

TITUS & PHILEMON

When Actions Speak Volumes

PART 2: TITUS

WIN

To stand out in the culture around us as people who have Jesus as the focal point of our faith and are willing to subject ourselves to others

CONNECT

Paul wrote a letter to Titus, giving him direction on how to lead the church on the island of Crete. This was a difficult task, given the particular culture in Crete.

When was the last time you were asked to do something that made you feel you were in over your head? Did you have clarity on what the win was? Was someone there to help you along the way?

LEARN

Before watching the video together and discussing the questions provided, we suggest taking a few moments to pray. Here's a simple prayer you can use:

Heavenly Father, thank you for this letter Paul wrote to Titus. Help us learn and grow from the principles we see so that those around us can better see Jesus. Amen.

APPLY

Discuss the following questions as a group:

1. Were you able to read through Paul's letter to Titus? If so, share one sentence that summarizes the letter.
2. Are there characteristics you look for in church leaders? If so, what are they? Should those in leadership be held to a higher standard than everyone else? Why or why not?
3. Paul gave instructions for people to subject themselves—to intentionally put themselves beneath—others. Can you identify situations in your life where you willingly subject yourself to someone else? If so, what motivates you to do that?
4. While some of the examples Paul used for subjecting ourselves to others were specific to that culture, how can we take his instructions and apply them today? In other words, what are some ways we can subject ourselves to others in a manner that best represents who Jesus is?



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5. Look at Paul's advice to Titus when it came to divisiveness in Crete:
But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. (Titus 3:9–10)
How does that advice strike you? What constitutes someone as divisive? Do you have any divisive tendencies? What makes you say that?
6. Paul's instruction to Titus centered on the Cretans living in a way that pointed people to Jesus. Look at some of the key principles Paul laid out for Titus. Do any of them stand out as an opportunity for your own growth? If so, which one and why?
 - For true growth, individuals and communities have to own their own faith.
 - Being in leadership comes with expectations.
 - It's important to be intentional about clinging to core teaching.
 - Behavior should line up with belief.
 - While cultural norms shift over time, how we choose to submit to others is one way Jesus followers can influence those around them.

PRAY

Read this passage over the group: But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy (**Titus 3:4–5**). Take prayer requests from the group and close in prayer, especially thanking God for his grace through Christ.

