

HOW TO RESPOND TO HUMAN GOVERNMENT & THE UNSAVED (Titus 3:1-8)

F. The SCRIPTURAL RESPONSES TO ... (3:1-2)

1. CIVIL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES. (3:1)

- a. The *responsibility* of Titus as a spiritual leader was also to _____ {present tense, active voice, imperative mood} **these believers in Christ** {"them"} **of how God wants them to respond to civil government authorities in contrast to their culture.** Why is this command & repetition needed?
- b. The *responses* of believers toward civil government are ...
 - 1) **To be** _____ **to rulers & authorities** {hupotasso - present, middle, infinitive - the attitude that recognizes proper authority & submits oneself accordingly} 2:5, 9, 3:1; Is this an issue in our day like 1st century Crete?
 - 2) **To** _____ rulers & authorities - {peitharchoo - it means to be persuaded [by the Lord via the Scriptures] so as to obey the civil authorities; this stresses the appropriate voluntary actions of the believer toward civil authorities and human laws.
 - 3) **To be** _____ {prepared} **for** _____ {beneficial} _____ {2 Cor. 9:8; Col. 1:10; 2 Thess. 2:17; 1 Tim. 5:10; 2 Tim. 3:17; Tit. 1:16, 2:7, 2:14, 3:8, 3:14; Heb. 6:10, 13:20-21}

****What are some of the other scriptural responses toward civil government that God instructs us to do? ****

- (1) We should recognize that _____ is to the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 5:29)
 - (2) We should remember the _____ of gov't & its leaders. (Rom. 13:1-2)
 - (3) We should anticipate _____ at times by religion & the gov't. (Dan. 3 & 6)
 - (4) We should exercise _____ for the office. (Rom. 13:7; 1 Peter 2:17)
 - (5) We should _____. (Rom. 13:5, 7)
 - (6) We should _____ and **desire their** _____. (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
 - (7) We should _____ in government authorities. (Psalm 118:9, 146:3)
 - (8) We should recognize the different _____ of government & God. (Matt. 22:21)
- What is the exception to submission & obedience to your human government? Biblical examples?

2. CITIZENS / ALL PEOPLE generally. (3:2) We are to be reminded ...

- a. **To** _____ **of no one** {blasphemo - to insult; to slander; to malign; to curse; vicious epithets with sinful language - 2:3. This is not the same as accurately describing one's character or actions - 1:12,16; 3:10; 2 Thess. 3:2} Blasphemy is the verbal expression of evil and malicious thoughts directed toward a person who is held in contempt.
- b. **To be** _____ {avoid fighting; don't be contentious; be peaceable; James 3:13-18}.
- c. {To be} _____ {gentle; kind; considerate to others; fair in your dealing with them}.
- d. {To be} _____ {demonstrating; putting on display} **all** _____ {proper view of self & others in submission, graciousness & courtesy} **to** _____ {anthropos - people regardless of}.

G. The SUPERNATURAL BASIS & MOTIVATIONS for Fulfilling These Instructions. (3:3-8)

1. We need to remember our PAST BEFORE God saved us. (3:3) *For* {connects vs.1-2 with 3-8} *we ourselves* _____ {in the past} _____ {like the unsaved} _____ {previously - before salvation}
 - **FOOLISH** - without spiritual understanding; Rom. 3:11; 2 Cor. 4:4 - just like them
 - **DISOBEDIENT** - to God {Eph.2:2}; to parents {Rom. 1:30; 2 Tim.3:2}- just like them
 - **DECEIVED** - to be led astray or deceived by the flesh & false teaching - 1:10 - just like them
 - **SERVING** {enslaved to} **various** {sinful} **LUSTS** {desires} & **PLEASURES** - just like them
 - **LIVING** {spending our days} **in MALICE** {evil/ wickedness generally} - just like them
 - **{LIVING IN} ENVY** - the grudging spirit that cannot bear to contemplate another's prosperity or success; Prov. 27:4 - just like them
 - **HATEFUL** - having anger, bitterness & animosity in oneself - just like they were
 - **HATING ONE ANOTHER** - directing this hatred toward others - just like they did

 - Can you distinguish between grace toward the person vs approval of the sin?

2. We need to reflect on GOD'S KINDNESS, LOVE, & MERCY when He SAVED us. (3:4-7)
 - a. This passage now states an important contrast using the word "_____".
 - b. These verses center around the main subject, verb & direct object - "_____"
{aorist tense - past completed action}; active voice - God did it; indicative mood - it's a fact}...
 - (1) "When the _____ our _____ toward man _____." (3:4a)
 - (2) "NOT by _____ which we have done." (3:5a)
 - (3) "but according to {on the basis of} _____ He {God the Father} saved us." (3:5b)
 - (4) "through {the means of} the _____ {total washing away of our sins - complete forgiveness} of {which is or involving} _____ {spiritual birth} and {through the} _____ of {by} the _____ whom {the Holy Spirit} He {God the Father} poured out on us {believers} abundantly {lavishly; generously} through _____ our _____." (3:5-6)
 - (5) "having been _____ {declared righteous before God} by His _____" (3:7a)
 - (6) "that {for the purpose that} we should become _____ {as regenerated children of God} according to {in keeping with} the _____ of _____." (3:7b)

These verses {3:3-8} should motivate us to ...

- 1) _____ for how He saved & blessed us by His kindness, love, mercy, and grace.
- 2) _____ & APPRECIATION for the ministries of the _____.
- 3) _____ as we remember our past & how we are totally undeserving of God's blessings.
- 4) _____ for the lost who are w/o Christ like we were in our past yet not beyond hope.
- 5) _____ out of gratitude for God's grace as these are "**good and profitable** _____" (3:8).