

Love Your Friend to Faith Becoming a Caring Christian Participant's Handout

The purpose of this module is to:

Encourage Christians to devote themselves to doing good.

Objectives :

- *To develop personal virtues in preparation for doing good*
- *To understand the kindness of God*
- *To determine what caring deeds are excellent and profitable for everyone.*

Titus 3:1-8

A. A _____ to do good emerges from personal virtues.

1. We must be responsive to _____.
 - a. When Paul obediently stood before God's High Priest Ananias (Acts 23), Felix Festus (Acts 24), and King Agrippa (Acts 26), the apostle had a _____ audience for the gospel.
 - b. The obedience to authority that Christ demands of us _____ contradicts our allegiance to God.
 - c. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus showed submissive obedience to authority when He prayed to His Father, "Yet not as I will, but as You will" (Matthew 26:39). Jesus' submission to the ultimate authority of His Father _____ his submission to those who crucified him.
 - d. We generally do good by submitting to human authority only after we have submitted to the authority of _____ in our lives.
2. We should engage in _____ conversation.
 - a. Shun _____. Slanderous talk is based on false charges aimed at _____ someone's reputation. Proverbs 10:18b
 - b. Boycott _____. Don't encourage the gossiper. Proverbs 11:13
 - c. Avoid _____. Follow the example of Jesus who always turned the other cheek. (I Peter 2:23).
3. We must foster peaceful and considerate _____.
 - a. Peaceful Christians find _____ instead of laying blame.
 - b. Considerate Christians think of _____ instead of themselves.
 - c. Christians _____ their rights instead of retaining their rights.
4. We must model a _____ attitude.
 - a. Showing true humility means treating people _____.
 - b. Showing true humility means asking for _____.
 - c. Showing true humility means _____ what Christ saved us from.
 - d. Showing true humility is to become _____.

5. We should be _____.
- Obedience directs our _____, but submission impacts our attitudes.
 - Consider the example of the defiant little boy who, when scolded, said, "I may be sitting down on the outside, but I'm standing up on the inside!" He was careful to be obedient, but he was not submissively obedient.
 - Christian submission goes beyond obedience to be _____ and yielded.

B. But God's _____ saved us from sin to righteousness.

- Here is how we _____ God's kindness:
 - Only God's divine _____, not our own intent, sent Jesus Christ to us.
 - Only God's _____, not our conscience, can lead us to repentance.
 - Only God's _____, not our works, can save us.
 - Only through _____ and renewal, not our good intentions, are we presented acceptable to Him.
 - Only through _____ as heirs, not our enslaved condition, can we inherit eternal life.
 - Only through a comprehension of God's _____ in our lives, not through our own efforts, can we practice good works.
- God's kindness saved us and inspires us to serve.

C. Because of God's character we _____ ourselves to doing good.

- Why does Paul _____ his admonition to do what is good?
 - The sharp contrast between our sinful past and our present salvation _____ us to do whatever is good.
 - People will remember what they have _____ of God's love long after they have forgotten what they have heard about God's love.
 - The experience of God's love _____ the understanding of God's love.
- Be careful to do what is _____.
 - Paul admonishes us to be careful to do what is good because we can so easily settle for doing what is mediocre or self-serving.
 - We _____ the quality of our endeavors by the yardsticks of submissive obedience, consideration, and true humility.
 - Acts 6:1-7

3. Doing what is good is excellent and profitable for _____.

- Doing what is good should have a definite and clear purpose.
- Doing what is good should have _____. Doing good meets human need and carries out God's redemptive purpose.
- Doing what is good should be _____ chosen. Doing what is good should be chosen as a result of God's prompting, not because of a so-called "guilt trip."

Small Group Exercise

Devoting ourselves to doing whatever is good begins with a plan. Work independently for five minutes.

- Use the left column for listing 4-5 names of people who might respond to specific and significant acts of kindness. Especially try to focus on naming unsaved friends, neighbors, co-workers, relatives, etc.
- Look at the individual name and decide what specific and significant act of kindness each person would most appreciate. Match the listed names to the suggestions in the right column, or list other ideas in the blanks provided.
- After you have completed the exercise, break into church teams of 3-4 people. Pray together about the specific plans you have made to do whatever is good.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

- A. Yard Work
- B. General Handyman Work
- C. Housecleaning
- D. Notes of Encouragement
- E. Car Wash and Wax
- F. Child Care
- G. Elderly Care
- H. Gift Certificate to Favorite Store/
Restaurant
- I. Taxi Service
- J. "Meals on Wheels"
- K. Walking/Jogging Partner
- L. Trip to Zoo/Museum
- M. Trip to Ball Game
- N. Shopping Excursion
- O. Computer Skills Tutoring
- P. _____
- Q. _____
- R. _____

Action Planning

A caring church is made up of caring Christians. Could individual caring actions, such as those listed in the small group exercise, be translated into a church-wide caring ministry?

What caring ministry could you begin at your church?

How will you keep the focus of your ministry specific?

How will you ascertain that your ministry has significance?

How will you recruit people who will consciously choose to be involved in a caring ministry?