



A Christ-Honoring Church

Titus 3:1-11

December 5, 2021

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this text God exhorts his church to live with wisdom and witness in their community.

The Text: Titus 3:1-11

¹ Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ² to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. ³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ 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. ⁹ But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. ¹⁰ As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, ¹¹ knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

Hope Church, remember to honor Christ in the way you obey governing leaders and live in your community (vv. 1-2).

(1) We are currently living in a third world “culture” (not country), that is, one that does not base itself on something sacred or transcendent.

- **First** (pagan-transcendent – e.g., the Greek “gods”) and **second** (religious-transcendent - monotheism) world cultures have a moral stability, but **third world cultures** do not root social and moral orders on the sacred.

(2) Since God made humanity to be meaning-making beings, grounded in and desiring something transcendent, all people will devote their lives to some grand story and higher purpose.

- In a third world culture, **religion** (transcendence) is replaced by **politics** (immanence).

How can we respond?

- We should implement a ministry strategy for a third world culture.
- We must Make the Kingdom Great Again!
- We should be more critical of our preferred news sources and social media.
- We should use anger or fear as a litmus test that something is misaligned or off-balance in us!
- We need to unite on theology and make room for Christian liberty.
- We must be comfortable with different opinions and let them critique and challenge our own.
- We need to be convinced that Jesus has already won, and the gospel is the most important thing.
- We need to speak and act more like Christ.

Response

Let us be a Christ-honoring church in word and deed.

Small Group Questions

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- 1) Starter Question: What comes to mind when you think about our government leaders?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) What does it mean to be “submissive” and “obedient” to our governing “rulers and authorities” (v. 1)?
- 4) What do you think Christian responses to government mandates related to COVID-19 reveals about our interpretations and applications of v. 1?
- 5) V. 2 is addressing how Christians are to relate to the community in which they live and work. How well do Christians obey this verse?
- 6) How might v. 3 help Christians think differently and act with love and mercy toward non-Christians with whom they interact?
- 7) How do vv. 4-7 reflect your testimony – how you received undeserved mercy from Christ when you put your faith in him?
- 8) Paul is extremely concerned in v. 8 to declare that the Christian life is not only an act of belief but acts of good works. Why is this truth important for every Christian to understand?
- 9) What are some “good works” every Christian can and should be doing in their commitment to the Lord?
- 10) What are vv. 9-11 warning Christians about and how can we make sure we follow these commands?

Further study this week: Passages on honoring Christ in your community: Matthew 22:34-40 (Mon); Romans 13:8-10 (Tues); Mathew 5:43-48 (Wed); Leviticus 19:33-34 (Thurs); Colossians 3:12-17 (Fri).