

# DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE

## EXCEL IN GOOD WORKS

Today's Passage: Titus 3:1-15

For the week of May 12th

### MAIN POINT

We should reflect a growing understanding of God's grace through a growing desire to do good.

### COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

*Use these questions to learn more about others in your Life Group.*

**If you were to look back at your different clothing styles through the years, would anything make you at least a little bit embarrassed? Why?**

**If so, what were you thinking when you chose to dress like that?**

**What about now? How has your perspective on clothing changed?**

Our clothes change depending on the age and stage of life and culture we find ourselves in. Most of the time, what we wear on the outside reflects the way we think of ourselves on the inside. The same is true spiritually. As we understand the great grace of God to a greater degree on the inside, we should reflect that with an ever increasing desire to do good on the outside.

SCAN HERE FOR ADDITIONAL  
COMMENTARY ON TODAY'S LESSON



## GROW TOGETHER

Read Titus 3:1-3 (ESV).

**3:1** *“Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. 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.”*

**Why do you think Paul needed to remind the believers in Crete to obey their rulers and authorities?**

**If as believers, our citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20), why should we submit to human government? How did Jesus demonstrate this submission?**

**Does that mean you have to agree with human government about every issue? If not, what does it mean?**

**Was Paul saying that only believers are kind and considerate? Was he saying that being kind and considerate is what makes us Christians? Why or why not?**

**How could remembering what your life was like before you knew Christ make you more kind and compassionate toward people of unattractive conduct and character?**

The two qualities of kindness and gentleness (v. 2) that believers are to demonstrate were modeled for us by Christ Himself (2 Cor. 10:1). These qualities describe our attitude and conduct toward others. We are not to consider ourselves better than others or to insist on our way. The reason for our humility is that we remember but for God's grace, we were once foolish, disobedient, and selfish.

**Read Titus 3:4-8 (ESV).**

**3:4** *"But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior 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 Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 8 The saying is trustworthy, 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."*

**How do these verses help us understand why the gospel message is such good news?**

**How do these verses continue Paul's explanation from verses 1-3 on why believers ought to be kind and gentle to all people?**

**How do these verses put a stop to any attempt we might have to take credit either for our salvation or for our good character?**

**According to verse 8, what is the connection between our salvation and our good works?**

It's easy over time to take our salvation for granted. It is good to periodically remember and reflect on God's salvation and its benefits. When we reflect on the love and goodness God has shown us, it should move us to show that same love and goodness to others.

**Read Titus 3:9-11 (ESV).**

**3:9** *"But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. 10 As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned."*

**How did Paul advise Titus to deal with unprofitable debates, quarrels, and divisive people?**

**How far should we go in rejecting a divisive person? How might we demonstrate kindness and gentleness even in such a rejection?**

Rejection may seem harsh, but when people insist on pushing their unprofitable side issues, they divide and distract us from the church's true mission. As God's redeemed people we must focus on telling the good news and on doing good works.

**Read Titus 3:12-15 (ESV).**

**3:12** *"When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. 13 Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. 14 And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.*

**15** *All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith."*

**How do these verses demonstrate the priority that Paul put on relationships?**

**Who has been an example or model to you of someone devoted to doing good works?**

Being devoted to good works means being aware of other believers and their needs. We should be quick to help when others need assistance. This includes providing support and hospitality for missionaries and Christian workers as we have opportunity.

## **MAKE AN IMPACT**

*Discover how you can apply today's lesson to your life so you can impact the world.*

**In what situations do you find it difficult to submit to authority, whether to government officials or at work? What will you do to heed the command in verse 1 to submit?**

**Which of the commands in verses 1-2 have been most challenging for you? What could you do this week to be kind and gentle, even when you don't feel kind and gentle?**

**What opportunities are you aware of today to do good works by practicing Christian hospitality? How will you respond to these needs?**