

Titus 3:1-15

Submitting to the Government

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey (those authorities), to be ready for every good work,² to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. Titus 3:1-2

Now in chapter two, Paul has instructed Titus to teach the things, which become sound doctrine.

A) Teach the older men. Teach the older women. Teach the young women and teach the young men.

B) But in chapter 3 he begins with these words

Remind them -

1) And the them would include the whole group— young men, old men, young women, older women.

C) We see a Threefold commission in these first two verses

1st be subject to rulers and authorities,

2nd to obey those authorities

3rd to be ready for every good work

Question that comes up is what does it mean for us to submit to our rulers and authorities?

A) And are we always to submit in every situation

B) The word submit is the Greek word hupotassó, which means to arrange in orderly fashion a group of soldiers under the ranking of commanding officer

C) So It is a military term with a military use;

1) however, it is used here and elsewhere in a non-military sense.

D) Describing a wife's submission to her husband a slaves submission to his master.

Peter in his epistle also wrote about our relationship to the GOVT when he said: 1 Peter 2:13-17

13 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, 14 or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—16 as free, yet not using

liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. 17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

A) Peter gives us two motivations for this submission - An inward motivation and an outward motivation

B) The inward motivation is found in the phrases:

V.13 for the Lord's sake,

1) And the one is v.15 **for this is the will of God!**

C) In other words, you do it to honor God- follow his will

D) There are very few places in the NT where something is called "the will of God," but this is one of them!

SO it is his will for us to submit - He is glorified when we are doing so

A) God is honored when his earthly representatives are seen as **stabilizers in their society**

B) God wants his believers to be known as model citizens/ not subversive troublemakers.

C) Our city should see us as a blessings and a help to the city not a hinderance. -

D) We are helping to carry the load of morality and care for others in our culture.

There is also an outward reason: V.15 that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—

A) It is our witness in the world -

B) People are always looking at you and I to find the dirt on us,

1) to find a reason why they shouldn't trust in the God we say we believe in.

C) So one of the best witnesses is to be a good citizen,

1) because the way people will often view God is by looking at God's representatives.

"One of the greatest, if not the greatest apologetic for the gospel of Jesus Christ is a good life, a righteous life." Tripp

D)The central issue is simply this: a good Christian should be a good citizen.

But What if I don't like who is in office or how they are leading? -

A)DO you think Jesus and his followers like Nero and the Romans ? Absolutely not

B)Yet the Holy Spirit is instructing the church that was in the 1st century to live in submission to these ungodly oppressive leaders

C)Paul makes a very interesting observation in Romans 13 when he was writing on this subject

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.
² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

So Paul says it is God who puts people in office:

A)And that doesn't mean that God always allows good men to reign.

B)Sometimes as a judgment on the people, God allowed evil men to reign. -

1)We see this over and over again in Israel's history

C)They got what they deserved!

God still does that today - If you don't want to follow after righteousness,

A)if you don't want to live after God, then God will allow evil men to reign over you,

B)Like we read in Romans 1 - as part of his judgment - he gives people over to themselves

1)To pursue their vile passions and lust

C)The goal is so that we might see the consequences of allowing evil to reign.

D)For when evil reigns, a nation, a culture, goes downhill, We read, (Proverbs 14:34), righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

So God would allow a nation to suffer reproach under ungodly leaders -

A)Until the people would hit rock bottom and then cry out to God in repentance.

B)When they turn their hearts to God. They say, oh God, we don't want this! We want righteousness.

C)Then God will give them righteous leaders.

1)And they will lead the people in righteousness and the nation will be exalted..

D)I have no doubt in my mind that this is exactly what God is doing in America right now.

1)Our nation has become an ungodly nation -

The support in our nation of abortion, of gay marriage, the allowing of redefining gender

A)The booming Pornography industry - the corruption in Govt, the hypocrisy in the church -

B)The High Divorce rate, the rise in violent crime rate

C)The massive turning away from God and the church - are all indications of how far our nation has turned from God

D)Like I mentioned in our September Prophecy Update -

1)we are living in the Days of Noah and Lot like Jesus said.

Those two time periods were characterized by cultures that were living in Defiance against God!

A) And that is America in 2022

B)The majority have turned its back on God - the rest of us our suffering for it

C)I think Paul's observation in Romans 13 that God is the one who puts people in office - begs the question - 1)what is to be the focus of the church?

D)Should our focus be to try and get ungodly people out of office?

Don't misunderstand me:

A)I think that we as the church need to educate and encourage believers to **VOTE AND TO VOTE BIBLICALLY**

B)But God is still going to determine who is in office.

1)We can scream and yell about "corrupt" counting of ballots

C)But could God change all the ballots even if he wanted to?

That is why I think our main focus as the church has to be this:

A)To call believers to LIVE righteously - to repent of our ungodliness -

B)To call believers to STAND up for righteousness

C)To stand against secular ideologies that go against scripture

1)To stand up and say - Abortion is wrong and a sin - we need to protect human life

D)We are to stand up for Biblical view of Marriage - Man and woman

1)Stand up for the Biblical view of gender - God made them man and woman

E)We stand boldly against things that go against scripture

But at the same time we need to seek to lovingly reach out to people who are lost in living in lifestyles that go against God.

A)Remembering that we were once in that Place

B)Remembering the Big Picture: Jesus left heaven and came to save sinners!

C)That becomes the challenging thing-

1)how do we stand for righteousness and make our voice heard - but do it in a way that is not combative

D)To do it in a way where we come across different from the world and not sounding just like the world.

I think Paul gives the answer is in V.2 ²to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

A)So we do it first on our knees in prayer!

B)I wonder what would happen if we prayed more for and about our GOVT -

1)And complained less - we do it on our knees

C)We do it in the voting booth - we do it in meetings behind closed doors,

D)we do it in writing emails to GOVT leaders

E)And when we are meeting with unbelievers we show respect

We respectfully allow them to share their opinions in order to earn trust -

A)So that we can share with them the truth of God's word.

B)And even if they reject our message we continue to love them - look for ways to bless them

1)Remembering it is the Kindness of God that leads to repentance.

C)His Kindness is what WON us over!

1)Note: We can be kind without condoning sin

Here is what we so often forget today:

A)The apostles, the NT writers and even Jesus - always had this focus on the lost

B)The message of the NT is that the Kingdom of God happens through regeneration - not REFORM

C)The Bible is pretty clear - there is never going to be a perfect Kingdom here on earth until - **Jesus returns and is reigning**

And according to what Peter wrote in 2 Peter 3:9

A)The only reason that Jesus is delaying his coming is he is waiting for more souls to be saved

B)And so our primary objective has to be the spreading of the gospel.

1)Encouraging living in a way that promotes the gospel!

C)Remembering where we have come from - what we once were: Paul's point in V.3-

³For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

D)That is quite a description of our past isn't it

For the life of me I don't understand why we as believers get high minded and start thinking we are better than everyone else.

A)We were lost and doomed - depraved living in defiance against God - But God

⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and **renewing of the Holy Spirit**, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

B) This is what we have to keep in the forefront of our lives and message

C) Note what Paul says next - ⁸ This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to **affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works.** These things **are good and profitable to men.**

Now one last question on this subject - Are there times when we don't submit to the GOVT.

A) Yes: Any time the Govt is asking us to do something that goes against scripture.

B) We will see in the book of Acts when the officials tell the apostles to stop talking about Jesus

1) Their response: We must obey God and not man!

C) When the law was passed you can't pray: Daniel prayed

D) When everyone in Babylon was told to bow down to the statue or be thrown into the fiery furnace

1) Shadrach.... didn't bow - They resisted the law!

E) So anytime the law is asking us to do something that is unbiblical we have to resist -

1) because we are under a higher authority

Jesus also taught that human need always supersedes human ritual and law - healing on the sabbath

A) So that plays into this as well - Christians hid Jews during the Holocaust in NAZI Germany

B) One of the reasons we opened our church doors during the pandemic when we did -

C) The sheriff met with us - in 2020 - told us Domestic Violence call was up 70% in Vista

1) Suicide was up 60%

D) People need a place to come and we saw God move mightily - more salvations - baptisms in 2020 in yrs

E) So we resist when the GOVT tells us to do anything that goes against scripture

1) We resist when the human need is greater than the law

Let's finish up this chapter

A) At this point Paul turns his attention on our behavior and conduct to those outside the church - to those inside the church

⁹ But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.

B) These were all religious arguments -

C) Disputes about the law and genealogies are some of the things the legalist that Paul addressed in ch.1 loved to get into

D) Paul said avoid that - don't waste your time getting pulled into those kind of conversations for they are unprofitable and useless.

Paul takes it one step further when he says:

¹⁰ Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, ¹¹ knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

A) In my 26 years here - I can think of only two times where we had to do this.

B) A few years back there was a guy who was OCD - he just would get so fixated on certain things -

1) He relentlessly wanted to pound his opinions into everyone -

C) I personally met with him countless times - trying to reason with him - trying to get him to see where he was in error.

D) And it wasn't so much that he was doctrinally off - he was just over emphasizing minor things

In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity.

A) Look this is a non-essential - let's just agree to disagree - ready to show charity

B) But he couldn't do that - to the point where he was becoming divisive and oppressive to others in the body

1) we finally said - you need to go - not welcome here any more

C) So there are those times - reject people who are divisive for the good of the whole church.

Paul's final thoughts V.12

12 When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. 13 Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing. 14 And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

15 All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith.

Grace be with you all. Amen.

Paul gives a good definition of Fruitfulness in this text:

V.14 Maintain good words and meet urgent needs

Good Works theme in Titus

1. Love what is Good (Titus 1:8)
2. Teach what is Good (Titus 2:3)
3. Do what is Good (Titus 2:7, 14, 3:8)

Believers are to be like Good Watches - They're pure gold, open-faced, always on time, dependable, quietly busy, and full of good works.

Good works to serve in here at Calvary Vista

A) On campus -

- Parking lot
- Greeters/ushers
- Courtyard / Coffee house
- Prayer team
- Building upkeep
- Children's ministry
- Security team

B) Prayer and counseling

1) Worship