

## “CELEBRATE GRACE”

Titus 3:3-7

Series: “I Love My Church” (Study of Titus)

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### **INTRODUCTION:**

We are continuing our study of the book of Titus, “God’s church growth manual.” Today we study the eighth characteristic of a healthy church: grace. To be a great church we must emphasize, promote and celebrate grace. We must do all we can to assure our church has a culture of grace.

***[Tit 3:3-11 NIV] 3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.***

***4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.***

***8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.***

***9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. 10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. 11 You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.***

Notice Paul’s four instructions for maintaining a culture of grace in your church:

### **I. REMEMBER WHAT YOU ONCE WERE**

***3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.***

We are more likely to show grace when we remember we needed grace.

(NOTE: This is a good benefit of the weekly practice of the Lord's Supper.)

## **II. STRESS WHAT GOD DID**

***4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. 8 This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things....***

This is the basics of the Gospel. A healthy church stresses these things.

WHAT SAVED US?

- His kindness
- His love
- (Not our righteousness)
- His mercy
- His washing
- His Holy Spirit
- His generosity
- His son Jesus Christ
- His grace

There is nothing we can do to earn salvation. It's all God's grace!

## **III. DEVOTE TO DOING GOOD**

***8 ... And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good.***

Nothing creates a culture of grace like God's people serving. Look for ways to serve one another, the community, and "the least of these."

#### **IV. PROTECT THE CULTURE OF GRACE**

***9 But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.***

***10 Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. 11 You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned.***

This is a serious issue! Remember, developing and maintaining a culture of grace is part of a church growth strategy, perhaps the most important piece of the strategy. Don't let people divide the church and destroy the culture of grace.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

God's grace is being offered to you today.

***He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior...***

Beach baptism tonight 5pm at Englewood beach!