

Pastor Karl Payne, Titus 3:1-8
June 14, 2020

Motivation for living a Christian life:	Titus 2:11-14
Framework you see that should be visible in a growing Christian life:	Titus 2:15-3:3
Foundation that you do not see but is the only basis for a Christian life:	Titus 3:4-7
Fruit that should be produced in varying degrees in the life of a Christian:	Titus 3:8

1 *Remind*--Paul is repeating a message he has shared before—*them*---the believers at Crete.

The Cretan's had the reputation of being lying, lazy, evil, out of control animals, **1:12-13**. Christians were to support the rule of law and model citizenship that worked for the benefit of their entire community. **Romans 12:21; 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-3; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Acts 25:11**. Remember: (Nero was Caesar when all four of these letter/epistles were written.)

2-3 Paul parallels seven character traits that should be associated with Christian living and seven negative character traits that are associated with the man or woman without Christ; i.e. Cretan's.

Character traits of an obedient Christian:

Character traits of a person without Christ:

Be subject/submissive to rulers & local authorities	Foolish/senseless/follow my own rules
Be obedient demonstrates submission	Disobedient/uncompliant/not persuadable
Be eager to help/ benefit others	Deceived/deluded/mislead/wanderer
Malign/slander/defame no one	In pursuit of self-interest/worldly pleasure
Be peaceable/not quarrelsome/uncontentious	Depravity/malice/ill-will/wickedness
Be gentle/gracious/forbearing/clemency	Jealous and envious of others/I deserve
Humble/meek/considerate/courteous to all men	Hate/abhor/detest/regard w/ill-will/loveless

I hope that both Christians inside the church and non-Christians outside the church would say my life more consistently reflects Christian characteristics than Cretan characteristics. Although our walk cannot make someone else a Christian, it can certainly make that decision easier or harder.

“While a veneer of civilization often obscures the bleak truth, the slightest crack in the surface of society reveals the reality behind the façade. The painful truth is that apart from God, people degenerate into little more than animals wrangling over bones.”

God instituted human government, **Genesis 9:6**, as a deterrent against sin, displayed in man's inhumanity to man. The Apostle Paul urged Christians to not use their freedom in Jesus Christ to bite and devour one another, **Galatians 5:13**. Jesus refused to entrust Himself to the heart of man, **John 2:24-25**, and if we are wise, neither should we. Biblically speaking, government was given to us as a safety net to ensure proportionality between a crime and punishment, and to protect the innocent from mob violence and human nature that is selfishly motivated from the womb to the tomb. It was never intended to be our savior, parent, guardian, employer or mistress.

4 The transitional game changer, Jesus Christ stepped into history demonstrating God's kindness and love for mankind. Consistent godly living with others is not possible until God is first living and working in and through a person initiated by the kindness and love of God.
Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:19

5 With so much talk about personal character and good works, 3:1-3, we are here reminded that good works are the result of salvation, not the means to salvation. Salvation is based on God's mercy, not man's work. Salvation was purchased for believers by the Lord Jesus Christ, but it is effectually applied to every Christian through the washing of regeneration and renewing work of the Holy Spirit. **John 3:5-6; 1 Cor. 2:10-13**

6 The Holy Spirit was poured out on each believer, *richly*, through the Jesus Christ when you believed. What if He skipped me? **1 Cor. 12:7; 1 Pet. 4:10**. What if I did not get enough? **Rom.5:5; 8:9; 1 Cor.12:13; Eph. 1:13-14**. (You do not need more of the Holy Spirit, but He may need more of you.)

7 Justification/Salvation is given as a free gift, by grace, through faith, changing the relationship of those who believe from enemies to heirs, new creatures, with the outcome eternal life. **Rom. 3:21-28; 6:23; 8:5-14; 8:16-17; 2 Cor. 5:16-17; Eph. 2:1-5; 2:8-9; 1 Pet. 1:3-9**

8 Titus is commanded for the third time to teach the things he has been taught confidently and consistently, **Titus 2:1; 2:15; 3:8**. He ends verse 8 by again reminding the Christians at Crete that as productive citizens and obedient believers they must engage in good works which not only provide credibility to their personal testimony and the entire Christian community; they also benefit non-Christians as a visible testimony of the life changing reality of new life in Christ. **Titus 2:7-8; 2:14; 3:1; 3:8; 3:14**.

If we truly understand the grace of God, **Titus 2:11-14**, our changed lives will demonstrate spiritual fruit produced by God, **Titus 2:15-3:2**, only made possible through new life in Christ given by God, **Titus 3:4-8**, which results in a believer's ability to shine as a star in the midst of a crooked and perverted world, which is profitable for all men. **Philip. 2:14-15; Matt. 5:13-16; 1 Tim. 3:15**

“To God be the glory great things He has done.”