

## Episode #3-52 Titus 3 Part 1: Our Gracious Motivation

I. The book of Titus is a personal letter of Paul to Titus, a leader among the believers on the island of Crete. He is instructed how to act as a leader, and also how to choose others as leaders over the believers in Crete. From these instructions, we learn much about how God wants His people to act in this dispensation of grace in which we live.

II. Titus has taught the leaders in Crete the behaviors they are to perform and that they are to model to others. Now in chapter 3, God through Paul gives him yet more things to teach. Yet God also speaks of what motivates the believer to do these things: the kindness, mercy, and love that God demonstrated toward us in our salvation.

III. Titus 3:1-2. More commands regarding behavior.

A. Titus 3:1. They are to be subject.

1. “Subject” is the Greek *hupotasso*, the same as in Titus 2:5 (wives to husbands) and 2:9 (slaves to masters), and means to arrange themselves under. Cretans were generally troublemaking, so they needed this reminder.
2. Rulers = *arche* (like arch-angel), which means first ones, that is, primary leaders. Authorities = *exousia*, meaning delegated authorities, that is, lower rulers like city leaders or police.
3. “Obey” is the Greek *peitharcho* = to be yielding. Of course, if those rulers ask us to disobey God, it is an exception, Acts 4:19-20.
4. They are to be ready to every good work. These are not the works that we choose, but that God chooses!

B. Titus 3:2. To speak evil of = *blasphemeo*. This is similar to the command to elder women regarding gossip (Titus 2:3). Peaceable = pacific. Gentle = fair, suitable, or mild. To show humility or submissiveness. Men = *anthropos*, meaning humans.

IV. Titus 3:3-7. Our past and what God did for us. Our attitude toward others should be motivated by a realistic outlook on ourselves.

A. Titus 3:3. Once = the Greek *pote*, meaning “at some time or other.” Foolish = without wisdom. Disobedient = impersuadable, and may refer to our response to the rulers of verse 1. Deceived = led astray. We were serving (as a slave) various desires and pleasures. Living in badness (malignity) and envy. Hateful and hating one another (or detestable and detesting one another) mutually. In other words, we were the opposite of what we should be!

B. Titus 3:4. What changed us.

1. God’s kindness (or goodness) changed us. Also His love toward man = Greek *philanthropia*, love (*philos*) of humanity (*anthropos*). God simply loves humanity.
2. These things appeared. The Greek is *epiphaino*, meaning these two “blazed forth.” This may have reference to the beginning of the dispensation of grace (Titus 2:11). Yet these also blazed forth to us personally, leading to our salvation.

V. Titus was to teach behavior, but also to teach what motivates that behavior: even when we were disobedient and ungodly, God’s kindness and love toward us blazed forth to us. These things motivate us to perform the good works that God has for us to perform. May we all walk worthy of all God has done for us “in Christ”!