



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 14 How not to be Ignored
By Pastor Jody May 07/31/2022

Titus 3:8-11 ESV

⁸The 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. ⁹But **avoid** foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are **unprofitable** and **worthless**. ¹⁰As 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.

[REVIEW]

For the past 3 weeks we have been discussing what do the good works look like that the Cretans will be exhibiting? From being obedient to the governmental authorities (Mike), to being courteous to others remembering how you were once far from God (Glenn) and remembering this meekness (strength in humility) comes from a heart of gratitude in understanding that love has been poured out to you in the forms of Mercy and Grace (Onan). Obedience, Courtesy, and Gratitude what do you do with those three things?

Let me state for you one more time the theme of Titus because it explains **what you do** once you are changed, again from chapter 2:

¹¹For 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... a people for his own possession who are zealous for **good works**.

¹⁵Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. **Let no one disregard you**.

The Gospel **SAVES, TRAINS,** and **FUELS** us to **LIVE** on the Great Commission!



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When the gospel has saved, trained and fueled you up for works prepared before time (Eph 2:10) it makes our lives holy, zealous to do good works, the work is found in **2:15** – *Declare these things (why u are obedient and courteous and grateful- all good news); exhort and rebuke with all authority (not your own but the authority of Christ), and let no one disregard you (you live loud enough that no one can ignore you).*

[CHALLENGE]

Ladies and gentlemen here is the unspoken but very clear command of Titus, **you MUST tell others about Jesus.**

I know that sounds strange to say at a church gathering, that you actually have to tell people about the Lord, but it does need to be said.

Your first priority, when you get up in the morning is not to get ready for work but is to be right with God.

Your first meal while it may be breakfast is only in secondary importance to God's Word.

Your first words to your earthly family should only come after speaking first to your Heavenly Father.

In all ways we are to acknowledge Him (Prov 3:6), **because when you go to work, school, or play your number one priority is to glorify Christ**, and that may mean you may actually have to talk about Him. It may also mean that you may have to steer clear of people because of their stance with God. Either way God comes into all our decision making constantly because the only reason you:

Woke up was to make much of Him.

You ate food was to fuel your body for His service.

And you went somewhere to spend your day was to be able to influence this world with the good news of God.

You MUST tell others about Jesus.

The world says find something that identifies you, that makes much of your talent, that gives you a sense of self-worth, the Gospel says throw all those self-righteous works away and live for Him.



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God's Word identifies you as a joint heir (Rom 8:17), says use your gifts and talents to point to God (1 Pet 4:10), and discover your worth in being His child (Psalm 139:13-16). The Gospel is totally cross cultural and offers this outlandish claim that one can't find happiness in oneself or in this world but only in living for God alone. That type of living forces the world to notice you and say, "Hold up explain yourself!"

The Christian life, shared communal living, is taking the Gospel into the world on a mission as a church, because you are to let **NO ONE DISREGARD (v.15)** you...

[MAIN POINT]

4368 περιφρονέω (*periphronēō*): vb.; ≡ Str 4065; TDNT 3.663—LN 76.25 **disregard**, despise, look down on (Tit 2:15+)¹ - **How not to be ignored, when the call to Christian life is to stand out!** So in our sermon today they are all application points on how are we to live in such a way as to not to be ignored - **(Avoid arguments, Ascertain actions, Accept the truth)**

1. **Avoid** unprofitable and worthless arguments.

⁸The 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.

To **insist** means to in the original language **to state with confidence**. We are to insist in our comings and goings confidently so that those in this room **those that have believed**, in other churches, those that are trying to pursue God, may devote themselves in like manner. A healthy church is a church where the people in it tell each other how they are being changed by Christ's good work, a healthy church member tells the world it is because of Christ when they ask why you are different (Charlee).

¹ Swanson, J. (1997). [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#) (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.



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v. 8 tells you how we the individuals in the modern everyday church are to carry out the **Great Commission**. It explains this understood theme here again in Titus – **you are to tell others about Jesus...**

⁹ But **avoid** foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are **unprofitable** and **worthless**.

While we are **INSISTING**, sharing the Gospel, we are to **AVOID** arguments/clashes that are unprofitable and worthless. The things being argued (by the religious) that do not add to the strength of the message of the Gospel. The assumption is **you avoid as you are sharing**. First, who are these people making foolish arguments in Titus?

Titus 1:10-11 ESV

¹⁰ For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the **circumcision party**. ¹¹ They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.

They are people who are **insisting** on trying to **tie** into **Christianity** something **extra to the gospel**. In this case it is the law, they were Jews. I hate to assign motive to anything, but I can imagine people who were not like Cretans, were trying to add into a system of social hierarchy, since they were so opposite of Cretans, to give them a sense of control (a worldview they could navigate), this is important to understand and here's why.

In our day, many modern churches want to ignore the law though and replace it with ideas (a new law) of **Wokism** (that means being awake to the ideas of power structures and their dynamics discriminating on the bases of race and sexual identities).

The churches that are seeking to do this label it as the **new law** in which says it is ok to break the old law (you can lie, steal, and slander in the name of wokism), and supersede, replace, and remove by effect the imputed righteousness of Christ that was a gift of God (meaning it was not theirs to take or taint). The appeal is the same. Seek to change ideas, deconstruct



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theological vocabulary, and rewrite theology to gain a sense of control. **(Rick Warren / Ed Litton Example)**

What's the issue:

Romans 13:9 ESV

⁹For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **(the commandments are not negated but fulfilled IN loving people)**

The issue is, whether it is the vestiges of 1st century Judaism or 21st century Wokism, they are both **not based on love of neighbor** but in love of oneself! Both ideas hide under the guise of loving one another but what they are really good at is **condemning the neighbor** to make themselves **look good**. Listen again to Paul's words from our readings yesterday

Romans 16:17-18 ESV

Final Instructions and Greetings

¹⁷I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause **divisions** and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; **avoid them**. ¹⁸For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.

This leads us to this **practical implication**. While you are living your life **insisting** that you have been changed by the Grace of Christ alone, you will run into those of an alternate gospel. When you do, **Paul says to avoid** them, why?

Because man's ideas of self-imposed righteousness always sound good to the individual. The young, the uneducated, the poorly educated, those that lack wisdom, they are naïve (unsuspecting), and they can be lead astray. They are being led astray, and now we have churches adding to the confusion



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because they are replacing right doctrine with the doctrine of Centrist Humanism called Wokism (2 Tim 4:3-4 – *tickling of the ears*).

We now live in a time where it is **more important** to be a part of a church that teaches rightly the Word of God rather than having all the things that makes one feel comfortable, rather than having a clique you can identify with, or where all the people look like you. It is **time to avoid unprofitable and worthless arguments over false ideologies**. The American church has become Naïve/unsuspecting of the desires of our world, and the world's desires is to silent the bride of Christ.

We will not be silent church but there is a choice we must make, there is an action we must choose as we adhere to Paul's warning.

2. Ascertain how you will deal with the divisive.

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

Let's first discuss how this model for church discipline follows a model already laid out: This verse follows the same model of church discipline that the church has been using since its' birth:

Matthew 18:15-20 ESV

¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Jesus taught this using the OT law as a good measure and guide, as the law is not something that needs to be replaced with modern thinking or pragmatism.

Deuteronomy 19:15 ESV



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A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.

What Jesus does is he adds this extra measure to go twice and take someone along. Now the difference here in Titus is to the nature of the request and the conclusion of the direction.

Paul says when you have someone that is teaching an alternate gospel, and that you have done your due diligence, you have gone twice, you have witnesses, then be done with them. You are to have nothing to do with them.

That seems harsh, doesn't it?

In my travels this past year when I would take Avery to wrestling over in Marietta there was a church on the way and it had a sign that said "All are Welcome", and I am not kidding about this, but it stated every form of progressive human being possible. If you were LGBTQ, if you were any color, if you were pro-choice, if you were pro-feminist, if you were pro-vaccine, if you were a Trump hater, if you were a cat lover all are welcomed here! 😊 Churches like these make it a show to say we accept all, and all beliefs are welcomed here. They claim the Gospel is freedom and that God accepts all people equally (yet I wonder would they really accept someone like me).

Yes, the Gospel accepts all equally - as sinners!

The Gospel heals all the same way - by pouring out wrath on the Son.

The Gospel sanctifies all the same - by transforming us into Jesus' image.

And this transformation shows a life of someone that is not identified by their earthly desires/likes/tribes but by a person that has surrendered their wants for God's glory.

The reality is that the Gospel is too important not to get rid of the divisive person.

1 Corinthians 5:11-13 ESV



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¹¹But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one. ¹²For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Is it not those inside the church whom you are to judge? ¹³God judges those outside. **“Purge the evil person from among you.”**

The reality is not removing the divisive is: it is disloyal to Jesus, blasphemous of the HS, ungrateful to the Father, and unloving to the divisive person not to purge them.

Without a purging, **without discipline you see there is no restoration.** If you are not diligent with the divisive you may be a part of condemning them to an eternity in hell.

[CHALLENGE]

Corporately, I challenge the current elders and the elders in training to start thinking about how they are loving the people of HCC. Will we be brave enough to confront the divisive individual for the health of this body and the salvation that person’s soul, or is it too uncomfortable for us?

Church, let us all do a little better today when we leave with dealing with a divisive person. Let’s not ignore a person in need of discipline for that person needs love and the love of Christ is unconditional. And as we have been loved first without a repentant heart let us love people well by adequately deciding what can we do for them, let us be decisive on their behalf, lets’ stop chirking responsibility, let’s us be willing to confront in love...

And if we are all still having a little problem with that look here to point three.

3. Accept they are depraved still but don’t accept a negative conclusion.

¹¹knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

Friends the reality is we have to accept that the divisive person, the one that disagrees and argues about extra or deceptive beliefs, is they are warped and



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sinful. They may even seem like a Christian, but the truth is they are unregenerated, unconverted, and unrepentant. Their actions condemn themselves.

Some of us have loved ones that we don't want to accept that about, and we make it way too easy for them to live around us without them ever knowing the truth about God and the need for redemption, a savior, to be saved.

As a young man I challenged my father on false beliefs and saw him come to Christ before he died. I challenged my brother constantly and saw him cry out to God before he passed as well. I challenged my sister, and we haven't talked in years. I still pray for her, and I still hope for a reunion but that is not the focus of my life. I would rather live without her now to see her in heaven than to live with her now never to see her in eternity, BUT I will not accept a negative conclusion.

James 5:19-20 ESV

¹⁹ My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰ let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

We all have to get over this fear that we may lose someone if we **insist** with them about the Gospel in our lives. Blessed is the man who continues to pursue the lost according to James 5 for all sin, even heretical sin can be forgiven. You and I though must be ready to give a clear judgment and let them know they are not right with God.

Jesus did not say to stop caring or interceding he said to treat them as a Gentile or tax collector, as a lost person but all with a Spirit of gentleness (Gal 6).

Are we worried more about people's feelings than being worried about their eternal states?

[CHALLENGE/APPLICATION]



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I **challenge the people here at HCC** for there is probably someone in your life that you know that needs to have that second conversation with you, and you are perhaps ready to bring a witness even, but you are afraid of the results.

You need to know that you may be delaying restoration in that person's life the longer you wait

You also need to understand you may be delaying a better relationship with that person by holding back truth.

Today:

Start praying about how you will share your testimony with them.

Insist on the things in your life that are different because of the Gospel.

Make it a point to start having some difficult conversations so that you can determine how you are to live with them.

Do you treat them as a naïve Christian or as the lost? Leave here today with a plan today on how you will be sure focusing on their eternal condition.

I also want to **challenge my youth**, this year in school are you going to sit by and watch a friend get in trouble or will you decide to say something?

If you want to be a good church member in the future then start practicing loving your friends now and let them know you care by having an opinion on how they make choices.

That means you will have to tell peers how the Gospel is changing you, this is the command for you as well in Titus, you are to insist to others why you are different from them.

Are you ready to look different from your friends for the sake of Christ? Let the focus of your year not be about building your own personal brand or rep, let it be about building the reputation of Christ.

HCC this school year we will have many opportunities to share the Gospel, insist on these things, give a good reason why you are a good citizen, why you are courteous, and why you are grateful.

Be prepared to confront the divisive person in love.

Be ready to decide how to love them well and share the truth.

AND Be the church this year that accepts the responsibility of bearing the name of Christ well in obedience to the scripture.



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[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that insists that we share what HE has done for us through His only begotten Son.

Go in the name of the Son, that insists you Love God with everything you have and love your neighbor as yourself.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that will insist you share the goodness by lovingly convicting your heart.