



## **BIG IDEA**

The way we act can help others see Jesus.

## **BIBLE**

Titus 3:1-2; Ephesians 4:29; Romans 12:17; 1 Peter 2:23; Philippians 2:3

## **ABOUT THIS WEEK**

Paul gives us a list of ways Christians should live – kind, respectful, and always ready to do good. When we live this way, we stand out in a good way and point people to Jesus.

*WHAT? What are we talking about today?*

**HOOK – What would it take for Christians to have a good reputation today?**

- Open with a question: What do you think people outside the church believe about Christians?
- Follow up: What would it take to change that perception?
- Give student room and time to answer.
- This is what Paul is writing to Titus about in the 2 verses we're going to focus on today.
- The Christians in Crete were struggling with their reputation – and Paul gives six ways their character could reflect Christ in a broken world.

**Read Titus 3:1-2 aloud**

- These 6 phrases describe a life that reflects Jesus to the world around us:
  1. **Submit to Rulers and Authorities**
    - Christians aren't just called to obey- they're called to show respect
    - Living under authority honors God and builds trust with those who aren't Christians.
    - *Application:* Look for ways to be a good citizen in your community, school and family.
  2. **Be Ready to Do Whatever is Good**
    - Don't wait for permission to love your neighbor... you've already been given permission from Jesus.
    - Serving others shows what Jesus is like – generous, present, and willing
    - *Challenge:* What's one food thing you could do this week for someone in your life? Either individually or as a small group?
  3. **Slander No One**
    - Words carry weight – even online.

- Ephesians 4:29 reminds us to build up, not tear down
- *Challenge:* Guard your words. When tempted to gossip or make a joke about someone else, ask "Will this help or hurt?"

#### 4. Refuse to Fight

- Culture celebrates the loudest voices, but Jesus calls us to peace
- Romans 12:17 and 1 Peter 2:23 show Jesus didn't retaliate. And He is the blueprint of how we are supposed to live.
- *Application:* Before you post, comment, or argue – ask if your response reflects Jesus.
- God wants us to close our mouths and open our hearts.

#### 5. Be Gentle and Considerate

- Being gentle isn't weak- it's being strong enough to be kind.
- Gentleness disarms pride and opens doors
- *Challenge:* Be "interruptibly kind" this week. Listen more. React slower.

#### 6. Show True Humility to Everyone

- Philippians 2:3 – Jesus humbled Himself to lift others up
- This isn't about pretending to be less, but choosing to serve more.
- *Application:* Threat others with dignity-no matter who they are.

### SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

- These six actions aren't just about behavior – they reflect the heart of Jesus
  - When we obey authority → We reflect trust in God
  - When we do good → We show the generosity of Jesus
  - When we guard our words → We speak with love
  - When we choose peace → We reveal Jesus' grace
  - When we are gentle → We reflect his tenderness
  - When we're humble → We reflect his posture of service
- This is what a transformed life looks like- and it stands out in a culture that values power, pride, and platform.

### NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

#### A Personal Challenge: Pick 1 or 2 as a group

- Ask students: "Which of these six stands out most to you? Which is hardest for you?"

Invite them to commit to one or two of these godly actions this week—and encourage their small group to keep each other accountable.

#### Group Idea:

- What would it look like for your group to pick one and live it out in your community this week?

#### RESPONSE ACTIVITY: "Live It Out Challenge"

- Give each student a card or note to write down the one or two phrases they want to focus on. Encourage them to post it somewhere they'll see every day this week.

#### CLOSING THOUGHT

- We don't do these things to earn God's love—we do them because we've *already received* His love. A godly life doesn't just happen—it's chosen every day, with God's help.