

SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE (4)

THE PURE LIFE

Message Notes

Text: Titus 1:5; 2:11-15

This is one of the Pastoral Epistles written by Paul to Titus. At this time Titus was the leader of all the churches on the Island of Crete that is one of the largest islands in the Mediterranean. In the first century it was renowned for having 100 cities...

1:5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

2:11 For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.

2:12 It (i.e. God's grace) teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, **13** while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, **14** who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. **15** These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

In this chapter Paul is teaching about living our lives in such a way **10** "so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive." This is done by...

Saying No (12a)

12 It (i.e. God's grace) teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions...

God's grace is extreme but it's not cheap! The grace of God is not an excuse to live an impure life. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions...

Ungodliness = Believing in God, while adopting a lifestyle which seems to contradict your belief (hypocrisy)

Worldly passions = The tendency to conform to the world

Cheap grace was alive and well in the first century church...

Romans 6:1, "What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means!"

Galatians 5:13, "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."

Author Paul Ellis puts it this way, "*Grace is no more a license to sin than electricity is a license to electrocute yourself.*"

God's grace teaches us to "say no." It also teaches us about...

Saying Yes (12b)

(God's grace) teaches us...to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age...

That is our lives will be decent, honest, respectable and consistent with our belief in God.

Self-control = to exercise self-restraint (opp. Excess)

Self-control is doing what I need to do when I don't feel like doing it. And it is not doing what I should not do when I do feel like doing it.

Titus chapter 2 then gives us two reasons that empower us to live this life of saying "No" to the wrong things and "Yes" to the right...

1. Looking Forward (13)

13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ...

Why do I say "No" to doing the wrong thing and "Yes" to doing the right thing? Because Jesus is coming back!

2. Looking Back (14)

14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good."

Jesus redeemed or emancipated us. Just like He did for John Newton the author of the much-loved hymn, Amazing Grace (he was both a slave and then a slave trader). He trafficked people and yet he came to know the freedom & grace that only Jesus can give: *"For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people."*
