

Series: Order in the Church

Title: Remarkable Christianity

Text: Titus 3:1-2

Difference of “*The City of Man*” vs. “*The City of God*”

The reason Christ does not take us immediately to heaven upon salvation, is so that we will live in “*The City of Man*” and demonstrate the Reality of “*The City of God*” to them.

“*The City of Man*” is not our enemy, it is our Mission Field!

(Titus 3:1) ***Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,***

“Put them in mind”- Remind Them!

Remind them of Where they live.

Remind them of Who they live around.

Remind them of What they represent.

Christianity is not supposed to remove us from Society, it is supposed to make the believer a productive member of society.

Christianity was never intended to make us isolated citizens, but make us Better citizens.

Christianity doesn't relieve us of our civic duties, it enforces them.

Are you Serious Paul?

Christianity should make everyone of us Remarkable Standouts in “*The City of Man*”.

Responding to Rulers:

Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates,

Respecting the Law

“Put them in mind to be subject to principalities”

The Isle of Crete had an empire-wide reputation of being dissatisfied, disgruntled people, they hated Roman Rule.

Plutarch, 1st century historian, wrote that the Cretans were always on the verge of revolt.

Crete had also become a haven for pirates.

(Titus 1:12) “*The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.*”

Titus was to remind them that, not to act like their fore-fathers

Christians are not above the law.

We cannot claim our allegiance to “*The City of God*” and then forget our responsibility to those who live in the “*City of Man.*”

Obedience to governmental rulers and authorities is not an option but a command.

We don't need to pray about paying our taxes, following building codes, or get our cars inspected.

Christians don't get a pass on the rules of secular law.

In (Rom 13) Paul outlines in detail our responsibility to obey our governments Rules.

Respecting the Authorities

“Put them in mind to be subject to powers”

(Rom 13:1-2) Institution of government is the creation of God

(1 Pet 2:13-15) Every level of government has been appointed by God.

While we engage the “*City of Man*” we are to rest our complete confidence on God.

(Prov 21:1) *The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.*

There is no reason for the Christian to Panic.

Instead, as a believer, run for office, write an informative letter to the editor, serve on an advisory board, volunteer your time to community service
Joseph and Daniel brought God’s values into the public arena.

Respecting God’s Commands:

“Put them in mind to obey magistrates,”

(Rom 13:3-7)

Christians are to obey civil authorities, regardless of their attitude toward the Gospel.

think of the Time in which Paul and Titus served/
Nero was the Emperor.

Society had abandoned sexual norms.

Heterosexuality was considered Prudish.

The Emperor himself was bi-sexual.

Pedophilia, Adultery, Idolatry, Abortion, Prostitution, and drug addiction was empire wide and LEGAL!

This is the times when Jesus planted His church and it thrived

Paul is not implying that Christians are to never disobey the law.

When ever the Law demands that we violate the Gospel, we are to stand with the apostles and say: (Acts 5:29b)

“We ought to obey God rather than men.”

The Apostles didn’t mount and insurrection.

They did not march in the streets and destroy property.

They respected authority & Obeyed authority.

The Roman Government demanded that Christians declare their allegiance by offering a pic of incense and declaring that Ceazar is Lord of All.

The Christian Martyrs sang as they were led to slaughter with a clear conscience regarding their dealings with “*The City of Man*” rather than try to overthrow the Caesar.

So what should Our Attitude be toward those in Authorities?

Parents, Teachers, Supervisors, Pastors, Town Councils, The IRS, Fish and Game, Property Taxes, Police Officers?

The Problem with Responding proper to authority is not a new problem. ***It starts young.***

Our sin nature is at work in our kids at a young age.

They don’t have any character naturally to respond in respect.

They have to be trained from a young age to respect authority.

Our children will also mimic our response to authority.

They are watching and learning.

The Romans were always shocked at the way Christians responded in love as they were persecuted.

They demonstrated how Remarkable Christ is to them.

Relating to Others

Put them in mind... to be ready to every good work,

Christianity is more than just obedience.

“Be ready”, - Be Eager to serve others in “The City of Man”.

The Jewish community in the 1st century always huddled together and ignored the people around them.

Instead of living “Among” the people so as to demonstrate the Glory and Character of God, they kept to themselves.

Have you ever wondered why the Lost world considers us bigots, judgmental, elitists?

(Prov 28:1) *The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.*

They already are convicted by their own sin, and expect us to judge them.

Jewish communities have always been perceived as having a thinly veiled disdain for gentiles.

Paul was not saying, only do good to those of the Christian Community: (Gal 6:10) *As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

to be ready to every good work,

(Titus 3:2) ends with ***“unto all men”***

At any moment, a roman soldier could touch the flat side of his spear on your shoulder, and you would have to carry his pack a mile.

Everyone hated the practice, especially the Jews, but doubt the gentile believers liked it any more than they did.

Roman mile was 1000 steps.

The would count off 1,2,4,999, 1000

There’s your gear, I am outta here.

(Matt 5:41) *And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.*

Can you imagine the expression on the soldier’s face when the Christian said, *“I know I have walked a 1000 steps, but I am willing, because I love Jesus Christ my saviour, to carry it another mile.”*

Are you ready and willing to demonstrate how Remarkable Christ is to you?

Avoiding the Grapevine:

(Titus 3:2) ***Put them in mind to...To speak evil of no man,***

This Refers to Slander.

Paul leaves out the Loop hole, ***“If it isn’t true.”***

A first century historian said that in Cretian Culture, *“Verbal Slander was practiced as a fine art.”*

Sounds a lot like the *“The City of Man”* we dwell in.

Paul is telling Titus, to Remind them over & over continually.

We live in a crass, vulgar, rude society where we can demonstrate our Christianity with remarkable distinction by refraining from verbal abuse of others.

Satan is referred to as the “*Accuser of the brethren.*” In fact, we are no more aligned with Satan than when a christian maligns someone else.

No Swinging Back:

(Titus 3:2) ***Put them in mind to...to be no brawlers, but gentle,***

Paul was a Fighter, but not a brawler.

A Remarkable Christian doesn't put on the boxing gloves every time they are offended.

Anger is not an adult response, but a childish one. Anger that is not in check will excite the flesh to rash, destructive, behavior.

Think of Paul's recent history. Roman governors, through pride and incompetence had kept him bound in prison illegally for years.

He was beaten, left bound in prison, had his hearings delayed, and left on house arrest for several more years.

Instead of writing scathing letters to the Roman Senate. Instead of staging Prison uprisings, he sat in his cel, trusted God, and wrote, (1 Thes 5:18) *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

Paul Practices What He penned.

He witnessed to his guards.
He witnessed to other Prisoners and slaves.

Illus: Robert Chapman, 19th century pastor in England. Spurgion said: He was the saintliest man in England. He remained single, pastored a small town church. He was hated by 1 man, the grocer. He would spit on him when he walked by. He verbally abused Chapman publicly. Chapman never retaliated. One day his wealthy family came to visit and wanted to cook for him. Chapman insisted they go across town to that Grocer's store and shop. They bought more than they could carry, they asked the grocer to deliver it to Chapman's home. They told the grocer that Chapman insisted they shop here. The Grocer could not believe it, asked them to repeat the address.

When the Grocer arrived, Chapman answered the door, and the grocer broke down in tears, and Chapman led him to Christ.

What a Remarkable Christian Witness to us all.

Staying the Course:

(Titus 3:2) ***Put them in mind to... but gentle,***

Gentle: used only 5 times in the NT.
Refers to being patiently steadfast.
To submit to injustice, disgrace, or maltreatment w/o malice.
Trusting God in spite of our circumstances.

In all this demonstrating how Remarkable Christ is to you.

(1Pet 3:15-18) *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. 17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. 18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*

We resemble Christ most when we are gentle.

(Matt 11:29) *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart:*

(1 Pet 3:1-5) Peter said this was the way to win a husband's heart. It does take War to make Peace, but it doesn't have to be loud, contentious, or violent.

This is how we are to respond when we're questioned for our faith.

When our Testimony is ridiculed or challenged.

When our lifestyle is mocked and insulted.

If we have learned anything from this election, is that Intelligent conversation is in peril.

It has been replaced by "IN YOUR FACE" sound bites.

Volume and Stubbornes are the new new civic virtues.

The good news for Christians is that ***Remarkable Christianity can be all the more distinctive when practiced publicly.***

Are you Standing out at Work, In your Neighborhood?

Are you demonstrating How Remarkable Christ is to your family? Friends? Co-Workers?

No Playing Favorites

(Titus 3:2) ***Put them in mind to...shewing all meekness unto all men.***

ALL: Very inclusive. All People, All Races, - All kinds.

Read the Story of George Whitfield:

In todays Money, He gave the widow \$500 and received \$50000 in return.

Now that my kind of Christianity, Sign Me Up.

Remarkable Christianity means that we sign up To Go The Extra Mile, To Avoid the Grapevine; To Refuse to Swing Back; to Stay the Course; and to Refuse to Play Favorites.

Treating Everyone with Gracious Consideration along the way.

Is Your Christianity Remarkable?

Does it cause you to stand out from the inhabitants of "The City of Man"?

Can those around you tell that you are a citizen of "The City of God"?

Is Christ Remarkable to the people in your life.