!

Why? If you appeal to law you help develop a legalist – if you appeal to identity you help to develop a child of God.

Identity comes before behaviour!

6. We must not be afraid of repetition

Titus 3:1 'remind them', 3:8 'Stress these things'

7. And the end result must be cultural transformation

Titus 2:10 '..so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive.'

“Apostolic bases will always result in cultural transformation”

Paul Manwaring

“They may not love our God but they will love our values”