

Personal Responsibility as Citizens of Two Kingdoms

Titus 3:1-15 / May 21, 2022

1. Responsibility to the Government 3:1

Remind them to be

- submissive to rulers and authorities, to be
- obedient, to be
- ready for every good work,

Authorities and Rulers

1. God Has Authority Over Human and Spiritual Authorities

CREATION: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. (Colossians 1:15-17, ESV)

DEMONS: And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.” For he was saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.” And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him, saying, “Send us to the pigs; let us enter them.” So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea. (Mark 5:7-13, ESV)

PILATE: When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” Jesus answered him, “You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.” (John 19:8-11, ESV)

2. God Calls Us to Submit to Human Authorities and Rulers

JESUS: Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away. (Matthew 22:17-22, ESV)

PAUL: Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 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, 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 13:1-7, ESV)

3. God Shows Us How to Combat Satan’s Authority and Rule

WORSHIP OF GOD: Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.” Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him. (Matthew 4:8-11, ESV)

ARMOR OF GOD: For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. (Ephesians 6:12-13, ESV)

2. Responsibility to the Citizens

3:2

- to speak evil of no one,
- to avoid quarreling,
- to be gentle, and
- to show perfect courtesy toward all people.

3. Responsibility to Christ

3:3-8

• Why Is Salvation Essential? 3:3

For we ourselves were once

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. foolish, | Deprived Mentally |
| 2. disobedient, | Deprived Morally |
| 3. led astray, | Deceived by Satan |
| 4. slaves to various passions and pleasures, | Enslaved by Self-Desires |
| 5. passing our days in malice and | Rejoicing in the Evil of Others |
| 6. envy, | Resentful of Others |
| 7. hated by others and | Despised by Others |
| 8. hating one another. | Haters of Others |

• Where Does Salvation Originate From? 3:4-5a

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. But when the goodness and | Goodness of God |
| 2. loving kindness of God | Love of God |
| 3. our Savior appeared, | Incarnation of Jesus |
| he saved us, | |
| 4. not because of works done by us in righteousness, | Not Self-Righteousness |
| 5. but according to his own mercy, | Mercy of God |

• How Does Salvation Come? 3:5b-6

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| 1. by the washing of | Cleansing |
| 2. regeneration and | Rebirth |
| 3. renewal of the | Restoration |
| 4. Holy Spirit, | Pouring Out |
- whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

• What is the Goal of Salvation? 3:7

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. so that being justified | Past: Declared Not Guilty |
| 2. by his grace | Present: Experience of God's Grace |
| 3. we might become <u>heirs</u> | Future: Hope of Heaven |
- according to the hope of eternal life.

- **What is the Evidence of Salvation? 3:8-11**

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.

But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.

As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.

Personal Final Instructions 3:12-15

- When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there.

Tychicus

There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. 5 These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days. (Acts 20:3-6, ESV)

So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts. (Ephesians 6:21-22, ESV)

Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. 8 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, 9 and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here. (Colossians 4:7-9, ESV)

- Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing.

Apollos

Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus. (Acts 18:24-28, ESV)

- And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.
- All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith.
- Grace be with you all.