

First Bilingual Baptist Church preached through the Epistle of Titus from September 2016 through February 2017. These sermons may be accessed at **fbbchurch.org**.

The following is the text of Titus (from the NET Bible) accompanied by some of the outlines, notes, and cross-references from the teaching series.

May God use it to remind us of the truths we have learned and conform us to the church He wants us to be!

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Author: Paul

His Position: a *slave*, owned by God, and a *messenger*, sent by Christ (see Acts 26:16-18)

His Purpose: *salvation* and *sanctification* (evangelism and edification)

His Perspective: He is part of God's *eternal plan* to grant *eternal life* to His elect

His Pattern: the *declaration* of the gospel

His Prayer: *grace* and *peace* needed for the ministry

Paul's main purpose in the letter is that Titus finish the work of establishing churches.

To get on the right track, a church needs qualified elders (see Acts 14:21-23).

The most important part of an elder's life is his character:

- Above reproach
- Devoted to his wife
- Leading his children
- Not prideful
- Not known for anger
- Self-controlled
- Not sinfully motivated
- Loving others
- Loving God

I From Paul, a slave of God and apostle of Jesus Christ, to further the faith of God's chosen ones and the knowledge of the truth that is in keeping with godliness, ²in hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before time began. ³But now in his own time he has made his message evident through the preaching I was entrusted with according to the command of God our Savior. ⁴To Titus, my genuine son in a common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior!

⁵The reason I left you in Crete was to set in order the remaining matters and to appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. ⁶An elder must be blameless, the husband of one wife, with faithful children who cannot be charged with dissipation or rebellion.

⁷For the overseer must be blameless as one entrusted with God's work, not arrogant, not prone to anger, not a drunkard, not violent, not greedy for gain. ⁸Instead he must be hospitable, devoted to what is good, sensible, upright, devout, and self-controlled.

⁹He must hold firmly to the faithful message as it has been taught, so that he will be able to give exhortation in such healthy teaching and correct those who speak against it.

¹⁰For there are many rebellious people, idle talkers, and deceivers, especially those with Jewish connections, ¹¹who must be silenced because they mislead whole families by teaching for dishonest gain what ought not to be taught. ¹²A certain one of them, in fact, one of their own prophets, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” ¹³Such testimony is true. For this reason rebuke them sharply that they may be healthy in the faith ¹⁴and not pay attention to Jewish myths and commands of people who reject the truth.

¹⁵All is pure to those who are pure. But to those who are corrupt and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their minds and consciences are corrupted. ¹⁶They profess to know God but with their deeds they deny him, since they are detestable, disobedient, and unfit for any good deed.

An elder is to be marked by:

- Devotion to the word
- Reception of the word
- Exhortation in the word
- Correction with the word

In Titus' case, the enemies are the Judaizers, who want to force all Christians to keep the Law of Moses.

The character of false teachers:

- Rebellion
- Deception
- Greed
- Indulgence
- Laziness

The content of false teaching:

- Legalism (making works necessary to gain or maintain salvation)
- Lawlessness (tolerating sin in yourself and others)

How to silence false teachers:

- Rebuke the teacher
- Shine the light (holiness)
- Guard the pulpit
- Teach the truth

Christians are pure in Christ. But unbelievers (no matter how “holy” they think they are) are unacceptable to God.

To grow in our faith, we need:

- Sound doctrine
- Healthy relationships

God designed the church so that older generations would be teachers and models for younger generations.

A righteous life is used...

1. To train others (v. 4)
2. To keep God's word from being discredited (v. 5)
3. To prevent slander from enemies (v. 8)

2 But as for you, communicate the behavior that goes with sound teaching. ²Older men are to be temperate, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in endurance. ³Older women likewise are to exhibit behavior fitting for those who are holy, not slandering, not slaves to excessive drinking, but teaching what is good. ⁴In this way they will train the younger women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵to be self-controlled, pure, fulfilling their duties at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the message of God may not be discredited.

⁶Encourage younger men likewise to be self-controlled, ⁷showing yourself to be an example of good works in every way. In your teaching show integrity, dignity, ⁸and a sound message that cannot be criticized, so that any opponent will be at a loss, because he has nothing evil to say about us.

⁹Slaves are to be subject to their own masters in everything, to do what is wanted and not talk back, ¹⁰not pilfering, but showing all good faith, in order to bring credit to the teaching of God our Savior in everything.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. ¹²It trains us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³as we wait for the happy fulfillment of our hope in the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

¹⁴He gave himself for us to set us free from every kind of lawlessness and to purify for himself a people who are truly his, who are eager to do good.

¹⁵So communicate these things with the sort of exhortation or rebuke that carries full authority. Don't let anyone look down on you.

4. To adorn the doctrine of God the Savior (v. 10)

Submission, respect, and integrity help people see the difference Christ makes.

The root of the Christian life is the grace of God, which appeared to us in Jesus Christ (see John 1:17).

What we have received:

1. A **saving** grace (v. 11)
John 3:16; 6:37; Rom 3:24-25; Eph 2:8; 2 Pet 3:9; 1 Jn 2:2
2. A **sanctifying** grace (v. 12)
Rom 1:18; Gal 2:20; Eph 4:22-24; Col 3:9-10; 1 Jn 3:9; Jude 1:15
3. A **sustaining** grace (v.13)
Isa 35:10; 1 Cor 15:58; Rev 21:4

What Jesus did for us (v. 14):

1. Redemption
2. Purification
3. Transformation

Understanding authority (v. 15):

- Our sinful nature rejects authority. *Rom 7:7-8; 2 Tim 4:3-4*
- All authority comes from God. *John 7:16-17; 8:26-28; Eph 2:20; 4:11-12; 1 Thes 4:8*
- A preacher's authority is limited to the Bible. ("these things")
- Authority is for exhorting and rebuking. *Titus 1:9, 13; 2 Tim 3:16; Heb 4:12; 12:5; 13:7*
- We must respond to authority. *1 Thess 2:13*

How you change the world:

- Proclamation (1 Pet 1:3-5)
- Prayer (1 Tim 2:1-4)
- Purity in life (Matt 5:16)

A God-honoring citizen is:

1. Submissive – Rom 13:1-7
2. Prepared – 1 Pet 1:13
3. Gracious – Eph 4:29
4. Peaceful – Php 4:5
5. Courteous – 1 Pet 3:15

How to be courteous to all men:

- Think about your sin
“we too were once...”
Rom 6:16-20
- Think about your Savior
*kindness, love, mercy, grace
not because of our works*
Matt 5:44
- Think about the Spirit
*washing, new birth, renewal
salvation, sanctification, security*
Ezek 36:25-27
- Think about God’s strategy
good deeds that benefit others
1 Pet 2:9-12

3 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work. ²They must not slander anyone, but be peaceable, gentle, showing complete courtesy to all people.

³For we too were once foolish, disobedient, misled, enslaved to various passions and desires, spending our lives in evil and envy, hateful and hating one another. ⁴But “when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, ⁵he saved us not by works of righteousness that we have done but on the basis of his mercy, through the washing of the new birth and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us in full measure through Jesus Christ our Savior. ⁷And so, since we have been justified by his grace, we become heirs with the confident expectation of eternal life.”

⁸This saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on such truths, so that those who have placed their faith in God may be intent on engaging in good works. These things are good and beneficial for all people.

⁹But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, quarrels, and fights about the law, because they are useless and empty. ¹⁰Reject a divisive person after one or two warnings. ¹¹You know that such a person is twisted by sin and is conscious of it himself.

¹²When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. ¹³Make every effort to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; make sure they have what they need.

¹⁴Here is another way that our people can learn to engage in good works to meet pressing needs and so not be unfruitful. ¹⁵Everyone with me greets you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

Being an effective church:

- Avoid Distractions
even things that seem religious
1 Tim 1:3-7; 4:7; 6:4-5, 20-21
2 Tim 2:14-17, 23; 4:3-4
- Address Divisions
John 17:11, 20-23; 1 Cor 1:10-13

Equipping church leaders:

- Give them opportunities
- Give them fellowship
- Give them provision

Encouraging church members:

- Encourage them with the goal
- Encourage them with your unity
- Encourage them with your prayer