

# TITUS

WHILE WE WAIT



A Devotional Bible Study  
on the Book of Titus

by Sue LeBoutillier

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## ❧ *While We Wait* ❧ *Titus*

Dear Friends,

Most women who pick up a Bible Study Guide are already Christians, or at least know something about Jesus, the Church, or the Bible. Many of you are Americans and you've lived most of your life (until recently) in a culture that has played nice with Judeo-Christian values. When you drive through any city or town in America, you're not surprised to see a *Church* building. You actually *expect* to find Churches because our cultural values have been in agreement with Biblical values. Ideas like seeking out truth, marriage and family, honesty and respect for one another have been both cultural and Christian characteristics.

But, you might be surprised to find a Christian Church flourishing in a culture that is the opposite of what we described above! The place where Titus was living when he received this letter had no Judeo-Christian foundation whatsoever.

The people on the island of Crete were characterized by immorality and deceitfulness. The Apostle Paul quoted from their own literature when he described them as ***“liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons”*** (1:12). WOW! Those aren't the type of people you would expect to find in Church. But some actually believed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, became born-again, and formed Churches.

Now that they were Christians, how were they to live? Unlike many of the communities we may have grown up in — with some semblance of morality — nothing in their culture prepared them for a Christian lifestyle. It would require a fresh work of the Holy Spirit and good pastoral leadership to teach them how they were to live in their *present situation* and their *present age*.

What do I mean by their *present age*? That's a phrase Paul used in Titus chapter two: ***training us to ... live Godly lives in the present age!*** It means the duration of time a Christian remains living on this earth while their citizenship is in Heaven — until Jesus takes them home.

For the Cretans — while they were waiting for Heaven — God had certain **work** for them to accomplish. We are the same — while we are waiting for Heaven, God has **work** for us to accomplish — **Titus 2:14** says we are to be *zealous for good works*.

Titus was God's chosen leader, shepherd and instructor in the faith! Paul was moved by the Holy Spirit to send him this letter with instructions that would not only be relevant to the ministry in Crete in the first century, but would be included in our canon of Scripture as timeless inspiration on how *we* (all Christians) should live *while we wait* for Jesus to return for His bride!

This is a six-week Bible Study with four days of study each week. There are only 46 verses in Titus, so it will be very easy for us to write out the whole book as we study.

I'm glad you are joining us in this endeavor and I pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you into a greater understanding of how you can honor God and serve Him *while you wait!*

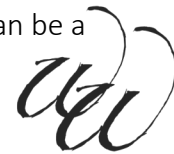
Many Blessings,

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To watch the video teachings for this Bible Study go to:  
[ccontario.com/womens-studies](http://ccontario.com/womens-studies)  
or  
[YouTube.com/calvarychapelontario](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvYUwUwUwUwUwUwUwUwUwUw)

\*The best translation of the Bible to use is the one you understand the most easily — and using more than one translation can be a great aid to study! This study guide was created using the ESV (English Standard Version), which may be a helpful tool as you work through your study.



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## While We Wait — Introduction to Titus

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These pages are intended be used along with the introductory teaching video on Titus ([www.ccontario.com/WOW-Titus](http://www.ccontario.com/WOW-Titus)). If you are studying in a group, the questions on page 7 may provide some good discussion starters following the video.

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A simplified outline of the book of Titus demonstrates how Christians should live in these contexts of life —

Chapter 1: In \_\_\_\_\_ life

Chapter 2: In \_\_\_\_\_ life

Chapter 3: In \_\_\_\_\_ life

### Titus 1:1-4 —

Who wrote this letter? \_\_\_\_\_

To whom was this letter written? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was Titus residing when Paul wrote this letter? \_\_\_\_\_

How did Paul describe himself?

\_\_\_\_\_ of God \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ

What motivated Paul to write this letter?

The \_\_\_\_\_ of God's elect,

Their \_\_\_\_\_ of truth, and

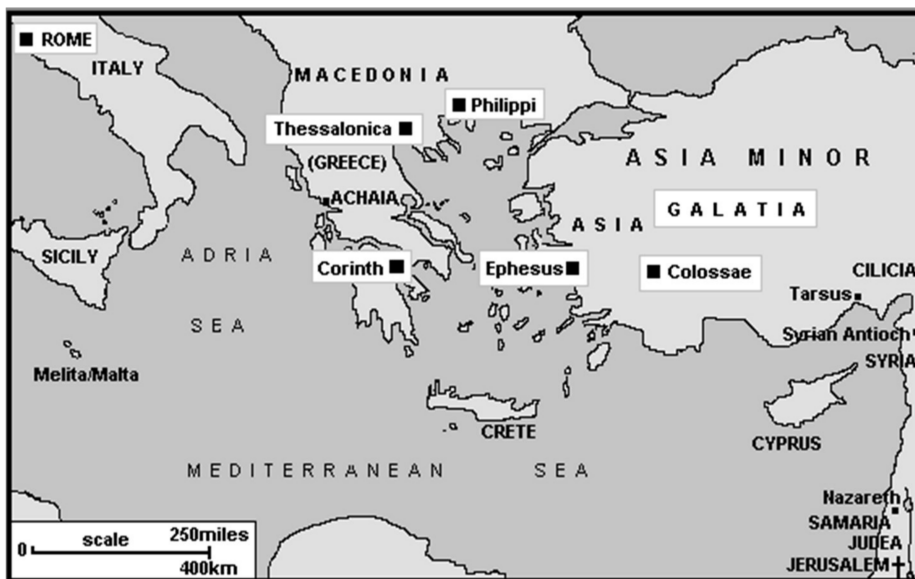
\_\_\_\_\_ of eternal life

While we wait for the blessed hope--  
the glorious appearing of our great  
God and Savior, Jesus Christ!  
— Titus 2:13 (NIV)



## A Brief Bio on Titus

- ◇ By birth, Titus was a Gentile — **Galatians 2:3** says he was Greek.
- ◇ It is likely that he was introduced to the Gospel through Paul's ministry since Paul calls him *my true son (child)* in **Titus 1:4**.
- ◇ We know that Titus accompanied Paul to Jerusalem to see Peter and James. (**Galatians 2:1**)
- ◇ Then, confronting the false teaching of the Judaizers (**Galatians 2:3**), Paul pointed out that even Titus had not been required to be circumcised — he was accepted by faith alone.
- ◇ Afterward, Titus accompanied Paul on a missionary journey. In **2 Corinthians 8:23**, Paul described Titus as his *partner and fellow worker for your benefit*.
- ◇ We learn in **Titus 1:5** that Paul left Titus behind on Crete to complete the work that had begun.
- ◇ Finally, the last reference seems to be that Titus had been with Paul in Rome and left for other ministry. (**2 Timothy 4:10**)



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## Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. Paul described himself in **v.1** as both a *servant of God* and an *apostle of Jesus Christ*. We know *his* specific ministry was to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. Do you also consider yourself a *servant of God*? If so, name some specific ways you are walking out *your* calling.
2. How would someone notice that you are carrying out the call to be a *servant of God*?
3. Paul referred to Titus as '*my true child in a common faith*' (**v.4**), even though Paul was a circumcised Jew and Titus an uncircumcised Greek. Explain how belonging to the Body of Christ has the potential of eliminating differences between people.
4. Have you experienced the blessing of a close relationship with someone very different than you because of your bond in Christ?
5. The phrase, *true child*, portrays a mentoring relationship. In your life, have you benefited from a mentor? Have you mentored someone as a *true child in the faith*?
6. Have you ever thought of the timeline of your life in terms of *waiting for the appearing of Jesus Christ*? What difference would it make to consider what you should be *doing* **WHILE YOU WAIT**?





## Day 2: \_\_\_\_\_

🔗 READ Titus 1:1-16 & WRITE Titus 1:5-9 in your journal.

- How did Titus happen to live on Crete (v.5)?
- What general and specific tasks did Paul ask Titus to focus on (v.5)?
- How can this be used as an example of specific tasks that God may drop into the lap of His *servants* like you and me today?
- What do these verses suggest about *order* and *organization* in the local Church Body? Read also **Acts 14:23** and **1 Peter 5:1-3**.
- From **v.6-8**, list characteristics and qualifications in these positive and negative columns for *elders/overseers\** in the local Church:

An elder should be:

An elder should not be:

\* Note: *Elder*, *overseer* and *pastor* are used interchangeably in many parts of the Bible including **1 Peter 5:1-2**.

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- How might it be possible for a wife to either help or hinder her husband in meeting those qualifications?
- What qualification is echoed twice in **v.6-7**?
- Explain what that phrase means and why you think it is an important characteristic for an elder.
- Elders/overseers are to '*hold firm to the word as taught*'. What two important tasks must they uphold regarding *sound doctrine* (v.9)?
- Which of those tasks would you guess might not be tolerated very well in today's culture?
- Why is it important that elders be ready to rebuke those who contradict sound doctrine?

I have been sent to strengthen the faith  
of those God has chosen and  
to teach them to know the truth  
that shows them how to live godly lives.  
— the Apostle Paul (Titus 1:1 NLT)

## Day 3:

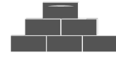
✞ READ Titus 1:5-16 & WRITE Titus 1:10-14 in your journal.

Draw something to resemble *bricks* under the phrases:

*sound in the faith* (v.13)

*sound doctrine* (v.9)

*knowledge of the truth* (v.1)



One task of elders/overseers is to protect the Church from deception. Because of our enemy Satan, deception abounds.

- In contrast to the characteristics of elders, list the qualities and actions of those who stand opposed to sound doctrine in **v.10-12**:
- What does it mean to be *insubordinate* (Check other translations)?
- What is an *empty talker* (Check other translations)?

Paul specifically mentioned to watch out for those of the *circumcision party*. We met them when we studied **Galatians**. Read **Gal. 2:11-14**.

- What influence had they secured within the Church?
- What actions had Paul taken when he realized this?

We also know people who agree with the core of the Gospel but teach that there is more a person *must do* to be accepted by God.

- What action did Paul tell Titus must be taken with them (**v.11**)?

- In a modern Church, who has the primary task to see that this happens?

Perhaps this gives you something to add to your prayers for the elders of your Church! I mean, everyone knows that pastors are supposed to be kind and agreeable and tell good jokes, right? How in the world could an elder or pastor *silence* someone, or worse yet, *rebuke them sharply* and still be a leader? Let's keep digging...

- What was the goal of rebuking false teaching (v.13)?
- What general attributes did Paul point out about the Cretans (v.12)?
- What is the connecting word between the description of the culture's character (v.12) and the phrase, '*rebuke them sharply*' (v.13)?

Do you think some personalities require a greater degree of firmness than others? Have you experienced that with children — some require a stern speech while others only a sober glance? Perhaps not every situation calls for a *sharp rebuke*, but a leader must be ready for any task.

## Day 4: \_\_\_\_\_

🔗 READ Titus 1:5-16 & WRITE Titus 1:15-16 in your journal.

- Mark the words '*work*' with a large "W".

Paul already exposed the prevailing cultural tendencies and finished this section with a summary of how people's views of life are shaped by the condition of their hearts.

- How do people, who are *pure in heart*, view things?
- How do people, who are *defiled*, view things?

Read **Romans 1:21-22** and **1 Timothy 6:3-5**. According to these passages:

- How do people's minds/consciences become **defiled and unbelieving**?
- What character traits would we expect in someone whose mind/conscience becomes **defiled and unbelieving**?
- What would you prescribe as a remedy for someone whose mind has become *defiled*? (Give a Scripture verse)
- Take **v.16** and flip it to the positive — What would be indicators that someone actually *does* know God?

READ **Ephesians 4:11-12**. The Church is an important place. Satan is out to destroy the Church, but Jesus not only died and sent His Holy Spirit to the Church, He also gave pastors and elders to equip us — His people — in order for us to fulfill the purpose for which each one was created.

*"A pastor needs two voices, one for gathering the sheep and the other for driving away wolves and thieves"*  
— John Calvin <sup>1</sup>

## Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. Note that Titus was to *appoint elders* — plural! Why do you think the presence of multiple men as *elders* is important?
2. Why is it relevant for us to study the qualifications for *elders* in a women's Bible study?
3. Some Churches select business-type leaders as elders/overseers. What danger do you see in overlooking a man's ability to instruct in sound doctrine or ignoring the signs of sanctification?
4. Since elders are to *oversee (v.7)* the local Church *as God's steward*, we should pray that they would govern well. How are you praying for your *elders/overseers/pastors*? Or, how will you begin to pray more regularly for them?
5. I once heard a pastor say (regarding people in their Church), '*Never say anything to hurt their heart*'. While that may sound loving and noble, how does that statement hold up to the task given to elders in this chapter?
6. What types of *good work* do you think Paul refers to in **v.16**?



## Counter-Culture Living — Titus 2:1-10

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### Week 3 — Day 1:

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- ✂ READ **Titus 2:1-10** & WRITE **Titus 2:1-2** in your journal...
- Circle the words *older men* with a red pencil.

While we wait for Jesus to return, we've been given a blueprint for living. The Bible teaches us how to apply *sound doctrine* in such a way as to live very differently than the culture around us. Maybe your people aren't quite as rough as the people on Crete — but maybe they are! You will stand out if you follow the advice Paul gave to Titus!

The beginning of this chapter really appeals to my love of organization, since I often live by bullet points and lists. That's why we're encircling each people group in red in this week's text — to easily identify the pattern of good works given to them.

This chapter begins with '*but*', which signals a comparison or contrast.

- What is the instruction to Titus in **v.1**?
  
- Explain what that means:

With the opening words, '*teach what accords with sound doctrine*', the Apostle accomplished two things: a contrast to anything the false teachers in chapter one would have been teaching, and a topic sentence or an umbrella statement for the verses to come. These verses describe how believers in Christ are to relate to one another.


- On the next page, list characteristics older men in the Church should possess. Then, define or elaborate on each. (You may want to check a different translation to add to your understanding.)



*Older men are to be...*

- Go back and read **Titus 1:12**. In a culture saturated with conduct like that, what impact do you think **Titus 2:2** men would have?
  
- Go back and read **Titus 1:10-11**. How would **Titus 2:2** men stand in contrast to false teachers infiltrating the Church?

## *Day 2:*

-  READ **Titus 2:1-10** & WRITE **Titus 2:3-5** in your journal.
  - Circle the words *older women* and *young women* with red.
- Write one sentence that summarizes how older Christian women should conduct themselves:

We're going to use these three verses next week for an in-depth study on these characteristics. I mention it now so you won't be surprised at our brief overview today.

- What group does the word *likewise* connect with?
- What do you think is the reason for making that connection? What are the similarities?
- How do you think the distinction between *older women* and *younger women* might have been made at the time of this letter?
- Do you think it has changed in our day?
- What two T-words describe the active task of older women (v.3-4)?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Who was to be the object of their teaching (v.4)?
- Write one sentence that summarizes how the older women are to instruct the younger women?
- (Remember, we will dissect these verses next week!)  
What is the desired outcome of women behaving properly (v.5)?



- What is the one phrase that is repeated for each group? You'll find it mentioned three times:  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- Define and elaborate on what that phrase means and why it's so important for each group:

*"I choose to live my life in a glass house,"* said no one ever! And yet, Paul suggested that Titus live exactly that way. In fact, pastors and elders are called to model how the Gospel affects a person's life. In the NKJV, v.7 says, "*...showing yourself to be a pattern of good works.*"

- How is the integrity of the local Church affected through either positive or negative role-modeling by the leaders?
- How would you explain *sound speech* in more modern language, as an attribute that Titus (or any pastor or leader) should display?

## Day 4: \_\_\_\_\_

- **✞** READ Titus 2:1-10 & WRITE Titus 2:9-10 in your journal.
  - Circle the word *bondservant* in red.
  - Put an "S" over each word *submissive* in v.1-10.

If you studied 1 Peter with us, you may remember the Greek word **hypotasso**, which is translated *submissive* in v.9. Vines dictionary tells us it is a military word, which means, *to rank under*. It describes how order is established and maintained within a group of people.

It's used 40 times in the New Testament regarding various relationships, including Jesus making Himself *subject* to His Father (1 Cor. 15:28). Isn't that interesting? — Jesus Himself, being in very nature God, willingly walked in hypotasso in His own relationship to His Father.

In Titus 2, this word is used to describe Godly character in both home and work life:

- young wives' submission toward their husbands (v.5), and
- bondservants' submission toward their masters (v.9)

Before we lose our minds over this word, let's remember what we learned above — even Jesus walked in *submission* to God the Father.

Unlike the portrayal in our culture — *submission* doesn't:

- mean blind obedience to another person
- strip one of their value, intellect or worth
- denote inferiority

Submission merely describes the *rank* one holds, how they relate to others around them. You might say, "*just as Jesus related to His Father — a bondservant is to relate to their master.*"

Fill in these columns with the other appropriate actions for servants. While you're at it, consider the implication for employees:

It's good for servants to:

It's bad for servants to:

- Complete the missing words from v.10: "So that in everything they may \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of God our Savior." What do you think this means?

## Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. Would you say that many of the men in your Church Body fit the description of **Titus 2:2**? Explain:
  
2. List three purposeful ways to raise boys to be **Titus 2:2** men:
  
3. Would you say that many of the women in your Church Body fit the description of **Titus 2:3-5**? Explain:
  
4. Why do you think Titus was to delegate the task of training the young women to the older women?
  
5. Has it been your observation that it's easy or natural for young women to love their children and their husbands? What effect might a woman's upbringing and/or culture have on this?
  
6. Explain how *integrity, dignity and sound speech (v.7-8)* cause the Word of God to flourish. Do you think most people are looking for those traits when searching for a Church and a pastor?
  
7. Since, as an employee, you are to *submit to or rank under* your employer, what should be the course of action if that employer asks you to do something illegal or immoral?



## A Christian Woman in Today's World — Titus 2:3-5

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We're about to do something I don't believe we've ever done in our WOW Bible Studies. We're backtracking in Scripture to spend an entire week on three verses — just 58 words. It's not such an outlandish idea — entire books have been written on these three verses.

In our Women of the Word Studies, we endeavor to study the Bible book-by-book, not just the *pink verses*. But when we run into those *pink verses*, it's wise for us to slow down and really process them!

Titus was given a big task — to bring order to the Church on Crete. He needed to select elders and train the men in Godly living. But what was he going to do about those women? — because women can be quite a force! Well, that's why Paul gave Titus some simple and clear instructions. I've woven them into an outline for this week:

- \* Day One — Older Women: Reverence and Control
- \* Day Two — Older Women: Teaching and Training
- \* Day Three — Younger Women: Love and Nurture
- \* Day Four — Younger Women: Home and Character

One more thing — You won't find *Questions for Discussion* at the end of this week's study — the reflection questions will be mixed in each day in order to keep them more closely associated with the verses.

### Week 4 — Day 1: Older Women: Reverence & Control

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**Titus 2:3a “Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior,  
not slanders or slaves to much wine.”**

Look up and write out this verse in a different translation:

- What does it mean to be *reverent in behavior*?



- Share an example of the opposite of *reverent behavior*:
  
- What does *slander* mean?
  
- No one wakes up and says, “I think I’ll be a *slanderer* today.” So, how does slander happen? How does it so easily slip into conversations between women?
  
- What effect does the presence of *slander* among Christians have on the reputation of the Gospel?
  
- Why do you think Paul compared excessive wine consumption to *slavery* when none of the other vices are characterized that way?

It's pretty easy to avoid alcohol in our culture if we choose to. We have plenty of options for hydration: clean drinking water, carbonated beverages, coffee! That wasn't the case for the ancients. Their thirst-quenching options were few: goat's milk, stagnant water, or some form of fruit beverage in some stage of fermentation — wine! It's no wonder Paul suggested self-control — it would be needed daily.

- Describe some of the effects too *much wine* has on a person:
  
- How might those affect a woman's reverent lifestyle? (Today we call it '*our witness*')
  
- Paul admonished not to be '*addicted to much wine*' (NIV). How should we apply that to our alcohol-drinking decisions today?
  
- Where do other substances fit into this conversation? Do prescription drugs, marijuana, other things affect our *witness*?

This is a delicate conversation. Some women know they are *enslaved*, broken and grieving; some are in denial and think they are in control of the substances they consume. Both groups need compassion, prayer, and a community of support within the Body of Christ.

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Perhaps YOU realize that what you've consumed to help you escape or calm down has become your master. God is not mad at you, He is your hope for freedom! Lean in to Him today and confess your bondage and ask Him to free you from slavery.

## Day 2: Older Women: Teaching & Training

Titus 2:3-4 "Older women ... are to teach what is good,  
and so train the young women."

I became a mother while living a thousand miles from my own mother. Paul and I were already Christians. We served in youth ministry and were at Church every time the doors were open. So, we made many friends and connections across all age groups.

I was the *younger woman* who really needed an *older woman*. I didn't necessarily need someone to mother me or show constant interest in my baby. I needed someone who had walked with God longer than I had. I needed someone who actually displayed Godly characteristics in her life. I needed someone to remind me to trust in God and be patient with my own spiritual progress.

I remember some women expressed interest in sharing their life with a girl decades younger, while others seemed completely absorbed with their own age group. They gave off the '*been there, done that, no longer interested*' vibe. What a loss for the Church when that happens.

- According to **v.3**, what phrase describes what older women are to **teach**?
- You've heard the saying, '*you can't teach what you don't know.*' Explain how teaching and training younger women rests upon the *reverent behavior* encouraged earlier in this verse:

If you fall in the category of an *older woman*:

- In what areas do you need the Lord's help to live a *reverent life* so you have something *good* to give to the younger generation?
  
- In what specific areas has God equipped you to teach good things? (i.e. a struggle with infertility, raising a strong-willed child, overcoming an addiction, loving an unbelieving husband, etc.)
  
- What are some roadblocks that older women face in teaching and training? How can they be overcome?
  
- What are some roadblocks that younger women face in receiving from older women? How can they be overcome?

Number, in order, the most effective ways that *you* have learned from other women (There is no right or wrong, just your experience):

- \_\_\_\_\_ attending groups or classes taught by women
- \_\_\_\_\_ working alongside other women
- \_\_\_\_\_ conversations—asking questions to other women
- \_\_\_\_\_ observing how other women *do life*
- \_\_\_\_\_ praying with other women

## Day 3: Younger Women: Love & Nurture

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Titus 2:4-5 “Then they can train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands.”

I think it’s generally accepted that most women are nurturers. From a young age, we love puppies, kittens and all things miniature. Some of us got a huge dose of that, others had to dig a little deeper to find our portion. But nurturing, in general, seems to be in our DNA.

It might make us wonder why older women would *need* to train younger women to love the people in their life — doesn’t it come naturally? Well, some of it does, but our love often needs guidance.

For example,

- \* what would you say to the young mother who has never said ‘no’ to her toddler ‘*because she loves her too much*’?
- \* What about the young mother who prioritizes weekend baseball above Church because ‘she loves to watch Johnny play so much’?

Before we go further, I think we need to make clear that Paul is assuming the *younger women* in the Church of Crete would have been young wives and mothers. Honestly, there wasn’t any other category of young women in the first century. But there is today. Not every woman in the 21st century marries young and raises a family, and that’s okay. Even the Apostle said, “***it is good for them to remain single as I am.***” (1 Cor. 7:8) Our passage today should in no way make a woman feel as though marriage and motherhood is the *only* viable Christian choice.

So, let’s look at these verses with the pretext that the relational instructions given to the younger women are for those who are married and raising families.

- What might a young mother *love* that would need to be put on the back burner in order to *love* her husband and children?

- List three specific things a woman could do to *love her husband* that would be a positive witness of her love for Christ.

1.

2.

3.

- List three specific things a mother might do to *love her children* that would be a positive witness of her love for Christ.

1.

2.

3.

Now, if you are in the *younger woman* category, I want to assign you to take those answers above and share them with an older woman. Ask what she thinks of your answers. Ask what her answers are. Write one additional thing you learned from your conversation:

Now, let's look at the next two virtues listed: *self-control* and *purity*. There are a lot of ways to apply these in our lives; but let's assume they are listed here in the context of the Christian family.

- Define *self-control* (Check another translation as well):

- What would be the opposite?

- Define *pure* (Check another translation as well):
- What would be the opposite?
- It's obvious these are character traits desired for all Christians. But what are some ways that young women might specifically struggle in both of these areas?
- How might an older woman help in exposing any weak spots and then fortifying those character traits?

Give yourself an honest letter-grade on **self-control** \_\_\_\_\_

- In what areas of your life do you need the Holy Spirit's order?

Give yourself an honest letter-grade on **purity** \_\_\_\_\_

- In what areas do you need to make changes with God's help?

## Day 4: Younger Women: Home & Character

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Titus 2:5 “...working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God might not be reviled.”

Not only are most women natural nurturers, I think women also tend to be more aware of their space. I guess you’ll find the occasional boy who decorates his room, but far and away, it’s the girls who find enjoyment in feathering their nest — for their own enjoyment as well as for others.

A stable home isn’t about the size of the house, the quality of the furnishings, or the dust-free surfaces. It’s the love and kindness and hope that spring from the Gospel. These things take root in children raised in homes where a woman is passionate about her people and the space they share!

- Look up the phrase the ESV translates ‘*working at home*’ in a couple of translations and write a few of your findings here:
  
- How do these phrases inspire you to maximize the potential of your home?
  
- What distractions keep you from being busy at home?
  
- What can cause you to be lazy at home?



The presence of **kindness** might be the single most distinguishing factor between a good home and a great home. How would you grade yourself on kindness? \_\_\_\_\_

Read these passages and jot down what inspires you:

**Proverbs 21:19, 21** —

**Proverbs 31:26-27** —

**Zechariah 7:9-10** —

**Ephesians 4:30-32** —

If a woman has a short fuse, there's a good chance that kind words will not be the first thing from her lips — especially with her children. This is tragic because children need kind words for emotional stability.

- If this is an area that needs attention in your life, confess your shortcoming, yield yourself to God's Holy Spirit, and write down specific actions you believe He would have you take.
  
- If you have conquered a bad habit like this, then allow yourself to be transparent so you can train someone younger in the Lord. Pray about how the Lord would have you do that.

The final habit that younger women should be trained in is a submissive attitude toward their *own* husband. I think this is the most difficult of all the virtues to teach in our generation. Our culture has convinced us that *ranking under* another person means we are inferior to them, so we naturally dig in our heels because of the perceived threat to equality. But no such threat exists.

- According to **v.5**, to whom is a wife to submit?
  
- What is the reason for this submission (**v.5**)?

Read **Ephesians 5:22-33**. Based on that text,

- How does a wife display the Gospel in her *submission*?
- How does the husband display the Gospel in his *sacrifice*?
- Explain how ***the word of God might be reviled*** if either of them shrink from their God-given role in the marriage relationship:
- How might the Word of God have been ***reviled*** on Crete by marriages that were out of God's order?

Biblical submission is not blind obedience. The assumed context is a covenant relationship between a man and woman who have surrendered their lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

- Can a woman be, or should she be submissive to an unbelieving husband? (use Scripture in your answer)
- Discuss in your groups what submission does and does not include in the areas of: disagreements, pornography, concealing illegal activity, how to spend money, parenting, intimacy.

If you are married, circle how effective you think you have been in this area recently 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (1 is least, 10 is most)  
Ask your husband the same question and put a square over his response.

Whether you are single or married, which of the virtues in these verses do you believe the Lord would have you focus on improving? Why?



## Doctrine & Duty — Titus 2:11-15, 3:1-3

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The pivot-point of a teeter-totter is called the *fulcrum* — the planks balance from that center point. The *fulcrum* of this letter is the word *for* in **v.11**. The verses before that point lay out our *duty* as Christians; the verses after describe our *doctrine*, the reason for our duty.

Unless both doctrine and duty are held in tension, we can come down hard like an ill-balanced teeter-totter. So be thinking of these two planks of Christian living, as you read the passage today.

### Week 5 — Day 1:

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✂ READ Titus 2:1-15 & WRITE Titus 2:11-12 in your journal

- Put sunrays ☀ over the word *appeared*.

Usually, in the Apostle Paul's letters, he first expressed the *doctrine* of the Gospel followed by inspiration for *duty* — *how we should then live*. In this letter to Titus, the order is reversed — *duty* is described first followed by *doctrine*. We've already studied the very practical applications of our duty for Godly living, so now we'll consider the reason.

- What does Paul say has appeared in **v.11a**?
- What does *the grace of God* mean in this verse?
- What was the purpose for Christ's appearing (**v.11b**)?
- What does *salvation* mean (Also read **Ephesians 2:4-5**)?
- As you read **v.11** and go right into **12a**, what do you see that should come right on the heels of salvation?

- Define *ungodliness* —

Give some specific examples:

- Define *worldly passions* —

Give some specific examples:

- Once a person has received *salvation* (by the grace of God) and has *renounced ungodliness* and *worldly passions*, what does **v.12** tell us our lives should be characterized by?

Give two specific examples of how that might look:

- Is there some *worldly passion* that you have been clinging to and need to *renounce* in order to live a more *Godly* life? Now is the time to confess that to the Lord and ask for His grace to work in your life.

And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.  
— 1 John 2:28 (ESV)

## Day 2: \_\_\_\_\_

📖 READ **Titus 2:11-15** & WRITE **Titus 2:13-15** in your journal.

- Put sunrays ☀ over the word *appearing*.
- Put a large “W” over the phrase *good works*.

Paul used the phrase, ‘*the present age*’ (v.12). Every Christian is living in the *present age* — between the two *appearings* that you marked in your journal — the appearing of God’s son, Jesus Christ that brought salvation (which we can look back on) and His next appearing in His full glory (which we look forward to)!

We used a **sunray** marking because the Greek word, *epiphaneia*, means *the visible appearance of something previously concealed*. It was used in classical Greek to mean the dawn or daybreak, ‘*when the sun leaps over the horizon into view.*’<sup>2</sup> In this case, it is the SON who will leap into view!

Write the first word from v.13: \_\_\_\_\_. This present age — the Church age — is defined by that word. In fact, the subtitle of this Bible Study is “*While we wait...for the blessed hope*” (v.13 NIV).

- How should *waiting* affect us? What type of people should we be *while we wait*?

There is a great summary at the end of v.14. Write the last four words of the verse here: \_\_\_\_\_.

Let’s internalize some of these things:

- Are you eagerly *waiting* for the return of Jesus — or are you more focused on your own agenda and the things of the world?
  - If you’re not happy with your honest answer, list two things you believe God would have you do to change your focus:

- Are you *zealous for good works* that would adorn the Gospel — or are you more attracted to hobbies, business, beauty, or food?
  - If you're not happy with your answer, list two things you believe God would have you do to change your zeal:

Read **Romans 6:17-19, 22** and **1 Peter 1:18-19**.

- How do those verses help explain what it means in **v.14** that Jesus '*gave himself to redeem us from all lawlessness*'?
- What are the practical implications of a Christian becoming God's '*own possession*' (**v.14**)?
  - What effect should that phrase have on the desire to '*live my life my own way*'?
- In **v.15**, what were the *things* that Paul said Titus was to *declare* and *exhort*? (Use phrases from Scripture)
  - Where did his authority come from?

## Day 3:

How should Christians live *while we wait*? Chapters one and two showed us proper order in the Church, followed by proper order in the home. Now, in chapter three, the theme broadens to include our relationship with society — proper order in dealing with the world.

✞ READ **Titus 2:11—3:3** & WRITE **Titus 3:1-2** in your journal.

- Put a large “W” over the phrase, *good work*.

Paul adheres to a familiar pattern in this letter.

◇ He first explains the **duty** of a Christian, we could call it the *what*.  
◇ Then he shows the **doctrine** of the Gospel, we could call it the *why*.  
Verses **1-2** today will describe *what* our Christian ethic should look like toward the world. Verse **3** tomorrow will explain *why* that is so.

- Write the first word in **v.1**: \_\_\_\_\_. What does this imply about their former knowledge of these social duties?
  
- What is to be a Christian’s posture toward *rulers and authorities*?
  
- What is the Greek word translated *submissive*? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Check p.20-21 if you have forgotten.)
- What does it mean?
  
- In the context of governing authorities, what does it mean to be *ready for every good work*?



Verse two widens our responsibility from the leaders of our communities to all of society — all of our social connections — public, private, Christian, and secular.

There are four social attitudes commanded in order that we might *adorn the Gospel* by how we behave in our relationships. Write them out below and really think about each one as you write.

Negative attitudes and actions to avoid:

- 
- 

Positive attitudes and actions to apply:

- 
- 

Did you think of someone else who really needed this list? We usually do! Maybe a friend's social media post came to mind as you wrote, '*avoid quarreling.*' But these words are for us! We are to be reminded of these things in order to refine our character *while we wait*.

Go back to the list above and print a number from 1-4. 1 = *needs most improvement* and so on. Then submit this request in prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking His help for more genuine godliness in your relationships with others.

The Cretan culture was loud and malicious! Many aspects of our culture are the same.

- What kind of an influence do you think someone could have on people around them when they actually live out these attitudes because they belong to Christ?

## Day 4:

✞ READ **Titus 3:1-7** & WRITE **Titus 3:3** in your journal.

The *doctrine* that provides the reason for our *duty* begins with the verse you just wrote in your journal. The entire explanation is given in **v.3-7** but we're only going to dissect **v.3** today and leave the mega-sentence that follows for next week.

Paul contends that we should show grace and compassion (as noted in **v.2**) toward other people, who are made in the image of God even if they are very difficult and/or godless people (as noted in **v.3**).

- What is the reason for this (**v.3**)?
- How can recognizing that we all start from a position of enmity with God help us exhibit the Godly attitudes described in **v.2**?

It's not productive to dwell on the past, but if we never glance back at our former condition (**v.3**), we may be tempted to forget our great need for redemption.

The Apostle Paul wrote of his former condition often in his letters. Read **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**, **Ephesians 4:17-24**, **Colossians 3:5-10**.

- List two of the behaviors in **v.3** that could be said of your life and attitudes before Christ changed you:

- Explain how you attribute a change (if even slightly) in these areas to the work of God in your life.

Next week in Titus 3, we'll study some really great news. But for today, can we make an ultra-condensed version of that news? (use ESV)

Write the 1st Word in **v.4** \_\_\_\_\_

Write the 1st 3 words in **v.5** \_\_\_\_\_

Write the 1st 2 words in **v.7** \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the middle of **v.7** *we might become* \_\_\_\_\_

God's kids (heirs) have been equipped by the Holy Spirit to display the opposite characteristics of the unregenerate life that are listed in **v.3**. List behaviors you see in **v.3** and give the opposite attitude that accords with Godliness: (for example)

Instead of <i>foolish</i>	—	<i>sensible</i>
Instead of <i>disobedient</i>	—	<i>submissive</i>

Do all things without grumbling or disputing,  
that you may be blameless and innocent,  
children of God without blemish in the midst of  
a crooked and twisted generation,  
among whom you shine as lights in the world.  
Philippians 2:14-15 (ESV)

## Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. Because critics of Christianity mock the second coming of Christ, some Churches just don't talk about it much. Why is it such an important pillar of our faith, and why should it be a focus for us?
2. How does waiting for Jesus to appear motivate you to live a more Godly life in this present age?
3. Give an example of a *worldly passion* that has been allowed to flourish within the modern Church — maybe even Christianized?
4. **V.15** instructed Titus to *declare, exhort* and *rebuke* with regard to the things Paul shared. How can the Church go about putting this into practice?
5. Why is it important for pastors/elders to be willing to do the above?
6. Envision the entire spectrum of obeying authorities — from blind obedience to every request (even sinful activities) — to open rebellion toward every law. How do you think a Christian should balance that scale?



## Devoted to Good Works — Titus 3:4-15

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### Week 6 — Day 1:

📖 READ **Titus 3:1-15** & WRITE **Titus 3:4-7** in your journal.

- Put sunrays ☀ over the word *appearing*.
- Put a large “W” over the word *works*.
- Put a large “M” over the word *mercy*.

I’m one of those rare people who enjoys change. My husband has gotten used to finding his favorite chair in different corners of the living room. Because the first word in our text this week is *but*, it’s a sure signal that something has changed or is about to change. Change is the foundational message of the Gospel — God takes something broken and corrupted and turns it into something precious!

- Explain the change expressed between **v.3** and today’s passage:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- You marked this change with sunrays in your journal. Change was made possible (**v.4**) when *what* appeared?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- You marked the word *works*, in **v.5**, with a “W”. What role do *works* play in a person’s salvation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- You marked the word *mercy*, in **v.5**, with an “M” (which is vertically opposite of “W”). What role does *mercy* play in a person’s salvation?

Read **John 3:3-8**, **1 Corinthians 6:11**, **Ephesians 5:25-26**. Explain what you discover about the *washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit*.

- What adverb in **v.6** describes *how* the Holy Spirit has been poured out on us? \_\_\_\_\_. What does that tell you about how God relates to you?
- As a Christian, you've been *renewed* by the Holy Spirit (**v.4-7**). How should this impact those behaviors that might linger in your life as described in **v.3**?
- Read **Ephesians 1:13-14**. What is our assurance or our guarantee that we have truly become an *heir*?
- Today's verses are an excellent summary of the Gospel message. Since this letter was written to Titus (obviously a born-again Christian), why do you think Paul included a passage such as this? Didn't he already know all about the Gospel?

## Day 2:

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- ✞ READ **Titus 3:1-15** & WRITE **Titus 3:8-9** in your journal.
- Put a large “W” over the word *works*.
  - Bracket the contrasting words, *insist* and *avoid*.
  - Mark *excellent* and *profitable* with an up arrow. ↑
  - Mark *unprofitable* and *worthless* with a down arrow. ↓
- Explain *the saying* that is *trustworthy*.
  
  - What are *the things* that Titus is to *insist on* and why?

Fill in these important words from **v.8**:

“*careful to* \_\_\_\_\_ *themselves to* \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_”

Do you agree or disagree with this statement and why? “Good works can never be the basis for salvation, but they may be the proof of salvation”

- Read **1 Timothy 5:9-10**. Why do you think Paul set the requirement that widows be cared for by the Church only if they are well known for their good deeds?
  
- What are the four things listed in **v.9** that Titus was to avoid?
  
- Why do you think that is good advice for all Christians?



- Explain in one sentence the contrast between what a Pastor should *insist* on and what he should *avoid*.
- What are some of the foolish controversies of our day (or conspiracy theories) that cause trouble in the Church?
- READ **1 Timothy 6:3-5**. Why do you think some have an unhealthy attraction to controversies and quarrels?

### Day 3:

✂ READ **Titus 3:1-15** & WRITE **Titus 3:10-11** in your journal.

If someone stirred up trouble or division, Paul gave a three-step plan for relating to them. List the steps:

- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
- Why is that course of action reasonable?
  - In what other applications could you use that three-step plan?
  - How does **v.11** describe the characteristics of people who stir up trouble?

- These final verses are certainly aimed at protecting the unity within the Church Body. Why are divisions within the Church so undesirable? What is the outcome of division between friends?
- What can a Church, or even a small group (like a Bible Study), do to proactively protect from the division caused by controversies?

### Day 4:

- ✞ READ **Titus 3:1-15** & WRITE **Titus 3:12-15** in your journal.
- Put a large “W” over the word *works*.

Titus had a big job on Crete and the ministry was complex. As we read today’s passage, it becomes clear that he couldn’t just up and leave without a replacement to continue the work among the Churches.

- What was Paul’s plan to relieve Titus in order for him to make a visit?
- What can you infer from **v.12-13** about Paul’s ministry relationships?

- What were three points of importance Paul wanted the believers to *learn* to put into action from **v.14**?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Those three phrases are all related to one another.

- Explain how someone who lives a life *devoted to good works* will be ready to help when an *urgent need* arises.
  
- Explain the difficulty someone would have in a time of *urgent need* when they have lived in their own bubble and not *devoted themselves to good works*.

**While We Wait** was the titled I chose for this Bible study but a more complete title might be, **Zealous for Good Works While We Wait**. That is the main point and final takeaway from studying this book.

- What has God spoken to you about the **good works** that He has prepared for you?
  
- What verse, section or phrase made a big impact on you through this study? In what way?

Everything we do is saturated in God's grace. As a farewell, write the final five words from this letter:

## Questions for Thought & Discussion

1. How have others in the Body of Christ inspired you to be devoted to good works?
2. What would you say are two of the biggest hindrances in your devotion to the good works God has intended for you?
3. Is **v.9** indicating that all theological debates are inappropriate in the Church? How are we to apply this verse?
4. Some may read the last phrase of **3:2** and the last phrase of **3:10** as contradictions. How would you explain the difference in how we should relate to people, based on those two verses?
5. Have you been convicted to *subject yourself to authority* in some area where you have held back?
6. Of all the advice Paul gives in this book for Godly living, name one area that has become a focus for greater surrender to the Lord and maturity.



## REFERENCES

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Scripture quotations from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

1— **Calvin, John.** As quoted in *The Message of 1 Timothy & Titus: The life of the local church*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1996. WORDsearch CROSS e-book.

2— **Stott, John.** *The Message of 1 Timothy & Titus: The life of the local church*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1996. WORDsearch CROSS e-book.

Map on p.5 <https://www.ccel.org/bible/phillips/CN092MAPS1.htm>

## Women of the Word Bible Studies

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The following WOW Bible Studies written by Sue LeBoutillier are available through the **Calvary Chapel Ontario bookstore**, and through our online store at [www.ccontario.com](http://www.ccontario.com).

### Old Testament:

- **Genesis**—Divine Design, From Eden to Egypt
- **Exodus**—Divine Deliverance, From Egypt to Sinai
- **Numbers**—The Wilderness Way, From Sinai to the Jordan
- **Joshua** —The Path of Promise, From the Jordan into Canaan
- **Judges** — A Time of Turning
- **Ruth**—Rescue and Rest
- **1 Samuel** — The Coming King
- **2 Samuel** — The Reigning King
- **1&2 Kings (Part One)**— Solomon and the House of the Lord
- **Jonah**—The Call of Compassion

### New Testament:

- **The Way of Jesus** —The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew)
- **Simply Jesus**—The “I AMs” of Christ (John)
- **Acts**—Walking in the Spirit, The First Days of the Last Days
- **Galatians**—Finding Grace in a Demanding World
- **Philippians**—Finding Joy in a Disjointed World
- **Colossians**—Finding Stability in a Changing World
- **Titus**—While We Wait
- **James**—Real Faith for Daily Life
- **1 & 2 Peter**—Hope, Holiness and Humility in a Hostile World
- **1,2,3 John**—Light, Love and Logic