Titus

The book of **Titus** is Paul's letter to a Greek disciple **(Gal 2:3)** he left on the island of Crete. Paul asked Titus to identify and train local pastors **(Titus 1:5-13)**.

Theme

The theme of Titus is maintaining good works (Titus 1:16, Titus 2:14, Titus 3:8).

Key Verse

Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men. NKJV

Outline

Titus 1	
Works for Leaders	Blameless at homeBlameless in personal lifeTrue to the Word
Titus 2	
Works for Members	AgedYouthServants
Titus 3	
Maintain Good Works	Leave the old lifeLive the new lifeLook toward Christ

Personal Reflection and Application

In Titus 1:5, Paul told Titus to "set in order the things that are lacking" in the church. Besides applying this to a church, we can apply this principle to our personal lives. Do you need to "set in order the things that are lacking" in your personal life? What is lacking? What is missing? Take time to journal and do some self evaluation. Ask God to reveal what is "lacking" in your life. Pray for wisdom on how to "set in order" your priorities.

Read Titus 2:2-8. Make a list of the character qualities that apply to you. What is your responsibility to yourself for taking in sound doctrine to develop these qualities? What is your responsibility toward others regarding your behavior?

Titus 3 describes the correct attitude and conduct toward those in authority (bosses, political officials, parents, pastors, etc.). Where do you have opportunities to demonstrate those attitudes and behaviors? Where do you need to repent because of your improper attitude toward those over you?

Small Group Conversation Guide

Are you a Christian atheist, someone who believes God exists yet lives as if He does not? **Titus 1:16** says "they profess to know God, but in works they deny Him..." Make two lists, one that describes characteristics of those who love God without obeying Him and another that describes those who obey God without loving Him. For each group, what good things are those persons likely to miss in their relationship with God? Do all those around you recognize you as a Christian? Does your financial statement reflect God's priorities? What does your prayer life reveal about your faith?

We did nothing to deserve God's mercy. (Titus 3:1-11). Through Christ's sacrifice, we have become part of God's family. Paul explained that it is important for believers to maintain good works and not get sidetracked with foolish arguments. Discuss ways that your Grace Group can encourage good works and a proper focus. What upcoming service opportunities appeal to your Grace Group?

For more clarification on the importance of good works, read Titus 1:16, Titus 2:7, Titus 2:14, Titus 3:1, and Titus 3:8.

Discuss the purpose of maintaining good works (Titus 3:14).

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Leadership Principles from Titus

Qualities God Desires in a Leader

Make a list of the qualities that God desires in a leader that you see in Titus 1:7-9. Rate yourself on each of those qualities. Pray, asking God to grow you as a leader. Pick one quality that you believe God wants you to develop. Make a plan for developing that quality.

Note: Though there may be more than one quality you wish to develop, it is difficult to make many changes at the same time.

4-Point Game Plan

Titus 2:15 says "speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority..." As leaders, this gives us a 4-point game plan. We must:

Speak these things	What are the things that God wants you to communicate? What is the vision or dream that God wants you to share? What convictions MUST you express?
Exhort	Are you building others up or pushing them down? Do others smile when they see you coming or when they see you leaving? Do you plead, implore, and challenge others for good?
Rebuke	Do you have the backbone to rebuke in love? Are you the kind of leader who tells people what they need to hear or what they want to hear?
With all authority	The authority we have as spiritual leaders is borrowed authority. Therefore, we must be healthy stewards of Christ's authority as His representatives on earth.

Something to Find in Each Chapter

As you read through the book, it may help to have something to find in each chapter. Try these:

O1. How someone can deny they know God without words	02. What grace (unmerited favor) teaches us on how to live
O3. When we should stop trying to talk sense into a divisive person	

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