

Titus 3:1-8

Setting things in Order includes

1. Godly leaders
2. Godly members
 - a. Engaging in Age integrated discipleship
 - b. Engaging in a life that reflects the radical transformation that takes place when the gospel is received and believed

Now, we come to chapter 3 where we learn that healthy relationships with the lost are rooted in a healthy understanding of the gospel's work in our own lives.

READ / PRAY

There are three reminders that we get from these verses that will help us as we seek to relate to the lost.

I. Be reminded of what we are to be in our relationships with outsiders. v1-2

Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities,

1. The Bible makes very clear that we are to be subject to those who rule over us.
2. 1 Peter 2:13-17 *Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, 14 or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right. 15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. 16 Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God. 17 Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king.*
3. Polybius said that it was almost impossible to find...personal conduct more treacherous or public policy more unjust than in Crete, yet Paul says be submissive to the secular, governmental authorities.

to be obedient

1. Believers are to be characterized by obedience
2. John 3:36 *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*
3. Matt 7:21 *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven*

to be ready for every good deed

1. Christians are to be sitting on ready for every good deed.
2. Gal 6:10 *So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

v2 *to malign no one*

1. He is urging Christians to restrain their natural inclination to say the worst about people .
2. Tame the tongue
3. Don't slander, curse, and treat anyone with contempt.

to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

1. It is not our job to quarrel with the world or with the lost in the world.
2. Be gentle, meek...Considerate

II. Be reminded of who we once were. v3

“For”... when you want to lose patience with outsiders and do the opposite of what verses 1 and 2 say, remember who you used to be!

3 For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures,

1. Although the unsaved willfully chooses to sin, he does so because he is a slave to sin
2. Rom 6:16-18 *Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.*
3. Because he is a slave, his days are spent on a useless quest to find satisfaction in the lusts of the flesh and the pleasures of this life.

spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

1. This is how we WERE!
2. All of us were once characterized, motivated, and driven by the same sins that characterize our lost world.
3. Remembering who we once were should help us relate to them according to verses 1 and 2

III. Be reminded of how we were changed. v4-7

A. But V4-5a

4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness,

1. The only reason we are different now is that he saved us.
2. The savior did not redeem us because of anything that we were or could ever be in ourselves.
3. We made no contribution to God’s sovereign and gracious work of salvation.
4. It is not because of anything we did!

but according to His mercy

1. Eph 2:8-9 *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*
2. Salvation depends solely and completely on God’s grace, displayed in his mercy, revealed and achieved by his Son, Jesus Christ, and applied to humankind by the Holy Spirit.

B. How V5b-6

by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

John 3

C. Why V7

7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

1. He chose not only to regenerate and justify us, but also to adopt us...to make us his children and his heirs.
2. 1 John 3:1 *See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God*

Conclusion v8

8 This is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men.