

**Life Group Notes**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Speaker:** Sean Green

**Title:** Titus: God's Love Part I

**Passage:** Titus 3:1-2

**Members Meeting - Mon 27 Feb:** Church family update, what's going on with staff, finances, venues, local mission and opportunity for Q&A.

**Read Titus 3v1-2:** Before the Romans conquered Crete in BC67, the island was a federation of city states who were constantly warring with each other. We join their story in AD63, after 130 years of resentment to Romans rule.

**V1** Titus is to remind the Cretans that they have a duty to be submissive and obedient to their colonial rulers (reflects Paul thinking in Rom13). It was not enough to be law abiding citizens, they were also to be eager to do good works.

**V2** They were to speak evil of no-one, even their Roman oppressors. They were to avoid quarrels (heated debates over trivial things) and be careful in their speech, not aggressive, quick to show humility. They were to display Christ-like meekness, strength under control.

**So what for RFC? We are reminded:**

**Be submissive & obedient:** to those God has put in authority over us. This is an act of faith. However, our allegiance to God trumps our submission to the state. "We must obey God rather than men" Act 5v29.

**Be ready for every good work:** This gets tricky because Christians are works in progress and our selfishness can kick in. We need to be reminded that true joy in life is found in serving others.

**Church is to be different:** Our relational disagreements are to be markedly different in how we try work them through:

- Because we have been forgiven much, we are able to forgive much, to overlook an offence.
- Sometimes we need to follow Matt 18:15-17 with the aim to restore the relationship.
- We practice 'preaching the gospel to yourself' especially when it gets hard.
- We don't get it right all the time, but the gospel compels us to go again when we fail.

**One final thought:** "The welfare of any community depends upon the Christians within it demonstrating Christian citizenship" William Barclay

In what ways might we experience a conflict between our submission to authorities and our allegiance to God?

How best should we encourage each other to be ready for every good work?

How is the way you are handling relational difficulties (we all have them) marking you out as different?

**Suggested Questions:**

1. In what ways might we experience a conflict between our submission to authorities and our allegiance to God?
2. How best should we encourage each other to be ready for every good work?
3. How is the way you are handling relational difficulties (we all have them) marking you out as different?