

**How to...A Semi-Complete Guide to
Straighten Out the Church**
Part 3

Straighten Out Lives –

Titus: Chapter 3

"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy." Titus 3:4-5a

A. Remind believers...

1. To be subject to rulers and authorities.
"Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God." Romans 13:1
2. To be obedient.
"But everyone knows that you are obedient to the Lord. This makes me very happy. I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong." Romans 16:19
3. To be ready to do whatever is good.
"See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to all people." 1 Thessalonians 5:15
4. To slander no one.
"Slander is an accusation maliciously uttered, with the purpose or effect of damaging the reputation of another. As a rule, it is a false charge but it may be a truth circulated insidiously and with a hostile purpose." --International Standard Bible Encyclopedia
"For I am afraid that when I come I won't like what I find, and you won't like my response. I am afraid that I will find quarreling, jealousy, anger, selfishness, slander, gossip, arrogance, and disorderly behavior." 2 Corinthians 12:20
5. To be peaceable.
"Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone." Romans 12:18
6. To be considerate.
"Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon." Philippians 4:5
7. To always be gentle toward everyone.
"Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love." Ephesians 4:2

"A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people." 2 Timothy 2:24

B. At one time...

1. We were foolish.
"Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done." Romans 1:28
2. We were disobedient.
"Did God's people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not! They were disobedient, so God made salvation available to the Gentiles. But he wanted his own people to become jealous and claim it for themselves." Romans 11:11
3. We were deceived.
"So God will cause them to be greatly deceived and they will believe lies." 2 Thessalonians 2:11
4. We were enslaved by passions and pleasures.
"God paid a high price for you, so don't be enslaved by the world." 1 Corinthians 7:23
5. We lived in malice and envy.
"Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip." Romans 1:29
6. We were hated and hated others.
"They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents." Romans 12:9

C. But when...

1. The kindness of our Savior appeared...
"Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?" Romans 2:4
"He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins." Ephesians 1:7
"Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust in his kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off." Romans 11:22
2. The love of our Savior appeared...

"But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

3. He saved us!
"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved." Romans 10:9-10
4. He renewed us by the Holy Spirit!
"God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor—not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways." 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

D. Stress these things...

1. Be careful to devote yourselves to doing good.
"Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith." Galatians 6:10
2. God's reward awaits those who choose this path...as it is excellent and praiseworthy.
"And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise." Philippians 4:8

E. Devote yourselves...

1. To do what is good.
2. To lead productive lives.
"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness." 2 Peter 1:3

Coming next :

February 5 - Straighten Out Your View of Past -Philemon
"Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me." Philemon 1:11