

Character Counts

Series: Grace Does Good – A Study in Titus

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Getting Started:

- The author of the book is Paul (**Titus 1:1**). Titus was a Gentile who had become a believer, and was left on the island of Crete with a job to do (**Titus 1:5**).
- Paul may have led Titus to Christ (**Titus 1:4**). He was, no doubt, a trusted co-worker of Paul and represented Paul to the church at Corinth (**2 Cor. 2:13; 2 Cor. 7:6-7**).
- **Titus 1:5-9** gives a list of qualifications for elders and leaders in the church. What must be noted is that many of the character qualities are things that we should all be striving for.
- In **Titus 1:1** Paul notes himself as an apostle, but more important, he sees himself as a “servant of God.” Paul’s goal was to fulfill God’s leading in his life. He was committed to obeying His Lord.
- **Titus 1:5** tells us why Paul left Titus at Crete. He was to “put what remained in order”, the idea being taken from a medical term, like fixing a broken bone.
- Paul trusted that Titus would get the job done and that he had the skills set to make it happen.
- He was to appoint leaders (**Titus 1:5**) and also to challenge false teachers (**Titus 1:10-11; 3:10-11**) and teach sound doctrine and right living (**Titus 2:1-10**).

Character Qualities Worth Having

Be above reproach - have a good reputation - Titus 1:6

- This quality comes out when someone says something about us that is negative. They may lie about us, drag our names through the mud, but when investigated, whatever was said turns out to not be true.
- This quality describes us choosing to live a life that is ethical in every way, in all we do. We have a life aligned with the Scriptures.
- When we are living under the control of the Holy Spirit, we will be above reproach.
- **Practical:** Analyze all that we say and do. Anything that is out-of-line, deal with. Make a decision that any temptation that may bring a blot upon our faith, to walk away from. Make ethical choices in every area of life.

Guard our response to others - Titus 1:7

- Two words to note in **vs. 7** are “quick-tempered” and “violent.”
- First, note the word “violent.” We are not to be this way. This type of person may get into physical altercations, but the word also describes an individual as contentious and argumentative. They pick verbal fights with people over anything. They like to argue and make sure you know where they are coming from on things.

- “Quick-tempered” describes a person who is “prone to anger.” You walk on egg shells around them.
- They use anger to try to control others, to get their way by going off on others. They speak and act without thinking.

**** Practical suggestions to help guard our responses:**

- (1) Choose to keep our mouths closed and our ears open (**Jam. 1:19**).
- (2) Repent and apologize when we need to.
- (3) Choose to put others first. Practice **Phil. 2:1-11**.
- (4) Be kind and forgive, if necessary (**Eph. 4:30-32**).

Treat people fairly - Titus 1:8

- Note the word “just.” Here, it means dealing with people fairly. It means being impartial. We are not to show favoritism.
- We have to look past someone’s personality and treat them as we would those we like being around.
- We are impartial when handling a situation. See **Gal. 6:1-2**.
- **Practical:** Do not use double standards when dealing with people. Use Scripture as our guide when dealing with people. Be careful to not make others feel unwanted or unimportant. Do our best to live at peace with everyone (**Rom. 12:17-21**).

Have a deep-rooted love for God’s Word - Titus 1:9

- The idea in **vs. 9** is that we hold tight to God’s Word, standing for the truth and putting into practice what it says.
- Note two areas that God’s Word is to be used in: (1) teaching Christian beliefs, as seen in the phrase “sound (healthy) doctrine” and; (2) rebuking (refuting) those teaching false doctrine. Note **Titus 1:10-11**.
- **Practical:** Study and think on the Scriptures. Learn Bible doctrine. Make knowing the truth of Scripture a main part of our lives. Our character is developed by the Word of God.

Character matters. Study the different qualities mentioned in Titus 1 and work on living them before others.