

UNIFIED PASSION IS INCREDIBLY POWERFUL.

Titus 2:11-15

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. ¹⁵ Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines passion as:

- strong feeling of enthusiasm or excitement for something or about doing something.
- strong feeling (such as anger) that causes you to act in a dangerous way.
- strong sexual or romantic feeling for someone.

We often use the word 'passion' as a synonym for 'energy' or 'energized.' To say someone is passionate is largely positive. To say a person lacks passion is usually not a compliment. So we could say that we use 'passion' in mostly a good sense. We love passionate people! Yet in the Bible, the word 'passion' is often associated with following our negative desires:

Colossians 3:5-6

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, ⁵ not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God.

So what is the clearest use of passion? By passion we often express what the Bible describes as zeal, which is one who is earnestly committed to a side or cause, enthusiast, adherent, loyalist (Titus 2:14). So we should be passionate, but our passion/zeal must be grounded on truth because passion/zeal does not replace truth.

Steps to unity of passion and truth:

- Unified belief that salvation is through Jesus Christ **alone** – 2:11
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.
 - 'bringing salvation' does not mean the automatic application of salvation but rather the availability of salvation to those who receive it.

- Unified system of **value**: Jesus Christ redefines **gain** and **loss** – 2:12-14
training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

What characterizes this system of value?

- **Renouncing** worldly passions is a gain – 2:12
training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.
- Living for a **hope** that supersedes all human military, political, and economic power is a gain – 2:13-14a
waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness...
- Being overcome with true passion (zeal) for **good works** is a gain – 2:14b
and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.
- Speaking for **unpopular** truth is a gain – 2:15
Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.