

DISCUSSION GUIDE

A Reminder of How Christians Should Live
Titus—Week 9

ICEBREAKER: What do you think are the most common misconceptions people have about God?

OVERVIEW: Christians are supposed to live in a certain way. The Christian religion is not simply a set of doctrines to believe in. It is a way of life. Jesus said in John 14:6, “I am the way (to heaven), the truth (a set of doctrines), and the life (the way to live).” As Christians we are to live in a certain way, not just believe certain things. Titus 3:1-2 reminds us of seven Christian behaviors. Five of them are virtues, or morally excellent behaviors. And two of them are vices, or sinful behaviors. Five are behaviors to adopt, and two are behaviors to avoid. In this discussion we will go deeper with applying these behavioral commands to our lives.

1. **Read Titus 3:1-2.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday’s message?)
2. Titus 3:1 says to “submit to rulers and authorities.” In other words, Christians should be good citizens. What are some practical ways to be a good citizen? How do you need to grow to be a good citizen?
3. Titus 3:1 says to “obey.” Christians are to be obedient to God. Why is it important to obey God’s commands? How do you need to grow in obedience?

4. Titus 3:1 says to “be ready for every good work.” To “be ready” means to always be prepared, in a state of readiness, on the tiptoes of expectancy, and willing. A “good work” is an act of service to God and others. What are some practical examples of good works? How do you need to grow in good works?
5. Titus 3:2 says “to slander no one.” Slander (Gr. *blasphemeo*) is hurtful speech. What are examples of hurtful speech? Does this mean we must never say anything offensive? Explain. How do you need to grow to avoid slander?
6. Titus 3:2 says to “avoid fighting.” In other words, avoid physical fights and verbal fights, quarrels, and arguments. Why is it important to avoid fighting? What can you do to talk about sensitive matters without getting into a fight? How do you need to grow to avoid fighting?
7. Titus 3:2 says to “be kind,” or to be “considerate.” The word “considerate” means to be careful not to cause inconvenience or hurt to others. What are some common ways that people are inconsiderate? How do you need to grow in being more considerate?
8. Titus 3:2 says “always showing gentleness to all people.” Gentleness means to stay calm and kind, even when you are angry. When is the last time you failed to be gentle with someone? What can you do to grow in gentleness?

The Last Word: Be a raving fan in public and an honest critic in private.