November 1, 2026

Community Group Sermon Notes

The Truth That Holds a Church Together – Pastor Kevin Flannery

Series: *Guard the Gospel & Adorn the Truth: The Pastoral Epistles*

Ice Breaker

Think about someone who has earned your trust over the years—a teacher, coach, pastor, friend, or family member.

- What qualities made that person trustworthy?
- Have you ever discovered that something or someone you trusted wasn't quite what they appeared to be? What did that experience teach you?

In today's sermon, Pastor Kevin reminded us that appearances can be convincing, but genuine trustworthiness is revealed through character, truth, and actions.

Read & Reflect on the Scripture Passage – *Titus 1:5-16*

Read the passage aloud together. As you listen, consider the big idea: God guards His church through leaders who embody His truth, faithfully teach it, and protect His people from what corrupts it.

Sermon Application Discussion

1. **Character Matters** – Titus 1:5–8

Paul emphasizes that spiritual leaders must demonstrate Christlike character, not simply knowledge, charisma, or leadership abilities.

- Which character qualities stand out to you in this passage, and why?
- Pastor Kevin asked, "Would the people who know me best recognize the character of Christ in the way I treat them?" How would you answer that question?

2. **Holding Firmly to God's Truth** – Titus 1:9

Paul teaches that faithful spiritual leaders must both encourage others through sound doctrine and correct those who oppose it.

- Why are both encouragement and correction necessary for spiritual growth?
- How can we cultivate a Community Group where we faithfully study Scripture, encourage one another, and speak the truth in love? (Ephesians 4:15)

3. **Discerning Trustworthy Voices** – Titus 1:10–11

Pastor Kevin reminded us that spiritual deception can sound convincing, even using familiar Christian language, while quietly moving our confidence away from Christ and His Word.

- With so many spiritual influences from sermons, books, podcasts, and social media, how do you discern which voices deserve your trust?
- What can we learn from the Bereans, who examined the Scriptures to evaluate what they heard? (Acts 17:11)

4. **Receiving Correction with Humility** – Titus 1:12–14
Paul explains that the purpose of biblical correction is to restore people to spiritual health, not to humiliate or condemn them.

- Why is receiving correction sometimes difficult, even when it comes from someone who genuinely loves us?
- How might remembering God's grace help us receive correction with humility and extend that same grace when correcting others? (Galatians 6:1–2)

5. **Living What We Believe** – Titus 1:15–16
Paul challenges those who claim to know God but deny Him through their actions. Pastor Kevin reminded us that the gospel we believe should increasingly shape the lives we live.

- Where might our actions contradict what we profess to believe—for example, speaking about grace while withholding forgiveness, or valuing humility while always needing to be right?
- Read Titus 2:14 and Titus 3:5. How does understanding that Christ's grace both saves and transforms us encourage honest repentance and genuine spiritual growth?

Going Deeper

Use these questions for personal reflection during the week.

1. **Examine Your Influences:** Whose voices are shaping your understanding of God and His Word? Are you consistently measuring what you hear against Scripture?
2. **Consider Your Character:** Is there an area of your private life, relationships, or attitudes where your actions do not consistently reflect the truth you profess?
3. **Welcome God's Refining Work:** When was the last time you received correction with humility? Is there something God is revealing through His Word that you need to acknowledge and address?
4. **Rest in Christ's Grace:** Titus 2:14 reminds us that Jesus gave Himself to redeem and purify His people. How does knowing that Christ both forgives and transforms us give you hope for continued spiritual growth?

Closing Prayer

Spend time praying together, thanking God for His faithful care of the church and the trustworthy truth of His Word. Thank Jesus, our faithful Shepherd, who never distorts the truth, never exploits His people, and gave His life to redeem and purify us.

Faith in Action

Encourage a Leader: Reach out to a pastor, elder, Community Group leader, or spiritual mentor. Thank them for their faithful leadership and let them know you are praying for them.

Discipleship Process

LOVE GOD – Gather regularly for Sunday worship.
LOVE OTHERS – Community Groups: Week 8 of 12.
SERVE THE WORLD – Put your faith into practice by serving others with integrity, compassion, humility, and the transforming love of Jesus.

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