

From Chaos to Christ-like

Relevant Review

Main Characters

Paul

- First Missionary to the Gentiles
- Leads a strong group of disciples

Titus

One of those strong disciples
Paul's Problem-solver

Paul writes to Titus:

- Paul leaves the work on Crete to Titus to finish up
- To give specific instructions for the completion of planting sustainable churches with viable leadership
- To give expressed authority with responsibility

Paul's Mission

Paul is not:

- Concerned with Social _____
- Concerned with Social Status

Paul is concerned:

- with _____ within the culture
- that Christians live example lives that makes teaching Jesus easy

You Are Not Alone

Titus 3:12-15

¹²As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there. ¹³Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need. ¹⁴Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives. ¹⁵Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

An Uncompromising Standard

Titus 2:15-3:2

¹⁵These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

¹Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, ²to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.

Obey the Law

- Christianity should be seen culturally as a place full of _____ people (Titus 2:10)
- The Gentile culture abhors subversive religions
- Paul is about changing people, not culture

Do Whatever is Good

Translating the Greek . . .

- Could mean "everyone should have a respectable job"
- More than likely mean, "it isn't enough to know what to do, we must be people who are willing to also do it."

Careful in Speech

Slander No One

- Not here for the _____ definition "it ain't slander if I can prove it!"
- It is about choosing your words wisely

Tolerant

Be Peaceable

- Don't be aggressive
- Allows other _____ convictions
- Doesn't mean Christians should be weak pushovers
- "Meek" means to be strong enough to not always have to use it.

An Act of Kindness

Be Considerate

- "indulgent consideration of human infirmities"
- Be a person that is ready to temper _____ with mercy.

Gentleness

Humility toward all men

- Be someone whose temper is always under control
- Withstands personal attacks
- Defends those in need

You were defending what attitude?

Titus 3:3-8

³At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. ⁸This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

So, where does humility come from?

- You were evil and _____
- You were full of broken relationships
- You were rescued by no strength of your own
- You are changed, but God's _____ in you gets the credit

Greek Philosophers

Foolish controversies were the favorite pastime of Greek pinheads:

- "So, can God create a feather so heavy that He can't lift it?"
- "Can God microwave a burrito so hot that he can't eat it?"

Genealogies

Rabbis would pass the time by creating elaborate family structures for Bible characters.

- "So, Abraham's great aunt on his mother's side was a famous gun-runner for Medes."

Against the Sabbath?

Many teachers would parse the laws of Moses into oblivion:

- How far can you walk on the Sabbath without it becoming _____?
- Flip flops and loafers are more Sabbath friendly since tying shoelaces can be considered work, depending on your flexibility.

So, how do we create unity of purpose?

Titus 3:9-11

⁹But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. ¹⁰Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. ¹¹You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

Matthew 18:15-17

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector."

What's the Difference?

- Jesus is talking about intra-personal issues of conflict management or personal sin
- Paul is talking about people that purposefully _____ the organization of the church.

A Divisive Person

- Not simply someone with divergent opinions
- In the Greek, this is someone who has already decided that he/she is right and everyone else is _____.

Purpose?

- Titus is not to allow people who argue for the sake of arguing, spend their time on stuff that doesn't matter and make mountains out of molehills to hijack a church by force of personality.
- Church should be a place where the authority of Biblical mentoring should rule the day.

Be People of Action

• **KEY:** Justice, integrity, honest, legal, their own, justice, stupid, power, work, hijack, wrong