

4. Christians must remember to devote themselves to good works in order to create good will to open the door for people to hear the good news.

The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

Titus 3:8 (ESV)

Good works creates good will, which opens the door to the good news.

Conclusion

- Politics and legislating morality can't change people's hearts. It is an inadequate solution. Only Jesus changes the way people think and live.
- We must not grumble and withdraw from society. We must speak evil of no one. We must not be quarrelers. We can disagree with people but we must be gentle and show respect.
- We must actively pursue good works to create good will which will open the door for people to hear the good news.

Life Group Questions

1. Review your sermon notes and the above outline. What stood out in this message? What did you learn that you didn't know?
2. How has modern politics kept you from reaching people who need to meet Jesus?
3. Read Romans 13:1-7. How do these verses teach us to treat politicians? How do they speak to stories in this week's news?
4. How can a church's preoccupation with politics divide the church and weaken the gospel message? How should a church handle political issues?
5. In what ways can we do good works in our community for people who are far from God? Why are good works an essential part of reaching a society that is far from God with the good news of Jesus?



Titus 3:1-8 – How Can Christians Change A Nation?

July 4, 2021

The Background Of Crete

One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." Titus 1:12 (ESV)

1. Christians are to live as model citizens.

Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. Titus 3:1–2 (ESV)

A. We are to be subject to our leaders.

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities... Romans 13:1 (ESV)

i. There is no authority except what God establishes.

...For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Romans 13:1 (ESV)

He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings... Daniel 2:21 (ESV)

ii. Resisting our government is resisting God.

Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. Romans 13:2 (ESV)

iii. Government is given by God to restrain evil.

For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval... Romans 13:3 (ESV)

iv. Government is given the authority to take life.

...for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.
Romans 13:4 (ESV)

v. Christians are to pay their taxes.

For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.
Romans 13:6–7 (ESV)

B. We are to be obedient to authority.

...to be obedient...

When are we to disobey our government?

1. When the government asks us to do something God forbids us to do.
2. When the government asks us NOT to do something God commands us to do.

C. We are to be eager for good works.

...to be ready for every good work...

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:10 (ESV)

D. We are to speak evil of no one.

...to speak evil of no one...

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 1 Timothy 2:1–2 (ESV)

E. We are to avoid quarreling.

...to avoid quarreling...

F. We are to be gentle.

...to be gentle...

G. We are to show perfect courtesy to all people.

...to show perfect courtesy to all people.

2. Christians must remember how we thought and lived before we met Jesus.

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. Titus 3:3 (ESV)

They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. Ephesians 4:18 (ESV)

A. We were foolish.

B. We were disobedient.

C. We were led astray.

D. We were enslaved to various passions and pleasures.

E. We spent our days living in malice, envy, and hatred.

3. Christians must remember it was God who saved us and changed us. He did that through Jesus, not politics.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:4–7 (ESV)