

Apply The Word

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CROSSWAY
CHURCH

Message Info

Title:

Heirs Apparent

Speaker:

Josh Squires

Date:

March 12, 2023

Scriptures:

Titus 3:1-11

*"There's nothing less
native to man than
that he should think
less of himself."*

—John Calvin

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Theme: Submit to the Lord so you can obey him gladly.

Introduction: The resemblance between children and their parents is often a matter of much joy, and debate. In Scripture, there is a repeated theme of our being restored to the image of the Son, so that the watching world finds it undeniable that we resemble Jesus. Paul uses that theme in his instructions to his protégé, Titus, as he looks to lead the church in Crete.

Paul offers us 3 interactions with the gospel as heirs of Christ:

1. The gospel reflected (1-2)

Crete was a Roman vassal state that had a strong resistance movement and was inclined to conflict.

Paul begins by speaking to submission and authority.

Submission affects us in two ways: a) it puts our pride to death; b) it reflects the character of Christ.

Paul offers 4 applications, 2 positive and 2 negative: *don't* 1) speak evil, 2) quarrel; *do* 1) be gentle, 2) show perfect courtesy.

2. The gospel explained (3-8)

There are 3 elements to the gospel: a) *who we were*—foolish, disobedience, slaves to sin, hated and hating one another.

The more we pursue selfish pleasure, the more miserable we are.

b) *what was done*—God saved us in goodness and lovingkindness.

c) *who we are*—justified by his grace, heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Even into eternity, we will learn something new of Christ every day because he is inexhaustible.

3. The gospel rejected (9-11)

Paul turns from the world's contentions to fights within the church.

He gives us 3 examples to avoid: a) wrong views of belonging to God (genealogies); b) conflicts (dissensions); c) works righteousness (quarrels about the Law)

A divisive/quarrelsome person—always operates in us/them categories. Paul says to warn once, twice, and then to reject (excommunicate). It is a serious and sobering sin, and such a person is warped, sinful, and self-condemned.

Questions:

1. Do you submit to authority gladly and in faith?
2. Is your experience of God's grace propelling your obedience?
3. How are you pursuing pleasure selfishly?