

Titus 3

How do you produce godly disciples of Jesus Christ from the unpromising raw material of Cretan society?

Paul's threefold strategy

Chapter 1:

Chapter 2:

Chapter 3:

1. Remind God's people to be godly in public life (1&2)
2. Because we were once ungodly just like the world (3)
3. But now we've been reborn by the Spirit of God to become godly (4-7)
4. And so, stress the gospel to these transformed believers so that they devote themselves to godliness (8)
5. But avoid distracting controversy and those that initiate it (9-11)

Theme: The Spirit of God has recreated us so that we're no longer like the world in which we live but instead we now share God's character

Aim: is that Titus would avoid being distracted from teaching the gospel so that people live out their newfound godliness in the public square

1. Remind God's people to be godly in public life (1&2)

Towards the authorities in particular (1)

¹ Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good,

Towards everyone in general (2)

² to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle towards everyone.

2. Because we were once ungodly like the world (3)

³At 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 we've been reborn by the Spirit (4-7)

⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, ⁵he 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, ⁶whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

4. And so stress the gospel so that we devote ourselves to godliness (8)

⁸This 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.

5. But avoid distracting controversy and those that initiate it (9-11)

⁹But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. ¹⁰Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. ¹¹You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.

Conclusion

¹²As 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. ¹³Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need. ¹⁴Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives.

¹⁵Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.