

Sermon Big Idea	Helpful Resources
The grace of God doesn't just save us — it trains us to live differently while we wait for Jesus to return.	The Bible Project Guide: Titus 

Read the Text
In your group, read the passage out loud, with each person reading a verse.

Head: Grasping the Text
<i>Goal: To grasp the theological concepts and historical context of the text.</i>

1. Read Titus 3:1–2. Paul commands believers to be "submissive to rulers and authorities" and "ready for every good work." In your own words, what does that posture actually look like in daily life? Why would this have been so radical in 1st-century Crete — and why is it still countercultural in Poway in 2026?
2. In verse 3, Paul uses "we ourselves" rather than "they." What is the significance of Paul placing himself in the same category as every other sinner? List the six descriptors Paul uses, and for each one, describe in a sentence what life without grace actually looks like.
3. Read Titus 3:4–7 carefully. What is the difference between "the washing of regeneration" and "renewal by the Holy Spirit" (v. 5)? What does it mean to be "justified" (v. 7).
4. Paul says in verse 8 to "insist on these things," then in vv. 9–11 warns against "foolish debates" and commands the church to deal firmly with a "divisive person." What makes internal division so dangerous to the mission of a grace-shaped community? What does Paul's two-warning process reveal about the balance between grace and accountability?

Heart: Assessing Your Internal Transformation

Goal: Examine how the text reshapes our identity, affections, and motivations to bring about honest self-examination.

5. Research shows 49% of unchurched Americans see Christians as hypocritical. When you honestly reflect on your interactions this past week — with coworkers, classmates, neighbors, or family — would people around you describe you as someone visibly shaped by grace? What feelings come up when you sit with that question?
6. Titus 3:4–7 makes clear that salvation is entirely God's doing — his mercy, his Spirit, his justification, his inheritance given to you. On your best day and your worst day, your standing before God is the same: righteous in Christ. Where in your life do you still find yourself trying to earn God's approval or feeling like your failures disqualify you? What does this passage say to that place?

Hands: Taking Your Next Step

Goal: To move from hearing the Word to living it out as a disciple with specific, practical, and achievable steps for the coming week.

7. The sermon challenged: Your Monday is the greatest evidence of grace. Yet, we know the danger of forgetfulness: Forgotten grace produces withheld grace. Is there a person in your life right now toward whom you feel cold, resentful, or judgmental? How does seeing yourself in verse 3 change or challenge how you see them afresh, and ultimately, will alter your posture toward them in the coming weeks?
8. Paul says to devote yourself to good works and to avoid "foolish debates... that are unprofitable and worthless" (v. 9). Where are you currently spending energy on an argument, conflict, or in an activity that is not producing or helping with your transformation? What would it look like to redirect that energy toward something good and profitable for your community this week? Be specific!