

## The Influence of Grace (Titus 2:11-3:8)

Each of us have been shaped and powerfully influenced by people and circumstances. Those influences are expressed in all kinds of ways. What kind of influence is the grace of God meant to have on our day to day lives? After experiencing that grace, how do we keep ourselves under its influence?

### 1. Grace teaches us how to live (Titus 2:11-3:2)

**Titus 2:11-14** Grace teaches us. To say NO and YES.  
Ephesians 5:1-2, 15-20

### 2. To be humbled by what we were (Titus 3:3)

This is the dark backdrop God's love shines against!

### 3. And empowered by what God has done (Titus 3:4-8)

**VV 4-7** is a single sentence in the Greek text. God's response to man's condition.

Paul basically sets the Gospel in capsule form – as a reminder, an encouragement AND a reinforcement of the appeals found in Titus 3:1-2, 8. This is the “heart” of what Paul's been writing.

**The what?** The kindness and love of God our Savior appeared (became visible or known) - He saved us.

**The reason (what it rests on)?** V5 NOT because of what we have done BUT because of His Mercy. Is that clear enough for us? VERY important.

**The what (again)?** V5 the washing of rebirth and renewal – shout out to Ezekiel 36:25-27/ God symbolically cleansing people from sin's pollution by water and giving them a new heart. Our spiritual cleansing is outwardly symbolized in water baptism. Think **2 Corinthians 5:17**

**The means (how it comes to us)?** By His Holy Spirit – reminiscent of HS outpouring in Acts 2:33!

**The goal (what it leads to)?** Titus 3:7 “...having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”

We have a new status (God declares us righteous) / We have a new birth; been adopted! (God makes us righteous; removes the shame)

**V7 is an amplification of the previous verses (5-6).**

It's like taking a microphone, pointing it towards verse 5 and crankin it: “*What begins with justification ends with inheritance!*”

Because “He saved us” we become heirs and have the hope of eternal life. Without V5 we have nothing.

We're given this succinct passage of Scripture that encapsulates (summarizes) the heart of the gospel we treasure for a reason. It has what we need to get healthy and stay healthy.

**Titus 3:8** “*I want you to stress these things*”

Why? Meant to influence us on every level and in every way.

## Questions

1. What stands out to you and why? Just make some observations about the passage.
2. What reminders did Paul give to Titus? Why are these reminders so important to *our* spiritual health both now and moving forward?
3. What kind of influence is God's grace meant to have over a person's life? Can you describe the way grace is influencing you?
4. Why do you think Paul provides the Gospel of Jesus in “capsule” form?
5. Slowly read through Titus 3:3-8 out loud three times. What stands out to you? What questions or thoughts come to mind?
6. What does this passage teach us about *being* a disciple of Jesus?
7. Is there something The Holy Spirit is calling you to repent of (turn away from and surrender to Christ)? Is there something The Holy Spirit is inviting you to delight in? If so, what?
8. What verse, word, phrase or point can you carry around with you this week? Talk about it.