

Paul, writing to Titus, gives him instruction as he serves churches on the island of Crete. His job is “putting what remained in order” (1:5) after Paul has left. This involves appointing elders (1:5–16) and teaching the believers how to follow Christ in daily living—“what accords with sound doctrine” (2:1–3:11).

Titus 3:1–15

Responsibility #2: Teaching Believers (2:1–3:11)

Titus is to teach the believers in Crete to live in a way that corresponds to sound doctrine (2:1–10).

Is it really necessary to teach how we must live?

God’s grace demands a change in the way we live (2:11–15).

God’s grace demands a change in how we interact with unbelievers (3:1–2). God has changed us from the inside out:

- Believers must be submissive to authority—a gracious attitude.
- Believers must be eager to do good—gracious actions.
- Believers must be gracious in speech—gracious words.
- Believers must be courteous—a gracious disposition.

God’s grace reminds us of the change God has made in us (3:3). We used to be graceless:

- We were ignorant, disobedient, and deceived.
- We were enslaved to sin.
- We were hated and hating others.

God’s grace was poured out on us, freely and abundantly (3:4–7).

- We received God’s goodness and kindness—in spite of our wickedness and envy.
- We received mercy—not on the basis of our works.
- He saved us—and we probably didn’t even realize the dire straits we were in.
- He gave us life—making us new creatures in Christ.
- He poured out his Holy Spirit on us—indwelling us and guaranteeing our eternal life.
- He declared us “Not guilty!” and claimed us—“God’s child!”

God’s grace to us will result in God’s grace through us (3:8).

Has everyone who professes Christ received God’s life-changing grace?

Some things are unprofitable, such as arguing with twisted and divisive people. Professing Christians who do not display grace may not even be Christians (3:9–11).

The Closing Greeting (3:12–15)

Questions to Think About

People who have received grace show grace. In what ways have you received grace? How do you show grace to others because of God's grace to you?

Why can we love people who are hostile toward us? What are some examples of ways we do this?

Does the warning that a person who is continually divisive is “warped and sinful” bother you? Do we usually consider this kind of sin very serious? What does this warning say about how God feels about the unity of the Body of Christ?

What are some lessons you learned from Titus that surprised you? What did you learn that you want to share with others?

Key Verse: “The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people” (Titus 3:8).