

“It was almost impossible to find ... personal conduct more treacherous or public policy more unjust than in Crete” (Polybius).

Cretan Society & Morale:

- ✓ Remember: the rebellious character and deceptiveness and immorality and greediness of the Cretan citizens and authorities is widespread & well-known.
- ✓ Remember Crete was ungodly and unjust & unholy.
- ✓ it was well known for sea-trade, a home to piracy
- ✓ much inter-city fighting and roughness between the citizens.
- ✓ they were liars, full of deceit and manipulation.
- ✓ Plutarch, the 1st c. historian said: “Cretans were always on the verge of revolt”
- ✓ they were self-indulgent, belligerent, wild, and sexually immoral.
- ✓ Sexual promiscuity, gluttony at feasts, drunkenness characterized Cretan life.

Here is your obligation as a Christian in your DAY TO DAY LIFE WITH OUTSIDERS.

Paul gives behavioral exhortations (vv.1-2) and bases them on Christ’s redemptive work (vv.4-7).

Titus 3:1-2 is parallel to Romans 13:1-7 & 1 Peter 2:13-17

- Paul wants them to OBEY LEADERS
- Paul wants them to LOVE NEIGHBORS
- Paul wants them to SERVE SACRIFICIALLY
- Paul wants them to LIVE UPRIGHTLY

THESIS — *I want you to see the Christian’s Duties in Society in 3 headings...* [over the next few weeks]

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|----|---|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Exhortations on Godly living (1-2) | (the CURRENT) | What TO DO |
| 2. | Reflections on Godless past (3) | (the CORRUPT) | who YOU WERE |
| 3. | Reorientation on God’s salvation (4-7) | (the CROSS) | what GOD DID |

I. EXHORTATIONS ON GODLY LIVING (1-2)

A. Your relation to civil leaders (1)

1. Be submissive to rulers
2. To authorities
3. To be obedient
4. To be ready for every good deed

Excurses: is there a time to *NOT* obey?

a) the Jewish midwives did not do what the king of Egypt told them to do as they feared God and protected the children (Ex. 1.17)

b) Moses defied Pharaoh (Ex 7-12)

c) Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego would not bow down to Nebuchadnezzar’s image (Dan 3)

d) Daniel prayed when the king made an edict NOT to do so (Dan 6)

e) Peter and John kept preaching Christ after being ordered to be SILENT (Acts 4.18-20)

We are to be faithful, obedient, diligent, quiet workers for good (1 Thess 4.11-12).

B. Your relation to all people (2)

1. To malign no one
2. To be peaceable
3. To be gentle
4. Showing every consideration for all men

“The Christian life in the world is to present a vivid contrast to the criticized Cretan image. In the civic arena Christians are to be as responsible as the best citizens. Where believers, more generally, come into contact with other people, they are to embody the highest ideals of human virtue as they imitate the pattern of behavior embodied by Christ himself.” (Philip Towner)

WHEN I SURVEY + O THE WONDERFUL CROSS

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.

**O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live**

**O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name**

See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.