

Titus 3 Sermon Questions

June 21, 2026 — Cornerstone Church

Main idea: God’s gracious saving work in the gospel motivates us to good works.

I. Exegetical questions:

- (1) Read Titus 1:16, 2:7, 2:14, 3:1, 3:8, and 3:14. What idea does Paul keep repeating to Titus in this short letter? If Paul wanted Titus and the church to focus on one thing, what would that one thing be?
- (2) Read Titus 3:3–7. How would you summarize what Paul is describing? Is he talking about good works, something we do, or something that God does?
- (3) In connection with Titus 3:3–7, Paul says in v. 8 that “This saying is trustworthy. I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed God might be careful to devote themselves to good works.” What was the purpose of Paul writing 3:3–7? Was it simply to give them more information?

II. Theological questions:

- (1) Paul says in 3:1 to submit to and obey rulers and authorities. Is Paul saying that this is an absolute command? Are there cases in Scripture, both Old and New Testaments where faithful believers do not submit and obey civil authorities? Read Acts 5:29. In what cases should there be civil disobedience?
- (2) Paul says in 3:2 to avoid fighting, to be kind, and to be gentle. And he also says in 3:9 to avoid foolish debate, quarrels, and disputes. Does that mean we should never fight? Does that mean we should never be firm and assertive? Read 1 Timothy 6:12. Read Titus 1:10–16. Read Matthew 23. How do you know when to be strong and when to be deferential?
- (3) What would you tell someone if they said, “I am covered by the blood of Jesus. I am not defined by my works. So I don’t need to worry about doing good works. That is just legalism and putting a burden on people.” How does the book of Titus challenge this notion? Also, what would you tell someone if they said, “I can never please God. I try to work so hard. I do all these good works, but I am still burdened by guilt, and I can never make up for my sins.” How does Titus 3:3–5 answer this individual?

III. Practical questions:

(1) How would you define “good works?” What is a good work that you can do in the next few days?

(2) On the one hand, there is a danger of abusing the gospel and not caring about doing good works. On the other hand, there is a danger of relying on good works as the basis of your relationship with God. Which pitfall do you tend towards? How would you correct that impulse?

(3) God did not call us to love the world; He called us to love our neighbor. What is the difference? Read this quote from C. S. Lewis: “It is easier to be enthusiastic about Humanity with a capital 'H' than it is to love individual men and women, especially those who are uninteresting, exasperating, depraved, or otherwise unattractive. Loving everybody in general may be an excuse for loving nobody in particular.” Are there specific people in your life that you can practically and concretely love by showing them good works? What are their names?

(4) Paul says in 3:9: “But avoid foolish debates, genealogies, quarrels, and disputes about the law, because they are unprofitable and worthless.” There is a difference between *good* work and *busy* work. God calls us not to activity, but to *profitable* activity. Can you think of activities that may seem beneficial but ultimately are not? Are there distractions that you need to avoid?