

Seeing "US" in Titus: Grace's Origin

Vs.1-8 The Grace of God

- We're still considering grace's impact. We're talking about sanctification. Two aspects of our Christian life stood out: be gentle and show perfect courtesy.
 - **Gentleness** is about how we deal with others. Technically, "not insisting on every right of letter of law or custom, yielding, gentle, kind, courteous, tolerant." (BDAG)
 - **Courtesy** is about how we view ourselves. Technically, "the quality of not being overly impressed by a sense of one's self-importance, gentleness, humility, courtesy, considerateness, meekness." (BDAG)
- You know when someone disobeys the authority. You know if someone, in general, disobeys something. You know, if someone speaks evil of others (though perhaps they try to mask their intentions). You can tell if someone is always quarreling. But someone may say, "I was being gentle. Sorry you disagree." Or, I thought I was being courteous to you. Sorry you don't see it that way." It's like arrogance. Not everyone will say, "I think I'm awesome and better than you." Why do we tend to behave in such a way? Do others who act ungodly really believe they're better than others? Are they overcompensating? Are they angry about something? Are they trying to prove something? How could Jesus be humble and gentle? Maybe His understanding of who He indeed was helped Him? On Monday, I was giving one of the regulars a hard time at Starbucks. He had his earbuds in, and I pretended to spill his coffee on his computer. He looked up and gave his typical big smile. I said, "How mad would you have been if I did that?" (Now I know why my kids always ask the most random questions). He replied, "I'd probably just stand up and hug you because you must have something serious troubling you if you'd do such a thing." Isn't that cool? You know what's funny - he's a personal trainer. He's like 5'10 of pure lean muscle. I assume if I poured coffee on his computer and he was a different kind of guy, he'd pound me to the ground with one hand without spilling the rest of his coffee in his other hand. Listen, truth be told, I'm not a threat to this guy. He doesn't need to prove himself to me or himself. And where would such assurance come from? What is it in our lives that would motivate us to change and kill our egos? What has occurred that leaves us feeling totally satisfied?
- Our goodness does not save us, brethren. God chose mercy. God chose grace. There is no sin you need to hide from Him. There is no weakness He's unaware of, beloved of God. We're saved because of the goodness of God. This passage encourages Christians to remember the contrast between them and Christ and the motivation behind their change. They behave in such a way because they reflect God, who is good. However, I want to remind you that attempting to merit your salvation will be futile. It will bring about frustration and depression. It will squash your growth because you'll never be good enough. There's a big difference between walking in the light and darkness. It's not that one doesn't sin while the other does - it's how they walk
 - Rebirth and Renewal. We're talking about our baptism (Ezekiel 36:25-27; John 3:5ff; Hebrews 10:22). How did we know about baptism? The word which was given by the

Spirit. Who renews our minds and leads our steps? The Holy Spirit. Regeneration is an "experience of a complete change of life, rebirth." Renewal reminds us of Romans 12:2, where our minds are renewed.

Vs. 9-15 Distractions

- There are many reasons why individuals enjoy focusing on foolish, unprofitable, and worthless discussions. Sometimes, it's easier to major in the minor. Sometimes, it's easier not to look in the mirror. That's my most significant takeaway. We've got to watch our hearts and minds. We've got to let the word lead us. We've got to see the Bible with fresh eyes at times. We've got to listen to the Shepherd's voice over anyone else. And if people want to consist in such silly discussions, we've got to part ways and allow them to suffer the consequences.
- We can't allow ourselves to be distracted from good work. You've noticed how much that's been mentioned in this short letter. So, at the end of the day, we ask who Christ has inspired us to be?