

# Seeing "US" in Titus: Grace's Impact

## Vs.1-10 Honoring God

- Crete's moral compass was broken. This has been established in last week's lesson. They are known to be liars, evil beasts, and lazy gluttons. Tradition taught Zeus was born in Crete. He was a deceiver with sexual appetites, and the people of Crete embraced the narrative. This would be far from the character of Jesus, which means His people were also to be different. Yes, Jesus' people were to be in the world, but not of the world ([John 17:15](#)). They were to refuse evil one.
- Instead of going through the specifics, let me ask what you think of American culture?
  - Older men: Our culture seems to have shifted how we view our elderly men. I assume more than one generation is at fault for this. However, we can correct this at North Collin. You do serve as examples, so who are you portraying? What do you want for younger men (in particular)? Do you have more wisdom concerning the spiritual or physical kingdom (whether good or bad)? Do you want young men to follow in your footsteps?
  - Older women: What do you support? A more traditional role of women or a progressive one? Do you have more experience at work or at home? When you open your mouth, do you have something worth hearing? Are your words careful and graceful? Can you train young women? Do you train young women? Are you family-focused or career-focused?
  - Young women: What is your role in comparison to your peers? Crete culture encouraged women to sleep around. "You do you." Not so among God's people. Your peers are a lot different than you, are they not? Focusing on your family and controlling yourself is fashionable in the household of God.
  - Young men: Self-controlled. It's interesting how he only points that out. But, for men, your age, energy, and strength are sometimes the main ingredients that make or break.
  - Evangelists: Yes, the most effective minister will be one who lives the word and shows honesty and integrity in their teaching. You will always be right to ask me to step aside if my teaching becomes purely biased or contrary to the life I live. No one forced me to preach. It comes with great responsibilities.
  - Bondservants: Can you imagine? Puts things into perspective, doesn't it? And they were to execute these roles of service with sincerity.
  - But what is it all really about? Take note of vs. 5b, 8b, & 10b. It's about who we represent. Again, we're not called out of the world, but to keep from being of the world. We do this by walking side by side with those in the world, but when they take a closer look, they see we're different. This is how the gospel is played out. Yes, we do this in our roles, teaching, and service.
- I trust that you are acting as children of God. These observations and questions may seem elementary. God bless you for keeping the faith. Let's remember this: there are those in the world who have good in them, and perhaps some are looking for that goodness to reign. They need Jesus. They need His help. They need to see Him through you. They need someone to fight for them. Someone to lend them a helping hand. They need someone to be patient. They need children of God by their side.

### **Vs. 11-15 Grace's Impact**

- We're going to discuss the most outstanding picture of grace next week, but today, we're considering the effect of grace. God's goodness does not lead us to lawlessness but obedience.
- There's always the danger of overcorrecting. Many people over the years have discussed the grace of God in such a way that seems to downplay unrighteous behavior. This left a bad taste in the mouths of those who could see through it. So, obedience was pushed to counteract the false claims. However, it seems that may have been over-emphasized over time. The consequences of overemphasizing obedience without grace led to merited salvation. And, you can imagine where this will lead - back to overemphasizing God's grace towards sinful people. You can't keep this from happening on a large scale, but hopefully, you can check yourself individually. Listen, grace teaches us to follow God. Grace isn't a green light to sin. Grace is the comfort of knowing we are safe in the arms of a good God, and that wins our hearts and results in faithful living.
- Does grace result in works? Absolutely. And we are to be zealous for good works because that's what Jesus has purchased with His blood - a people zealous for good works. Jesus bought and cleansed us to be such a people.