

TITUS 3:9-11 DON'T BE A TOOL: PROTECTING UNITY IN AN AGE OF DIVISION

When the economy tightens, our faith deepens. We don't let go of God—we cling tighter. The winds may shake the city, but our roots grow deeper into the Rock.

1982 James Wilson and George Kelling introduced social theory that proposed **small signs of disorder**—like broken windows, graffiti, fare evasion, and loitering—signal a lack of social control and invite more serious crime. If these minor issues addressed, create an environment **more serious crimes decrease**. 90's Rudy Giuliani adopted this theory, "broken windows policy," 67% drop murder, 60% drop in robberies. 70% New Yorkers quality of life increased, tourism jumped 12 million by time fully implemented.

Caring about the small things transforms a community in every way, causing it to flourish. New Yorkers ASK WHAT DO WE WANT LIFE IN OUR CITY TO BE LIKE?

PAUL INSTRUCTING TITUS TO NOT IGNORE SMALL CRACKS IN CHURCH'S UNITY

- ? : What want r church look like? Not a reality show. Drama. Always ppl

MP: Good churches have a vision for their community based on Biblical values that leads to flourishing. They care enough about it to protect it.

- BC TITUS 3:4-8 – THEOLOGICAL EPICENTER DRIVES CHURCH CULTURE

Doctrinal purity and relational integrity go together. DOCTRINALLY SOUND

WE CHOOSE BIBLICAL VALUES TO SHAPE THE CULTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY

CONTRAST COMMUNITY – NOT LIKE THE WORLD – **BE LIKE JESUS**

Loving: John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Humble: Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Forgiving: Colossians 3:13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Truthful: Ephesians 4:15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ.

United: Ephesians 4:3 Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. (NLT)

Spend time at a good church you should be able to say these things. "Am I" Test.

TO BE THAT WE HAVE TO CALL OUT THE DIVISIVE DISTRACTIONS

Grace, not speculation, saves and shapes us. PAUL GIVES 4 THINGS TO AVOID

- **Walk around. WALKING PARK PETS. WATCH THAT DON'T STEP IN IT SAY**

Foolish Controversies TD: Dogmat debate end times timelines, obsessions w/hidden bible codes, numerical patterns, over consumption conspiracies. **Genealogies TD:** Spiritual elitism based on tribalism denominationalism. Claiming superiority bc of a certain "stream" of Christianity **Dissensions TD:** Church splits over carpet color, music style, service times Facebook comment wars. Leadership factions, ministry philosophies **HAM Quarrels about the Law TD:** Arguments over dress codes, alcohol,

tattoos, Legalistic gatekeeping - Elevating man-made traditions to level of divine authority – **ONE LADY IN THE CHURCH YEARS AGO MEASURING THE HEELS SHOES**

- Endless noise, hot takes, digital rabbit trails. **RIGHT STUFF TO STIK**

Saturate: Yourself with spiritually uplifting content

Turn: Towards Christian Community that strengthens your faith.

Intentionally: limit unhealthy content streaming into your life

Keep: The cross and resurrection in the forefront of your focus

AND WE HAVE TO GRACIOUSLY CONFRONT THE PERSON WHO TRAFFICS IN DIVISION

YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL:

1. Unwilling to reconcile to the truth. Would rather traffic in hearsay, gossip, opinion
2. Intentionally create factions instead of focusing on unity.
3. The fruit of their work is tearing the church down instead of building it up.

Proverbs 6:16 There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: ¹⁷haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, ¹⁹a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.

DIAGNOSIS: Warped Sinful Self Condemned – bad pattern to avoid: **DEVIL**

Remedy: Gracious confrontation. Relational Disengagement. NOT GOING THERE W/U

- Warning to individual, Sign to the Community, Protective Measure. RECONCILE

A strong, visible boundary is placed around an unrepentantly divisive person to call them to reflection and repentance and protect the church.

- But they're my friend. Some ppl leverage friendship advance agenda **(NOT)**

1. Real love doesn't avoid hard conversations—it walks straight into them to protect what matters most.
2. Test your speech and passions. Are they *edifying* or *dividing*? Are you majoring on gospel essentials, or obsessed with theological rabbit holes?
3. Be Allergic to drama and addicted to grace.
4. Jesus didn't die for drama. He died to build a family defined by grace.