



## We Will Never Forget [Titus 3:1-11]

### LIVE with humility and grace [1-7]

- [1] Submit to Authority [1a]
- [2] Be Eager to Serve [1b]
- [3] Use your Words to Encourage [2a]
- [4] Be Gentle and Gracious [2b]
- [5] Remember . . . [3-7]

### LOVE generously → good works [8]

### LEAD with focus [9-11]

- [1] Problem - divisive people [9,11]
- [2] Responsibility - warning [10a]
- [3] Outcome - broken relationship [10b]

### Discussion Questions

1. Read Titus 3:1-3. Time to be honest! Does the way you live your life look like the first list [1-2] or the second [3] on a daily basis? What areas on the list are you having success and what areas do you need to work on?
2. Read Titus 3:4-7. Don't miss the presence of the Trinity in these verses! What words does Paul use to describe the participation of the Trinity in our salvation experience?
3. Read Titus 3:9-11. What are our responsibilities as a church when we encounter a divisive person who is engaging in the 3 distractions that can destroy a church?
4. Pray for God to give us the wisdom and strength to lead and be led well in his church with humility and grace, loving generous hearts, and a laser focus on the mission as we serve side-by-side.

**Titus 3:1-7** Remind them . . .

- [1] to be submissive to rulers and authorities,
- [2] to be obedient,
- [3] to be ready for every good work,
- [4]<sup>2</sup> to speak evil of no one, [blasphemy - curse, slander]
- [5] to avoid quarreling, [amachos - peaceable - non-fighter]
- [6] to be gentle, [epiekeh - live w/ dignity & reasonableness]
- [7] and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. [grace!]

<sup>3</sup> For we ourselves were once [what we used to be]

- [1] foolish, [instead sensible]
- [2] disobedient, [instead subject to rulers]
- [3] led astray, [instead prepared for good deeds]
- [4] slaves to various passions and [instead free]
- [5] pleasures, [instead self-disciplined]
- [6] passing our days in malice [instead peaceable]
- [7] and envy, [instead considerate]
- [8] hated by others [instead loving others]
- [9] and hating one another. [instead loving each other]

<sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God [The Father] our Savior appeared [The Son], <sup>5</sup> 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, [The Spirit] <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**Titus 3:8** The saying is trustworthy [gospel in a nutshell], and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

**Titus 3:9-11** But avoid [three deadly theological distractions]

- [1] foolish controversies,
- [2] genealogies, [speculation]
- [3] dissensions and quarrels about the law, [The Why?] for they are unprofitable and worthless. [moros - moronic]

<sup>10</sup> As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him,

- <sup>11</sup> knowing that such a person is
- [1] warped [ekstrephō - turned inside out]
- [2] and sinful;
- [3] he is self-condemned. [hairetikos - heretic]

### LIVE with character [1-7]

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**Titus 3:1-7** Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, <sup>2</sup> to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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[1-3] "So far Paul has been concerned with the internal arrangements of the Cretan churches and the duties of their members to one another. Now he comments briefly on their relationship to the civil power and their pagan environment generally. The point he makes is that they should be models of good citizenship precisely because the new, supernatural life of the Spirit bestowed by [Spirit] baptism finds expression in such an attitude." [Kelly, Comm. on the Pastoral Epistles]

[1-2] Why? "Jews living outside Israel formed tight-knit communities, reluctantly submitting to local laws and authorities, and treating local culture with thinly veiled disdain. Rather than elevate God in the minds of pagan cultures, and instead of winning respect and admiration as His covenant people, Jews provoked hatred." "Christianity, at that time considered a sect of Judaism, risked perpetuating the same counterproductive tension." [Swindoll, Commentary on the Pastoral Epistles]

[2] "The Christian must not adopt the arts of the agitator." [Hiebert]

[3-4] "First-century pagans would have affirmed the grace-oriented behavior he described, but not for reasons Paul would affirm. Greeks, and Romans especially, saw kind and gentle behavior as a means to selfish ends: social advancement and self-righteousness. Quite the opposite, Christians extend grace because nothing separates them from their pagan overlords and lost neighbors except the grace of God." [Swindoll, Commentary on the Pastoral Epistles]

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[4-7] “Experts in Greek literature state that verses 4 through 7 form one long sentence, arranged in stanzas like poetry.” [Swindoll] [5] “If “regeneration” is the gift of a new nature, then “renewing by the Holy Spirit” helps us grow into that new nature. Regeneration occurs once at the moment of belief; renewing occurs progressively over time. Paul doesn’t focus on our participation in that process, choosing instead to highlight God’s grace in the person of the Holy Spirit. People cannot renew themselves any more than they can regenerate themselves. It is all a work of God.” Note the reference to the work that all three members of the Trinity accomplished in our salvation in these verses. [Constable’s Notes, Titus]

“Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of - throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself.”

— C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

## **LOVE** generously [8]

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[8] The trustworthy statement [1 Tim. 1:15; 3:1; 4:9; 2 Tim. 2:11] that Paul referred to is probably what he had just written in verses 4-7. The first reference to "these things" in this verse are to the things that he had just described in those verses. Titus was to speak about these great truths confidently [cf. 2:15]. [Constable]

Unless God begins to move in my heart - and my wallet, my schedule and my to do list - I'll never receive His best for me." - Chip Ingram [*Genius of Generosity*, p. 58]

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[9] Genealogies [Titus 3:9], referred to here and in 1 Timothy 1:4, seem to have figured quite prominently in the doctrine of the false teachers who were at that time infesting the churches of Crete and Ephesus.

[a] They may have based their claims on Davidic ancestry and kinship to Jesus, with inside information on the Gospel.

[b] Or their strange doctrines may have been grounded on obtuse interpretations of passages in the genealogies, such as those in 1 Chronicles 1-9.

[Hailey's Bible Handbook]

[11] sinful. "Paul uses the present tense of the verb "to sin," declaring the person to be in a continual pattern of wrongdoing. The person is sinning & he or she knows it." [Swindoll]

[We must have] the ability to distinguish issues that truly matter from ones that do not. We do not want to be flexible about moral and theological convictions [the great doctrines of the church]. But it is also wrong to be brittle about issues that are not foundational to our faith. - Begg [*Made for His Pleasure*]

The cause of sin is never so much helped as when Christians waste their strength in quarreling with one another, and spend their time in petty squabbles. [J.C. Ryle]