

Titus 3:8-11  
How to Live with Unteachable People

**Introduction:** Having told Titus to encourage the believers on Crete to be gracious to the unsaved image-bearers, he now tells Titus to be appropriately stern.

**1) Things Titus must do—3:8**

- a) Titus needs to be confidently insistent in his teaching—3:8a <sup>8</sup> *This is a trustworthy saving* (practical and theological, up through 3:7), *and concerning these things I want* [pres. dep. ind. bou,lomai] *you to be confidently insisting* [pres. dep. inf. diabebaio,omai],
  - i) In this shaky, uncertain world, we have something that is dependable!
  - ii) Titus must not be hesitant in his communication of God's truth.
- b) Why should Titus be this way?—3:8b *so that* [i[na] *those who have trusted* [pf. act. ptc. pisteu,w] *God (the Father) will be intent/concentrate* [pres. act. subj. fronti,zw] *on engaging* [pres. mid. inf. proi<sthmi] *in good* [kalo,j] *works*.
  - i) Godward Christian conduct does not happen accidentally.
- c) Paul's reminder to Titus about the value of good works—3:8c *These things* (i.e. good works) *are good* [kalo,j] *and beneficial* [wvfe,limoj] *to people*.

**2) Things Titus must NOT do—3:9-11**

- These 2 issues further describe the situation Titus faced on Crete.
- a) Titus must avoid DIVISIVE OPINIONS; he must not engage in the following activities—3:9 <sup>9</sup> *But* [de,] *avoid/step around* [pres. mid. impv. perii<sthmi]
    - i) Four specific things to avoid
      - (1) *foolish* [mwro,j] *controversies* [zh,thsij],
      - (2) *genealogies* [genealogi,a],
        - (a) cf. 1 Tim. 1:3-7; Titus 1:10, 14
      - (3) *quarrels* [e;rij],
      - (4) *and disputes* [ma,ch] *about the Law* [nomiko,j],
    - ii) Two reasons to avoid these things
      - (1) *because* [ga,r] *they are not beneficial* [avnwfelh,j]
        - (a) Cf. 3:8 opposite of “beneficial”
      - (2) *and* (because they are) *worthless/futile/pointless* [ma,taioj].
        - (a) Cf. 3:8 opposite of “good”
  - b) Titus must avoid DIVISIVE PEOPLE; he must not engage with the following person—3:10
    - i) What? <sup>10</sup> *Reject/refuse/shun* [pres. mid. impv. paraite,omai]
      - (1) Both the Greek and Hebrew culture recognized the need for exclusion or expulsion. Consider our word “ostracism.”
    - ii) Who? *a divisive* [ai`retiko,j] *person*
      - (1) He may not always adhere to false teaching. These are people who divide the congregation based on their own opinions.
    - iii) When? *after the first and second warning* [nouqesi,a],

- (1) After you have verbally attempted to correct someone's wrong behavior
- (2) Warn him but do not debate him. (cf. Prov. 22:10)
- (3) To continue to discuss it only advertises it and needlessly exposes others to the error. Some people are beyond the aid of dialogue and instruction.
- (4) Further efforts would not be a good stewardship of his time and energies and would give the offender an undeserved sense of importance. (Hiebert)

iv) Why?

- (1) <sup>11</sup> *knowing*/because you know [pf. act. ptc. eivdw/] *that such a person is*
  - (a) Corrupted/dislocated—*perverted* [pf. pass. in. evkstre,fw]—
  - (b) Missing God's target—and *sinning* [pres. act. ind. a`marta,nw]—
  - (c) Exposed—*being* [pres. act. ptc.] *self-condemned* [auvtokata,kritoj].
    - (i) His guilt is exposed to others. He stands condemned by his refusal to abandon his self-chosen views and to submit to God's authoritative Word and God's authoritative messenger.
- (2) Remember Prov. 26:4-5

3) **Things we need to remember:**

- a) The Geneva Bible (1599) footnote says, "Again with great earnestness he beateth into our heads, how that we ought to give ourselves, to true godliness, and eschew all vain questions, which serve to nothing but to move strife and debate."
- b) Warren Wiersbe gave us some sound advice years ago when he wrote: "I have learned that professed Christians who like to argue about the Bible are usually covering up some sin in their lives, are very insecure, and are usually unhappy at work or at home."
- c) Pray that God will give me the grace, wisdom, and courage to obey these commands here at Calvary.