

Membership Covenant



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Titus 3:1-8

Message for the Week: Devoted to GRACE

Sunday, March 17

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

When was the last time someone lied to or about you? How did you feel when that happened? What did you want to do to the person who treated you that way?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Titus 3:1-8](#) out loud.

[Clicking the link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

Why does Paul tell Titus to remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities? Why are the things Paul talks about in these verses excellent and profitable? How can these things be excellent and profitable in our personal lives, and in the life of Covenant Church?

How do we feel when we're full of malice (meanness), envy, and hatred? How do we feel when we are at peace: full of gentleness and love?

How would you describe the generosity of God's grace and mercy has done for you?

How does verse 5 relate to the sacraments we celebrate in church (like last week 😊)?

In what ways, if any, is the Spirit of God washing and renewing you? Is it necessary?

Try It:

When you wake up each day this week, before anything else, remind yourself of your great need for God's mercy. Receive it.

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Father, may your word penetrate our hearts and minds. Forgive us when we make it about ourselves, when we take control and misuse the name of God for our own ends and means. May we seek to be daily washed of sin by Jesus and live out the glory of the gospel in our communities.
AMEN

Missional/Spiritual Practice: Grace

I commit to loving Jesus with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength knowing I have been saved by grace because of Jesus' death and resurrection; this is a free gift, not the result of anything I have done.

I commit to sharing my testimony of what God has done and continues to do in my life by his grace regularly and boldly as I am led by the Spirit.

Titus 3:1-8

New International Version

³ Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, ²to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

³ At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. ⁸ This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

The Message

³ ¹⁻² Remind the people to respect the government and be law-abiding, always ready to lend a helping hand. No insults, no fights. God's people should be bighearted and courteous.

³⁻⁸ It wasn't so long ago that we ourselves were stupid and stubborn, easy marks for sin, ordered every which way by our glands, going around with a chip on our shoulder, hated and hating back. But when God, our kind and loving Savior God, stepped in, he saved us from all that. It was all his doing; we had nothing to do with it. He gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit. Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously. God's gift has restored our relationship with him and given us back our lives. And there's more life to come—an eternity of life! You can count on this.

⁸ I want you to put your foot down. Take a firm stand on these matters so that those who have put their trust in God will concentrate on the essentials that are good for everyone.