

The Most Excellent Way
Discipleship/Leadership Bible Study Homework

“Doing What Is Good”

HEART ATTITUDE: Thankfulness

TITUS 3:1-15 (NIV)

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, (1)
To slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men. (2)
At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. (3)
But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, (4)
He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, (5)
He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, (6)
So that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. (7)
This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. (8)
But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. (9)
Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. (10)
You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned. (11)
As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there. (12)
Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need. (13)
Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives. (14)
Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. (15)

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• **FOCUSING**

1. What is the dirtiest job you ever had to do?

2. When is it beneficial to argue about an issue?

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3. In your experience, how can an argument damage a friendship?
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• **STUDYING GOD’S WORD**

4. How does God want us to respond to authority? (3:1)
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3:1-2 — As Christians, our first allegiance is to Jesus as Lord, but we also must obey our government and its leaders. Christians are not above the law, but keeping the civil law is only the beginning of our Christian responsibility. In a democracy, it is also important to be involved and to serve.

5. What saved Paul from his foolishness? (3:4)
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6. Why does God save people? (3:4-5)
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7. What role does the Holy Spirit play in a person’s salvation? (3:5)
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8. What is the result of being justified by faith? (3:7)
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9. What did Paul tell Titus to stress? Why? (3:8)
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3:3-8 — Paul summarized what Christ does for us when He saves us. We move from a life full of sin to one led by God’s Holy Spirit. *All* our sins, not merely some, are washed away. Washing refers to the water of baptism. In receiving baptism, the believer acknowledges Christ as Lord, recognizes Christ’s saving work, and identifies with the Christian community. We gain eternal life with *all* its treasures. We have the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and He continually renews our hearts. None of this occurs because we earned or deserved it; it is all a gift of God’s grace.

3:4-6 — All persons of the Trinity participate in the work of salvation. Based upon the redemptive work of His Son, the Father sends the Holy Spirit to wash away our sins continually renew us.

10. Why is it important to avoid controversies and arguments? (3:9)
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3:9 — Paul warned Titus, as he warned Timothy, not to get involved in arguments over unanswerable questions (2 Timothy 2:14). This does not mean we should refuse to study, discuss, and examine different interpretations of difficult Bible passages. Paul is warning against petty quarrels, not honest discussion that leads to wisdom. When foolish arguments develop, it is best to turn the discussion back to a track that is going somewhere or politely excuse yourself.

11. How should we treat a person who divides friends? (3:10-11)
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3:9-11 — A person must be warned when he or she is causing division that threatens the unity of the church. This warning should not be a heavy-handed action, but should correct the individual's divisive nature and restore him or her to fellowship. A person who refuses to be corrected should be put outside the fellowship. As Paul said, he is "condemned of himself"—he is sinning and he knows it. (See also Matthew 18:15-18 and 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 for help in handling such problems in the church.)

12. Why is it important for us to do what is good? (3:14)
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3:15 — The letters of Paul to Titus and Timothy mark the end of Paul's writing and the end of his life and ministry. These letters are rich treasures for us today because they give vital information for church leadership. They provide a strong model for elders, pastors, and other Christian leaders as they develop younger leaders to carry on the work, following Paul's example of preparing Timothy and Titus to carry on his ministry. For practical guidelines on church leadership and problem solving, carefully study the principles found in these letters.

• **UNDERSTANDING**

13. In what ways do you need to subject yourself to rulers and authorities?
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14. What does it mean to show true humility?
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15. How can you show humility in all you do?
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16. What difference does it make that God saves us out of His great mercy, and not because of anything we do?
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17. What role does the Holy Spirit play in your life?
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18. What can you do to devote yourself to doing what is good?
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19. What can you do to guard yourself against getting involved in useless arguments?
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• **GETTING PERSONAL**

20. What is one way you can serve others in your home, place of work, or church this week?
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