

- Authority in the Christian faith is only fruitful when its leaders _____ the very teachings it espouses.
- Titus is capable of speaking hard truths in love.

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show every courtesy to everyone. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, despicable, hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to His mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:1–5 (NRSV)

. . . avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.

Titus 3:9 (NRSV)

- The gospel precludes any and all _____.



sermon notes

Also Starring: Titus

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CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/SERMONS

What do we know about Titus outside of his letter?

2 Corinthians

When I came to Troas to proclaim the good news of Christ, a door was opened for me in the Lord; but my mind could not rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said farewell to them and went on to Macedonia.

2 Corinthians 2:12–13 (NRSV)

- Titus is a _____ with Paul who has an assigned task.

For even when we came into Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but we were afflicted in every way—disputes without and fears within. But God, who consoles the downcast, consoled us by the arrival of Titus, and not only by his coming, but also by the consolation with which he was consoled about you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more. For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it (though I did regret it, for I see that I grieved you with that letter, though only briefly).

2 Corinthians 7:5–8 (NRSV)

- God can use ordinary vessels like us _____ where there is potential for conflict or disagreement. Titus is a “person of peace.”

. . . his mind has been set at rest by all of you. For if I have been somewhat boastful about you to him, I was not disgraced; but just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting to Titus has proved true as well.

2 Corinthians 7:13b–14 (NRSV)

- Paul was a planter, a mobilizer, but he needed somebody he could trust to shepherd and pastor the flock upon his departure.
- Titus was one of the apostles responsible for the financial collection for the church in Jerusalem.

But thanks be to God who put in the heart of Titus the same eagerness for you that I myself have. For he not only accepted our appeal, but since he is more eager than ever, he is going to you of his own accord. We intend that no one should blame us about this generous gift that we are administering, for we intend to do what is right not only in the Lord's sight but also in the sight of others. As for Titus, he is my partner and co-worker in your service; as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ. Therefore openly before the churches, show them the proof of your love and of our reason for boasting about you. 2 Corinthians 8:16–17, 20–21, 23–24 (NRSV)

- A disciple is not merely one who is eager to share the good news of Jesus Christ, but he or she _____ in it.
- Living out the gospel life moves us from a place of _____.

Galatians

But even Titus, who was with me, was not compelled to be circumcised, though he was a Greek. Galatians 2:3 (NRSV)

- Titus accompanied Paul to the Jerusalem Conference.
- Titus was a Greek Gentile and, therefore, uncircumcised.
- Titus reminds us of the importance and power of _____ to the Christian faith. Titus' conversion is a witness to an _____ God.

Christian tradition

- Considered among the Pastoral Epistles (1 and 2 Timothy, Titus).
- Evidence largely points to Titus as the Bishop of Crete.

What can we gather from the letter to Titus?

I left you behind in Crete for this reason, so that you should put in order what remained to be done, and should appoint elders in every town, as I directed you: someone who is blameless, married only once, whose children are believers, not accused of debauchery and not rebellious. For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless; he must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or addicted to wine or violent or greedy for gain; but he must be hospitable, a lover of goodness, prudent, upright, devout, and self-controlled. He must have a firm grasp of the word that is trustworthy in accordance with the teaching, so that he may be able both to preach with sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it. Titus 1:5–9 (NRSV)

- Titus ensures the preservation of the gospel through new forms of _____.
- The gospel flourishes because of _____.
- The establishment of church offices under Titus sets a precedent for _____ in ministry that exist today.

The letter urges Titus to challenge those who *profess to know God, but they deny him by their actions. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.* Titus 1:16 (NRSV)

- We live in a day and age where it is, at times, difficult to protect the heart of Christianity when others either challenge it or distort it.
- Titus' ministry shows us that a firm faith is _____.

. . . live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly . . . Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one look down on you. Titus 2:12,15 (NRSV)