

Session 4: Leaving Life and Headed Home: Saved in Order to Do Good!

Name some public duties/responsibilities for all Christian citizens!

Titus 3:1-2, “Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, ² to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.”

Six qualifications (biblically) for good citizens:

1. **Law-abiding** – Unless laws are kept, life becomes chaos.
They give proper respect for those who are in authority.
2. **Active in service** – Good citizens are ready for every work...as long as it is good.
 - *A modern characteristic disease is “boredom. Boredom is a direct result of selfishness.
As long as people live on the principle of “why should I do it? Let someone else do it”, they are bound to be bored.*
 - *The interest of life lies in service*

3. Careful in speech

- *Must slander no one. “We should never say about other people what we would not like them to say about us.”*
- *(Careful) of words they speak as they are about actions.*

Two things you can’t take back without lingering repercussions...words said and actions done.

4. **Peaceable (not a fighter)** – Not aggressive or prone to react before reaching out for compromise.
 - *This does not mean that we are to not stand up for principles which we believe to be right.*
 - *We should never be so opinionated that we will not listen to others.*
 - *We should always listen to the Holy Spirit’s prompting. If others’ opinions contradict Scriptural authority, then we should walk away in a peaceful manner.*
 - *We are not to be anxious for conflict.*
5. **Kind** – Goes back to the previous characteristic of a good citizen (walks away in a peaceful manner...not yielding to conflict).
Respectful and uplifting even in the face of conflict of opinion.

6. **Gentle** – a person whose temper is always under complete control.
- *Such people know when to be angry and when not to be angry.*
 - *They patiently bear wrongs done to them...but are always ready to spring into action in helping others who are wronged.*

NOTE: THE QUALITIES ABOVE ARE POSSIBLE ONLY FOR THOSE IN WHOSE HEARTS CHRIST REIGNS SUPREME.

Titus 3:3-7, “At 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. ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he 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, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”

The Dynamic of the Christian Life is Twofold:

1. **Comes from the realization that converts to Christianity were once no better than their non-Christian neighbors.**
 - *Christian goodness (a changed life) does not make people proud; it makes them supremely grateful.*
 - *The realization that it if wasn't for the grace of God, we would be no better than the worst of infidels and the lowest of sinners.*
2. **Comes from the realization of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ.**
 - **Jesus Christ puts us into a new relationship with God.**
Instead of awe and fear of a Judge and Ruler who demanded loyalty...Jesus showed a God whose hands were stretched out in love; still requiring obedience, but understanding enough to never give up on bringing them home.
 - **The love and grace of God are gifts which no one could ever earn; they can only be accepted in perfect trust and in awakened love.**
Two words: Rebirth...Renewal

Both are performed by the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - **We are heirs of mercy and grace...for eternity.**
 - **The hope of even greater things...**

The changed life in Jesus Christ will yield a “knowing” that...no matter how wonderful life on earth with Christ may be, the life to come will be greater still.

Titus 3:8-11, “This 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. ⁹ But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. ¹⁰ Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. ¹¹ You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.”

The Necessity of Action and the Danger of Useless Discussions

1) The Christian is to quicken his mind in order to make a plan of action to exhort and appeal to others the better and more perfect way through Jesus Christ.

- We must practice doing good
- We must practice shunning evil.
- We must produce good deeds in order to win others.

2) The Christian should have nothing to do with those who talk foolish and plan foolish things.

- It is our job to walk away and to avoid those who do not follow Christian principles...and who will not listen to godly advice.
- We are to warn such perpetrators of God’s word and give them over to their wickedness (they are self-condemned sinners when they don’t repent).

Titus 3:12-15, “As 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. ¹³ Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need. ¹⁴ Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives. ¹⁵ Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

Personal Messages from Paul and his special greetings.

- **Paul tells Titus to help those who are helping to spread the Word of God.**

- *Paul's last piece of advice is that the Christian people should practice doing good deeds.*
- *God's people must learn to provide for themselves, not asking for handouts and living on the gifts of others.*
- *They are to live productive and honorable lives in front of others.*

Grace is to be with you all...

- *Remember it is by grace are we all saved; not of works or good deeds that we are doing.*
- *We do the works to prove to ourselves that we are genuinely His and desire bringing others in to the kingdom of God.*

If you don't get anything out of the lessons in Titus, remember this:

When the church has a problem, it is because the world is invading the church instead of the church invading the world.

- *The gospel is intended to be a disturbing element, to change society. Therefore, whenever the church is true to its authentic message, it is always against the status quo.*
- *The church is a revolutionary body -- it always has been -- and we can thus be very much in sympathy with some of the revolutionary movements of our own day.*
- *But, the difference is that the church challenges the status quo with the power of God, something that no other organization or group can do.*

What can the church do without the power of God?

The Power of God is found in his servants who seek His power and are willing to stand for Biblical truth!