

Celebration – Summer: Students – Men’s – Women’s – Park Night – Soccer Camps – VBS

- **Not Event-Driven church...but we aim to provide High Impact opportunities of biblical expression**
We plant – We water – God brings the growth | Summer opportunities to plant & water...Trust God

Titus | ‘Standing Orders’ | Military – Regular @ Coffee / Restaurant – Recurring Payment...Netflix

Definition: An Order or Ruling that is Retained Irrespective of Changing Conditions

SBI - Fixed Responses in Fluid Environments | Rock in Water...High / Low | Fast / Slow – Where I’m at
Ti. 3:1-2 Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

Conditional Commands (if someone slaps...) | (Return Fire) | Standing Orders – 0600...every day!?!|

- Response to Gospel – Practiced at all times – Regardless of Cultural Climate = Standing Orders
Big Idea – We Have a Standing Order to Live Selflessly

7 different commands (remind them in 2 verses – Not a list of unrelated tasks – View Holistically

- Important to understand the foundation that underpins them | Not, just behavior modifications
Direct Standing Orders that are a response to the gospel...v. 11; 13-14

Direct Imperatives – Flow from our salvation | **I Responded to Gospel...How are you Responding?**

Remember what the Gospel is: God considering us righteous because of the work done by Jesus

Gospel of grace...not works | **Works reflect grace...not the source of grace** | **Three Standing Orders**

1. **Submit to Those in Authority** | Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient
Submit to rulers and authorities. There are times this is an easy command, and sometimes...not
• Sometimes it’s just my selfishness, sometimes it’s because I think they made some dumb rules
Sometimes...leaders & administrations are hostile towards my beliefs or advocate agendas I abhor
This is a standing order: evergreen command, not conditioned...there are no exceptions
Aha, there must be exceptions what if the authorities command me to violates God’s will?

Right...We can’t violate our conscience by sinning against God to obey an earthly authority

But this isn’t an exception, it’s a limit

God has given authority to governing rulers, but it’s a limited or bound authority

- Limited by time - Place - His sovereign hand | Can raise up or remove earthly authorities at will
God won’t violate his own character - he won’t command us sin, or that are opposed to him.

When authority demands we sin...they are overstepping their limits...overreaching their authority

Daniel – Nebuchadnezzar – (3:4) – Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego (3:16-18) | You do...we’ll do

We don’t submit to sin, but the other side of the...we don’t limit our submission based on comfort

- Tons of bad policies out there, but if they don’t cause us to sin against God...we submit.

But come on: Mayor – Governor – Congress – Courts - President...I know

Who was Paul telling them to submit to? Roman Empire - Laws & authorities were bad news

- There was no representative form of government or democratic ideals or a bill of rights
- They ruled with absolute authority and were happy to crush dissent violently whenever it arose

We can participate in our governing process and should steward it for God’s glory

But we must from a posture of selfless obedience to God’s command---submit to thos He’s given

authority in our current time & place | **We submit to God...standing order...by submitting to authorities**

2. **Seize the Opportunity to Do Good** | Remind them...To be ready for every good work

“good work” if we’re going to be ready for good works we need to understand what they are.

- Pinewood Derby Cars or Throwing Away Litter – **wishing your mother Happy Birthday**

Nothing wrong with those works, but they’re not at the root of how God defines a good work.

Good work has faith in God as its source, the power of God as its strength, and the glory of God as its

outcome

So now that we know what good works are, what do we do? It says we should be ready for them

Henry Blackaby = ‘Find where God’s at work and join Him’

And this makes sense because, **Ephesians 2:10**, we were created for good works

God created you for them...so for the ready...He will create opportunities to seize them

Have you ever had a tool in your shed that wasn’t ready to do the thing it was created to do?

Lawnmower...shed...it’s not ready! And when it’s not ready, it’s functionally worthless.

So we need to be ready. How? If it’s a standing order...how?

- If Good Work is Established by faith ...we must build it
- If Good Work is rooted in God’s word...we must know it
- If Good Work flows from God’s Giftedness...we must develop it
- It Good Works are presented by God...we must seize them

Giftedness – Context – Willingness = Opportunity...Seize IT!

If its outcome is the glory of God – his truth, his power, and his grace – Be ready to seize it

In order to be ready...and to seize it...we’ll have to live selfishly

Our goal must be working for God’s glory and directing others toward Him...and not ourselves

3. **Speak with Grace**

Remind...to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people
Paul: attitude towards those in authority - actions that glorify God and reflect him, and now speech we can get a lot of things right, but if we don’t control our speech, it can all be totally undone. Let’s

Look at the ways we’re to guide our speech one by one:

- **Speak evil of no one:** ‘No one’ is a more encompassing phrase than we’d like it to be
 - It doesn’t say “to no one” but “of no one.” | **Warning...that person is dangerous**
Easy to not speak evil to anyone – **JOKE** - but speaking evil of no one is tougher...Essential
Demon in a Box - If we begin speaking evil of others, it’s tough to put it back in the bag
- **If we accept a culture where speaking evil as “just banter” we’re sowing the seeds of our own decline**
- **Avoid quarreling:** What do you avoid? **Marshmallow Yams - Same attitude toward quarreling**
Maybe this time it will taste better, it has a new flavor, it’s an especially juicy argument. Avoid it!
- **Going out of your way to get offended...creates quarrels & ongoing quarreling ruins relationships**
Does that mean we don’t discuss? Disagreements? No...Quarreling seeks fault and creates hostility
Those are the negatives, the “avoids”. How do we speak instead?

- **Be gentle:** For some of us gentleness is hard...we’re naturally forceful people...it’s so inefficient!
We’re called to gentleness because it reflects Christ’s attitude toward us

Gentleness & patience...sacrificing convenience for good of the person on the other side of the table.

- **Show perfect courtesy toward all people:** **Not a Jane Austen novel...but about a gentle spirit.**

Our words are to be gentle, but the spirit behind them is to be as well.

Don’t relate to others through gritted teeth. Be gentle in word, and in attitude.

All of these have a disposition of selflessness – It is for the benefit of others...for their good

Submission, good works, gentle speech = We Have a Standing Order to Live Selflessly

Orders get their legitimacy from the one who gives them...our commander is all-powerful for all eternity

- Orders from a good commander aren’t arbitrary and they’re not to show off in the parade
They’re to build up the culture & character of those who are united for one purpose and one mission
- **As we follow God’s instruction for his people, we do so because of the Gospel that saved us**
- to reflect the character of our Lord, and to give others the chance to be brought to a life that is given by God and increases His glory...

Fixed Responses in Fluid Environments

We Have a Standing Order to Live Selflessly