

## Grace Empowers Us

*Series: Grace Does Good – A Study in Titus*

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### Getting Started:

- **Titus 3:8**, where we begin today, is a reminder of a main theme that runs through the book. It is that God, in His grace, empowers us to live the Christian life.

### Grace Empowers Us - Titus 3:8-15

#### Grace keeps us right - vs. 8

- There are pressures that we face that challenge us, and we need to be on guard to not compromise our Christian walk.
- **Vs. 8** is looking back at **Titus 3:3-7** as a reminder of what God has done for us and in us. Paul tells Titus to “insist” that we follow what has been taught. Paul tells Titus to strongly state them.
- The result of the new life we have in Christ is seen in the fact that we are told to devote ourselves to doing good works. These are the result of our life in Christ, not the means of attaining it.
- **Practical:** Belief and conduct go together. We make the choice to live what we claim. We are to live before others a life that reflects Christ. We choose to live who we are to a broken world. God has left us here to do that.

#### Grace helps us care and restore - vss. 9-11

- Some churches refuse to confront sinful behavior that is hurting the church by making excuses for the person, or because they are fearful of repercussions, because of who the person is.
- Because of this, they overlook sin that damages the church. **Mt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5; Rom. 16:17-18; 2 Thess. 3:6-15** all tell us that the church needs to take seriously the problem of sin and how it affects people.
- Some churches abuse the call to confront. They bully people and expect them to follow what is said, and threaten church discipline on anyone who questions them (see **3 John** and Diotrephes).
- I have been in two churches that did it right and followed the **Mt. 18** approach.
- The goal of confronting is always restoration. We cannot afford to not say something because we worry about how the person may respond who is in sin. We must obey God.

- In **vs. 9** Paul tells us to “avoid foolish controversies”, which are useless debates over things that don’t matter. People who want to argue and cause division with their teachings and lifestyles, we are not to give an audience to. Avoid false teachers.
- These arguments are “unprofitable and worthless.” They have no purpose but to cause problems.
- **Practical:** This does not mean we do not discuss the Scriptures. Do not, though, get into conversations with people who are set on causing issues. We are to learn together.
- **Vs. 10** speaks to caring enough to confront. The word “division” describes someone who follows false teaching and it is seen in how they live. They cause problems and friction with others.
- We must confront someone causing division in the church. **Vs. 10** tells us that if after two discussions, the person still insists on living in sin and/or teaching false doctrine that is divisive, we are to avoid them. We cannot act as if things are fine.
- Remember that the goal is restoration. Even if a person has to be removed from fellowship (**1 Cor. 5**), the prayer is that they will repent and be restored (**2 Cor. 2**).
- **Vs. 11** is a regretful place for the person causing division. They are proud and stubborn. This person knows what they are doing. The word “sinful” tells us that they are choosing to sin.
- **Practical:** If we have to confront, we must follow the Biblical ideal that the goal is restoration and that we handle things with grace and love, because we care.

### **Grace helps us see outside of ourselves - Vss. 12-15**

- We are to show others the grace that God has shown to us.
- Note the list of people that Paul mentions, four that he mentions by name.
- With everything going on around us, we can easily forget the people that God has used, not only in our lives, but in His work in the world.
- It is important to be thankful for those people. Pray for them, send a note of encouragement.

Grace enables us to love enough to confront sin with the goal of restoration. Lean on God's grace daily.