



Ethical Integrity
Titus 3
August 31, 2014
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Titus Series: Healthy Church Principles

Review - A healthy church is composed of Jesus-followers:

- who are consistently growing in truth and godliness (1:1-3);
- who are led by spiritually mature, doctrinally sound leaders who model godly character (1:4-10);
- who value relational maturity and intergenerational ministry (2:1-10);
- who humbly acknowledge that every spiritual blessing and all biblical instructions are traced to God's saving grace (2:11-14);
- who are taught, motivated and empowered by God's grace for kingdom-building service ('good works' - 2:14; 3:1, 8, 14; cf. Ephesians 2:8-10)

How does a grace-influenced life relate to civil government?

Titus 3:1 – ***“Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work.”***

- 'submissive' - the right _____
- 'obedient' – the right _____
- 'ready for every good work' – the right _____

Romans 13:1-2a – ***“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed.....”***

- Submission acknowledges that civil authority is God- _____ and God- _____ (cf. Isaiah 40:21-24)
- Submission recognizes that civil authorities are _____ of God (Romans 13:4-5,6)

T or F? Government-bashing is a form of God's bashing.

- Submission is expressed with respectful _____ and _____ of taxes (Rom. 13:7).

I Peter 2:13-14,17 - ***“Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him.....honor the emperor”***

- Whether or not to submit is not a _____ issue, but an obedience issue.

I Timothy 2:1-2 – ***“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.”***

- Submission to the Lord and His purposes is expressed in _____ for all _____ and people.

How does a grace-influenced life relate to fellow citizens?

- Titus 3:2 – *“to speak evil of no one.....”*
- *“to avoid quarreling”*
- *“to be gentle” –*
- *“to show perfect courtesy toward all people” –*
- Why? Our _____ (3:3-8)

Titus 3:9-15 – Paul’s final instructions to Titus

- Principle: healthy churches are to shun _____ behavior while engaging in _____ ministry..

Conclusion: May our relationships with civil authority and fellow citizens honorably reflect God’s grace _____ and _____ us.

For Small Group Discussion

1. Share with your group something encouraging you’ve observed, learned or experienced within this past week.
2. From Titus 2:11-14 – summarize a “sound doctrine” of God’s grace and its relationship to “good works”.
3. How is the emphasis on “good works” (2:14) demonstrated in our relationship with government (3:1)?
4. What truths in Romans 13:1-7 support the concept of submission to civil authority?
5. How is submission expressed when election results disappoint us or when we disagree with those who lead us?
6. Who are the “all people” in v.2, and what should characterize our relationship with them? Is there someone in your life that needs this type of treatment from you?
7. What’s the connection between how we are to treat others and how God treated us (vv.3-8)
8. In light of verse 9-11, how should the church relate to divisive people? Why?
9. Read verse 14. What are you doing in obedience to this verse? What can you do? Will you?
10. Of all the healthy church principles we’ve seen in Titus, which one challenges you the most? Why? How will you address it and how can your small group help you?