

Displaying Grace in a Chaotic World

Titus 3:3-8

November 14, 2021 | Ken Lewis, Legacy Ministry Pastor

BIG IDEA: The new birth displays new behavior.

I. The necessity of new birth (3:3)

Titus 3:3 | “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.”

*Except where noted, all Scripture references are in the English Standard Version (ESV).

A. We are sinners by nature and choice

Ecclesiastes 9:3 | “This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all. Also, the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead.”

B. We cannot change our sinful nature

Jeremiah 13:23 | “Can an Ethiopian change his skin or a leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil.”

*New International Version (NIV)

Generation Creation (Gen. 2:4)	>	Degeneration Fall (Gen. 3)	>	Regeneration New Creation (Matt. 19:28; Rev. 21:5)
--------------------------------------	---	----------------------------------	---	--

II. The gift of new birth (3:4-7)

A. God’s gracious nature (v. 4)

Titus 3:4 | “But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,”

B. God’s merciful work (vv. 5-7)

1. We are given new life (vv. 5-6)

a. We are saved by mercy not merit (v. 5ab)

Titus 3:5ab | “he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy,”

1 Peter 1:3-5 | “3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

b. We are saved by the washing and regeneration of the Holy Spirit (vv. 5c-6)

Titus 3:5c-6 | “by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,”

Ezekiel 36:25-27 | “25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”

John 3:5-8 | “5 Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’”

2. We are given a new status (v. 7a)

Titus 3:7a | “so that being justified by his grace...”

Romans 4:5 | “And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,”

3. We are given a new hope (v. 7b)

Titus 3:7b | “we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

Romans 8:15-17 | “15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.”

III. The display of new birth (3:8)

Titus 3:8 | “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.”

BENEDICTION

1 Peter 1:3-5 | “3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”