

The Church

1 Peter 2:4-5, 9 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5you also, as living stones, are being built up **a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ....**

9But you are **a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people**, that you may **proclaim the praises of Him** who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

1 Peter 2:11-17, “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, **by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.** 13**Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man** for the Lord’s sake... 16as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. 17Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. 18 **Servants...** 3:1 **Wives**, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands.... 7 **Husbands**, likewise, dwell with them with understanding.... 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; **16having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.** 17For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

1 Peter 4:7-19 But the end of all things is at hand; **therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.** 8**And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”** 9Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. **10As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.** 11**If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies,** that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

12Beloved, do not think it strange concerning **the fiery trial** which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ...19Therefore let **those who suffer** according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

Titus

Chapter 1

1Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, 2in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, 3but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior; 4To Titus, a true son in our common faith:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

5For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and **appoint elders in every city** as I commanded you— 6if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. 7For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, 8but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, 9holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, **by sound doctrine**, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

10For there are **many insubordinate**, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain. 12One of them, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." 13This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, 14not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth. 15To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled. 16They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

Chapter 2

1But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:

2that **the older men** be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience;

3the **older women** likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— 4that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, **that the word of God may not be blasphemed.**

6Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded, 7in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, 8sound speech that cannot be condemned, **that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.**

9Exhort bondservants to be obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, 10not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, **that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.**

11For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. 15Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

Chapter 3

1Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, 2to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. 3For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. 4But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 8This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

9But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. 10Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, 11knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

12When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. 13Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing. 14And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.

15All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

Table of Duties: *CONSISTING OF CERTAIN PASSAGES OF THE SCRIPTURES, SELECTED FOR VARIOUS ESTATES AND CONDITIONS OF MEN, BY WHICH THEY MAY BE ADMONISHED TO DO THEIR RESPECTIVE DUTIES:* Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers, Duties Christians Owe Their Teachers and Pastors, Governing Authorities, Duties Subjects Owe to Governing Authorities, Husbands, Wives, Parents, Children, Laborers and Servants, Male and Female, Masters and Mistresses, Young Persons in General, Widows, Christians in General

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More than enough has now been said to those to whom this commandment applies.

¹⁶⁷ In addition, it would be well to preach to parents on the nature of their office, how they should treat those committed to their authority. Although the duty of superiors is not explicitly stated in the Ten Commandments, it is frequently dealt with in many other passages of Scripture, and God intends it to be included in this commandment in which he speaks of father and mother.

¹⁶⁸ God does not want to have knaves or tyrants in this office and responsibility; nor does he assign them this honor (that is, power and authority to govern) merely to receive homage. Parents should consider that they owe obedience to God, and that, above all, **they should earnestly and faithfully discharge the duties of their office**, not only to provide for the material support of their children, servants, subjects, etc., but especially to bring them up to the praise and honor of God. ¹⁶⁹ Therefore do not imagine that the parental office is a matter of your pleasure and whim. It is a strict commandment and injunction of God, who holds you accountable for it.

¹⁷⁰ The trouble is that no one perceives or heeds this. Everybody acts as if God gave us children for our pleasure and amusement, gave us servants merely to put them to work like cows or asses, and gave us subjects to treat them as we please, as if it were no concern of ours what they learn or how they live. ¹⁷¹ No one is willing to see that this is the command of the divine Majesty, who will solemnly call us to account and punish us for its neglect, nor is it recognized how very necessary it is to devote serious attention to the young. ¹⁷² **If we want qualified and capable men for both civil and spiritual leadership, we must spare no effort, time, and expense in teaching and educating our children to serve God and mankind.** We must not think only of amassing money and property for them. ¹⁷³ God can provide for them and make them rich without our help, as indeed he does daily. But he has given and entrusted children to us with the command that we train and govern them according to his will; otherwise God would have no need of father and mother. ¹⁷⁴ Therefore let everybody know that it is his chief duty, on pain of losing divine grace, to bring up his children in the fear and knowledge of God, **and if they are gifted to give them opportunity to learn and study so that they may be of service wherever they are needed.**

¹⁷⁵ If this were done, God would richly bless us and give us grace so that **men might be trained who would be a benefit to the nation and the people.** We would also have **soundly instructed citizens, virtuous and home-loving wives** who would faithfully bring up their children and servants to be godly. ¹⁷⁶ Think what deadly harm you do when you are negligent in this respect and fail to bring up your children **to usefulness and piety.** You bring upon yourself sin and wrath, thus earning hell by the way you have reared your own children, no matter how devout and holy you may be in other respects. ¹⁷⁷ **Because this commandment is disregarded, God terribly punishes the world; hence there is no longer any civil order, peace, or respect for authority. We all complain about this state of things, but we do not see that it is our own fault. Because of the way we train them, we have unruly and disobedient subjects.**