



- 1 **Why do you think Paul called on Titus to “remind” his congregation of the series of imperatives in Titus 3:1-3?** Consider 1 John 3:16–24; James 1:26–27; 3:6–12 as well as the note below.


 *“These are qualities demonstrated more in the home than they are on the stage. If the gospel has not transformed us in these areas, we cannot claim to know anything of its power. Paul is making a direct contrast between the lives of true believers and false teachers (Titus 1:10–16; 3:9–11). Christ’s disciples are “submissive” rather than “insubordinate”; “gentle” and “courteous” rather than “evil beasts” and “detestable”; “ready” for every good work rather than “unfit” for them; and they avoid “quarreling” rather than “quarreling about the law.” This is the fruit produced by the gospel of grace.” (Gospel Transformation Bible)*


 What were the imperatives that Paul gave? \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
What are some practical examples of how each of these can be lived out daily? Discuss what each means and how they apply to your life.


- 2 **In Titus 3:3, Paul asks the Cretans to remember their former life.** What “former life” is he referring to? Take a moment to put Paul’s description of life before Christ in your own words.

 *If the Apostle Paul would have asked you to remember your life before Christ, what kinds of things would you list? Read the following verses and discuss how the descriptions match your experience apart from Christ. Hos.1:6-9, Matt. 23:26, Luke 19:10, 1 Tim. 1:9, Eph. 2:12, Eph. 2:1.*

 *When you consider your former life, does it make you sad, angry, or depressed? How should you think about your former life?*

 *Discuss Ephesians 4:24 in light of the following: “Christianity means change is possible. Deep, fundamental change. It is possible to become tenderhearted when once you were callous and insensitive. It is possible to stop being dominated by bitterness and anger. It is possible to become a loving person no matter what your background has been. The Bible assumes that God is the decisive factor in making us what we should be. With wonderful bluntness the Bible says, “Put away malice and be tenderhearted” (Ephesians 4:31–32). It does not say, “If you can . . .” Or: “If your parents were tenderhearted to you . . .” Or: “If you weren’t terribly wronged or abused . . .” It says, “Be tenderhearted. This is wonderfully freeing. It frees us from the terrible fatalism that says change is impossible for me. It frees me from mechanistic views that make my background my destiny...Change is possible. God is alive. Christ is risen. The promises are true.” John Piper*

 *Take a moment to rejoice in the work of the gospel by meditating on the difference Jesus has made in your life.*

 *How does considering your life before Jesus help you live more like Jesus? What value is there in an exercise like what Paul asks the Cretans to do?*

