

In his short, powerful letter to his friend, Titus, the Apostle Paul uses the word good eight times. That is a lot of repetitive use. There are many synonyms for good. Paul uses them in his other writings. In these instructions to Titus, he instead focuses on the power of repetition.

Elders must learn to do what is good. Old men and old women need to know what is good. Young men and young women need to understand good. That pretty much covers everyone. We all need to know what is good. More than knowing, we all need to DO what is good.

“Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives.” Titus 3:14 Paul concludes his thoughts to Titus with that statement. If we have to learn to do good that means it is not our natural inclination. Doing good is a habit we must cultivate. An attitude we must consciously practice. That means doing good is not our first natural reaction.

It is easy to forget that Christian character is made. Good people just seem so naturally good. That is largely because we rarely know the stories that forged their character. We do not know what they have learned about doing good. We just see the results. Paul addresses that in this letter too. He talks about teaching each other. Titus 1:9, 2:1-10 and other places in this book.

To teach we must have relationships. To grow as Christians we need one another. Alone we do not have complete access to knowing what is good and doing what is good. That concluding statement in Titus 3:14 uses plural words our, people, and themselves.

Christians need to learn. Christians need each other. We need to devote ourselves to what is good and not let worldly things divide us. So that we can live productive lives for God.

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