

The New Testament Church  
*Book of Titus #6: The Church's Testimony of Submission*  
 Pastor Paul Jehle – June 19, 2022  
 Titus 3:1-8

I Titus' Mission to Crete

- A. The Challenge – how do you transform a culture that has abandoned absolute truth?
- B. The Mission – *reaching a lost culture whose homes have largely been ruined*
  - 1. Paul sends Titus (Greek) to strengthen spiritual foundations of believers (Acts 2:11)
  - 2. He is to appoint elders (God's hand, people's hand, leaders confirmation)
  - 3. But what should a church emphasize in reaching a culture that has rejected truth?
    - a. **Character is critical** – higher priority than gifts, talents and intellectual debate
    - b. **Conscience** (a pure *motive*) must be discerned – it may take time to restore trust
    - c. **Discipleship** through *organic relationships* of old and young; Church an extended family
    - d. **The Ecclesia** can shift a culture when its *attitude is a broken heart toward others*

II Titus 3:1-8 – The early church had fairly consistent toleration from Rome until about 62 AD

- A. The Ecclesia is spiritual government expressed in the early Church – why Rome's toleration?
  - 1. God protected the early church; *He always gives us time to obey Him; evil is not in control!*
  - 2. Conversion of Roman officials kept the persecution in check; *Never rule out His power!*
  - 3. The attitude of believers avoided *Zealot nationalism* and *Pharisaical compliance...*
- B. Submissive to Civil Authorities – v. 1-2
  - 1. God first ordained the home as the foundation for church and state – Genesis 2-9
    - a. Fatherless children at the root of most crimes; fathers step up! (q. Chronicles, May, 2022)
    - b. God ordained civil government a ministry of justice; protect righteous, punish evildoers
  - 2. What does it mean to be subject (submissive) to civil rulers and those in authority?
    - a. Paul had been arrested twice (unlawfully) before writing Titus; then appealed to Caesar
    - b. He was whipped 5 times w/ 39 lashes, 3 times with rods, once stoned (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 11:16-33)
    - c. Obviously, a submissive attitude toward authorities does not mean always obeying
  - 3. We are to be known as submissive and obedient – *this ought to be our reputation*
    - a. Civil disobedience is a **last resort**, it is to be submissive (respectful) disobedience
    - b. We ought to be ready for every good work – *be ready to invest in your neighbors*
    - c. We refrain from speaking evil of rulers – *an attitude of disrespect is resisted by God*
    - d. We are peaceable – *blessed are the peacemakers, they are called the children of God*
    - e. We are gentle – *we are kind, careful, considerate and want the best for everyone*
    - f. We show all humility to everyone – *humility is recognizing we could be wrong*
- C. Remember where we come from (our fallenness and humanity) – v. 3-6
  - 1. We were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another... (v. 3-4)
  - 2. One youth pastor put it well when he said – *we must always remember what it was like to be lost – how our attitude and actions were for ourselves only – to reach the lost in humility*
  - 3. But God and Christ showed kindness, saving us by grace and mercy, washing our sins as we were regenerated and renewed by the Holy Spirit! (v. 5-6) – by the power of God
- D. We are now heirs of the Kingdom! – v. 7-8
  - 1. We are justified by His grace; heirs of the Kingdom (position); we constantly affirm this
  - 2. Good works are the experiential fruit of living out our inheritance – how others see Christ!
  - 3. Ex. - Juneteenth – though freedom was declared by Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation January 1, 1863, 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment Jan 31, 1865, the end of war (April 1865), the last slaves to be told (250,000) were in Galveston, Texas (Gen. Granger) – on June 19, 1865