

The Christian and Government

Titus 3:1-7

How are Christians to conductive themselves in a secular & sinful society under worldly & sometimes corrupt government officials? In **Crete** a Roman colony w/ religious Jews living under pagan Roman rule were in a constant state of rebellion & periodic insurrection--a volatile combination **oil/water**.

To complicate things a new group, Christians consisting of converted Jewish & Gentile Cretan citizens made things even more unpredictable. Each group moving in different directions. Christians saying ***‘We must obey God rather than man’***. Roman government w/ non-tolerance clause & Jews w/ Mosaic-law only clause. Plus secular Cretans were notoriously turbulent & quarrelsome & impatient of all authority. **Polybius** Grk historian said they were constantly involved in ‘insurrections, murders & sadistic wars’ Historians note the change when becoming Christian. So how is the Christian to live when government policy goes against Christian beliefs?

1 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,

Keep **reminding**—they know but forget or neglect. Forgetfulness is part of human nature so we need reminders. ***2Pet 1:12,13 Therefore (Attributes of Christian life), I shall always be ready to remind you of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. 13 And I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up by way of reminder, Col 4:17 And say to Archippus, “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”***

Be subject – to conform to rulers ruling—Put yourself under the laws of the land. **Otto Warmbier sentenced to 15 years of hard labor. After 17 months of captivity, he was returned to the United States in June 2017 in a & and with severe brain damage died days later**

Rom 13:1-7 Our obedience to earthly authority reflects obedience to heavenly authority because God established both. No earthly authority is

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perfect, so what do we do when man's laws conflict w/ Gods? God addresses not endorses abusive authority, calling it a yoke of bondage

1Cor 7:20 *Let each man remain in that condition in which he was called. 21 Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it; **but if you are able also to become free, rather do that.*** **Gal 5:1** *It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm & do not be subject again to a yoke **law** of slavery not w/o daughter*

When man's laws violate Gods? **Pharaoh abort—Peter/John preaching--**

Operation rescue—demo abortion clinics 'sanctity of life supersedes law of abortion' **Declaration of Independence** *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men (who started out as infants in their mothers womb) are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Only pagan societies reject fact that In the beginning God created—Molech Canaanite god sac babies* ultimate display of devotion to ensure fertility & happiness-well being.

Be obedient—submission to rulers rules until they conflict w/ Gods rules then *'We must obey God rather than man'*. And always *ready to do good*. We become an enigma to our culture. **Why are you helping change the tire of an avowed atheist who hates God & the church? Lady's hood came off, didn't ask what she believed**

2 to malign no one, to be uncontentious, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

How we treat others is important to God--*malign*-blaspheme, speak evil of, refusing to acknowledge worth—**Lot** **Gen 19:7** *begged, pleaded no my brothers, friends do not act wickedly.* Created in image of God **dignity**—but fallen-marred.

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As we respect office of government, tho person corrupt **we respect man made in image of God, yet sinner.** *Uncontentious*-a machos not a brawler, starts fights, keeps people stirred up, contentious, arguemenative.

Gentle-Strength under control-evidence of Holy Spirit in life a fruit of **Gal 5:23**

Consideration—**Phil 2:4..do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.** **Gayle/Anthony** Jesus **Jn 13:15**

We do all this because we were just like them the same kind of sinners But now saved we serve & preach Christ as savior.

3 For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

Debtors parable **Lk 7:47** Forgiven much love much, forgiven little love little. How does one who is formerly vs 3 Do Paul's instructions of vs 1,2...from hateful to helpful; lusting to loving; disobedient to devoted; envying to encouraging; malicious to merciful; and foolish to faithful **Here's how**

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, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Kindness moral excellence--meeting a need **(salvation)** God taking us from what we were & making us what He knows we need to be. **Under construction**
HS the contractor, builder & finisher

Holy Spirit poured not trickle but fire hose not stagnate pond but a geizer **Jn 4:14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."** **Jn 7:37b-39a "If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall**

flow rivers of living water.”” 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive;

Justified as if sin never happened, wiped clean, no trace elements.

Forensically Satan *accuser* has no case because he has no evidence--*Case dismissed*. Don't get stuck in the past w/ lies of accuser of brethren *Rev 12:10* plagued w/ sins forgiven years ago...separated E W *Heb 10:17 “AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.” Ps 103:12 As far as the east is from the west infinite, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. Micah 7:19 Once again you will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths/bottom of the ocean! 80% of the global ocean remains completely unexplored & unmapped, with less than 0.001% of the deep seafloor visually examined.*

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What can hinder? **Eph 4:30** *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. grieve*—heavy heart, make sad, offe **Mk3:5** *grieved at their hardness of heart*-opposing work of God.

Resisting **Acts 7:51***always resisting the Holy Spirit* Stephen stoned **Acts 26:14** *hard to kick against goads-fight/strive/opposed*. Not letting God work in our life makes it hard you.

Lie **Acts 5:3** *A/S Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit*--trying to deceive Holy Spirit, distort truth **Jn 8:44-45**; **Jn 13:27** *Judas Satan then entered him. Therefore Jesus said to him, "What you are doing, do it quickly."*...Speaking truth is love the chanel HS works thru--Deceitful believer a contradiction.

Quench **1Thes 5:19** to stifle, suppress, extinguish used of things on fire **Lev 6:12** Altar perpetual fire collect wood every morning. HS keeps fires kindle w/ confessed sin to kindle fires of altar. We co operate w/ HS keep fires burring and sin is the kindling for the hearts altar fires. So we don't grieve, resist lie to test or quench HS.

Passage shows how complete moral and spiritual change is **2Cor 5:17**

What kindling do you need to put for altars fires...besetting sins, past, present lets collect and set them ablaze on the altar make it a sweet incense of forgiveness of sin that we refresh and renew **Acts 5:32**