

Going Public

Titus 3:1-3

November 7, 2021 | Jason Finley, Lead Pastor for Equipping

BIG IDEA: The grace of Christ is displayed through our mundane responsibilities and relationships in the public square.

Hebrews 11:13b | "...[we are] strangers and exiles on the earth."

Evidence of gospel transformation is often unappreciated and overlooked—but always reveals supernatural work in our lives.

You display grace in the public square through your:

I. Submission (v. 1)

Titus 3:1 | "Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient,"

Philippians 3:20 | "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ..."

Matthew 22:21 | "Then he said to them, 'Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'"

Acts 5:28-29 | "28 saying, 'We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.' 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than men...'"

Your moment of testing may not be far away—but don't miss the thousands of mundane moments where the reputation of the gospel is at stake through your interaction with human authorities.

In a polarized culture skeptical of all authority, Christians stand out as displays of grace through lives of honor and submission to human authorities.

Neither inconvenience, disagreement nor distrust justify disobedience.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 | “1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

II. Serving (v. 1)

Titus 3:1 | “Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work,”

- Good works always follow the transforming grace of Christ (Matt 7:16-20; 2 Cor 9:8).
- Good works evidence the transforming grace of Christ (Matt 5:16; Gal. 5:22-23).
- Good works demonstrate love for neighbor (Matt 5:43-45; 1 John 4:19).
- Good works are not the same thing as mission or evangelism.
- Good works undergird the verbal proclamation of the gospel.

Proverbs 31:8-9 | “8 Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. 9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Galatians 6:10 | “So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

Moral Proximity: The closer the need, the greater the moral obligation to help. Proximity may include geography, relationship, or time.

1 John 3:17 | “But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?”

“If we want every church to...drink fair trade coffee, focus on ending world hunger, and feel like guilty oppressors when we don’t do these things, we’re going to have a hard time backing that up with Scripture. But if we want every church to look outside itself, exercise love beyond its doors, and give generously to those in need (especially those on its member list), we will have ample biblical support...As we see the physical needs all around us, let’s motivate each other by pointing out salt-and-light opportunities instead of going farther than the Bible warrants and shaming each other with do-this-list-or-you’re-sinners responsibilities.”

- Gilbert and DeYoung, *What is the Mission of the Church?* (193)

III. Speech (v. 2)

Titus 3:2 | “to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.”

There is no limit to our humble courtesy or to whom we show it.

Titus 3:3-5a | “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...”

Remember who you are and the goodness and loving kindness of Jesus.

*Lord, it is my chief complaint
That my love is weak and faint;
Yet I love Thee, and adore:
Oh for grace to love Thee more!*
- William Cowper (1731-1800)

BENEDICTION

Titus 2:13-14 | “13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.”