

Sermon Title: “How does the Church behave in Public?”

Primary Text: Titus 3:1-8

Pastor Zach used the welcome sign on the West Entrance to Fall Creek to illustrate that even though we may not actively realize the Church is in the public eye there is a never a moment where we aren't being observed! While the past few weeks have focused on how the church interacts with each other, Titus transitions into how the church should behave when they are not in the church building but in the community around us.

In the first 8 verses of chapter 3, we see that the Church is to be made up of **Model Citizens** who **Remember their sinful past** so that they **glorify the Gospel** by **adorning it with Good Works**. As model citizens, the Church is commanded to “be good,” acting courteously and in such a way that no one would have complaints on their behavior. We **remember our past** so that we treat those who are not believers with compassion and gentleness, recalling that we, too were slaves to sin and in bondage to the *enemy* before being redeemed and saved by **Jesus Christ**. This assumes that we are **in Christ**, and so the first requirement of every church member is to make sure they really have responded to the Gospel appropriately by declaring Jesus is Lord and committing to live in light of that confession.

Pastor's final point is the “pivot” of the chapter, connecting our devotion to doing “good works” to the gospel and helping refine what we as the gathered people of God spend our time and resources on... make sure you are ready for next week's message!

Beyond our main text, Pastor Zach referenced these passages:

Romans 13:1-2 Isaiah 64:6

Questions to Consider this week:

- Sometimes we forget that the Church is in constant view of our surrounding community. Think of something you can do this week to keep that in mind as you throughout your tasks.
- What part of being a “Model Citizen” makes you uncomfortable? Pray through the list of commands and qualities in **Titus 3:1-2**, asking God to help you know how to apply that this week.
- Pastor Zach admitted one of his “soap boxes” is compassionate and gentle treatment of the lost because they are still captives of the enemy and slaves to sin. Are there people you interact with on a regular basis that you have difficulty being compassionate with? How can you prepare to show compassion and gentleness with them in your next interaction?
- Pastor spent a good amount of time reminding us that being **at** the church does not mean we are **IN** the Church. Does that clarification make you uncomfortable? How does this reality change the way you examine your own heart?

Prayer

*Lord Jesus, thank you that the **Gospel** has never been something in secret that only select few have access. Remind me this week that I am **also** in public, in full view of the world. Help me live in a way that is compassionate and devoted to being a “model citizen” so that I show how the Gospel has transformed **my** life this week. I pray for my brothers and sisters at the Church to do the same!. -AMEN*

Song for Personal Worship

“We Receive” (Sovereign Grace) – One of Pastor Zach's favorites for communion.

https://youtu.be/o9UqSBxscXw?si=4eKPKahHflbBOdp_