



## **Titus 3:1-7**

**Truth #8** - God is good, loving, and merciful

**Doctrine #8** - The doctrine of Theology Proper

**Principle #8** - Show perfect courtesy to others

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What God does in those people that He redeems reveals a lot about God. From Paul's initial description of the Cretans (refer to Titus 1:12), the transformation in those Cretans who turned to Christ must have been dramatic. They became kind, considerate, humble, and caring. Paul told Titus that the Holy Spirit's regeneration of a soul would be evident by their selfless serving of others which he called 'good works' (note Titus 1:16). But he also instructed Titus to teach and preach what it meant for the Cretans to live out their new life in Christ.

1. Based on Titus 3:1, how often did the Cretan believers need to be instructed in Christian living?
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2. Who was Paul instructing Titus to teach the Cretans to submit to? (Titus 3:1)
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A marble bust of Diodorus Siculus, who wrote one of the first histories of ancient Greece, a 40 volume epic written in the first century BC.

### A contemporary assessment of the Cretans -

“The opposition of Christianity to heathenism, and the natural disposition to rebellion of the Jews under the Roman empire (of whom many lived in Crete), might lead many to forget practically what was a recognized Christian principle in theory, submission to the powers that be. Diodorus Siculus mentions the tendency of the Cretans to riotous insubordination.”

**Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown, Commentary on Titus 3:1 (1871)**

3. What did Titus have to teach the Cretans to be ready for? (Titus 3:1)
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4. Considering Titus 3:2, what might the interpersonal relationships among the Cretans have been like and what may have caused it?
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In Titus 3:3, Paul skilfully includes himself in how people used to live and treat others before they were born-again. This highlights the dramatic change in the Cretan believers since coming to Christ. How often do *we* pray for God to transform those in our community who are living godless lives and thus seem far from Christ?

5. Based on Titus 3:4-5 how might we pray for such people?
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6. How does the Apostle Paul describe Jesus in Titus 3:4-5?
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Note how Paul affirms the Triune nature of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in Titus 3:4-5.

## Theology Proper - The Doctrine of God

*Theology* is the study of God. There are many branches of theology, but the study of God Himself is referred to as *theology proper*. In Titus 3:4-7 there are some profound insights about God. This passage reveals that God's heart toward people is one of g\_\_\_\_\_s and l\_\_\_\_\_. It reveals that God is the S\_\_\_\_\_r of mankind, not because of anything that mankind has done, but because He is m\_\_\_\_\_. He imparts the H\_\_\_\_y S\_\_\_\_\_t richly through Jesus Christ and is then the J\_\_\_\_\_r of those He redeems because He is also g\_\_\_\_\_. Ultimately, the salvation of the redeemed will culminate in them receiving their i\_\_\_\_\_e which means that they are God's h\_\_\_\_s .

## The Principle of Courtesy

When we come to know this God and draw closer to Him in worship, it results in our lives being transformed so that we reflect His character to others.

7. When is it the most challenging to apply Titus 3:2 and why is it important that Christians do apply it?

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8. What might be the biggest challenge that a new Christian might face in applying Titus 3:2 and how could you help them?

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## **Prayer**

*Lord Jesus, our great God and Saviour,*

*We ask that Your grace administered to us by Your Holy Spirit would enable us to treat others with 'perfect courtesy'. When others are unkind to us, help us to be kind to them. Help us to live as Your children and to reflect Your love, goodness, kindness, and mercy. May we delight to serve others and to use the gifts that You have given us to bless others. In Jesus' Name we pray,*

*Amen.*