

FOCUS
Cultural Issue

TITLE
Civil Obedience

REFERENCE
Titus 3:1,2

• brown merit •

Titus

... LESSON 5

• FOR THE LEADER

• PREP



FOR THE LEADER

WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT:

God calls us to live according to the laws and authorities placed over us. Even in times of disagreement, our obedience to and respect toward those in authority can be a testimony of Jesus to those around us.

THINK ABOUT IT:

- What responsibility does a Christian have to civil authorities?
- How does the way you discuss or treat those in authority reflect Jesus in you?
- How can a man of God further the Kingdom through proper respect for leadership, even if he disagrees with it?



PREP

- envelopes (one per boy)
- paper (one sheet per boy)
- pencils (one per boy)

• Notes •

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Titus

... LESSON 5

· READ



· REFLECT



· RESPOND



READ

Remind people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men. Titus 3:1,2

Did you know that at one time in Alabama, it was illegal to have an ice cream cone in your back pocket? In Alaska, it was an offense to push a live moose out of a moving plane. In Georgia, it used to be illegal to tie your giraffe to a telephone pole or street lamp. In Louisiana, you weren't allowed to rob a bank and then shoot the teller with a water pistol. And at one time in Missouri's history, upsetting squirrels was illegal!

These silly laws are an extreme reminder that living within the boundaries of law and order sometimes comes with its challenges. Obedience in general can be difficult, especially when we don't agree with a certain law or like the person enforcing it. Like it or not, however, laws and authorities are a part of life.

Have you ever had a teacher, coach, or any other leader that you either just didn't like or didn't get along with? Why didn't you get along? Maybe there was a rule that you thought was silly or just plain wrong. Did you choose to follow the rules or did you do your own thing?

These kinds of decisions face us every day, and we must be prepared to make the right choices.

In the Book of Titus, Paul gave some great wisdom on dealing with rules and authorities. Paul wrote that it is important for Christians to be law-abiding citizens who submit to authority and are respectful of those they encounter. Paul stressed that it is our responsibility to set the example of righteousness, or right living, for those around us.

Jesus himself set the example by living according to the Law while here on earth. When the religious leaders brought Jesus to court, Jesus went through the legal process. Jesus' life was so good that when He was tried, the ruler said that he found no basis for the charges against Jesus. Following Jesus' example may not always be easy, but with the help of the Holy Spirit it can be done!

When we choose to set the example as men of God and live as Paul instructed, the benefits go beyond avoiding a punishment or fine. Our right actions are a testimony of what it means to be a Christian and can help lead others to Jesus. He told us in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." One way to let that light shine is by following Paul's instruction to respect and honor the laws and authorities we live under.

PRAYER: Dear God, I want to be a light in this dark world. Help me to live in obedience to the rules and authorities you have placed over me. I pray for my leaders and ask that You give them Your wisdom in the decisions they have to make. May their hearts be turned toward You. Help me to lead others to Jesus through my response to laws and leaders. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



REFLECT

Write a thank you letter to your local police department. Express your appreciation for their time, work, and sacrifice to enforce the law.

As a patrol, choose a time to deliver the letters to the police department to express your thanks for the hard work that they do.



RESPOND

Create a collage of pictures that represent the laws and leaders where you live. The pictures can be drawn, cut out, or printed off. Then bring your creation to the next meeting to discuss and display. Remember, the more creativity the better!

7-DAY BIBLE READING PLAN
Sunday ·
Monday ·
Tuesday ·
Wednesday ·
Thursday ·
Friday ·
Saturday ·

The *Fire Bible: Student Edition* provides a reading plan that follows a two-year design for reading the entire Bible. Follow that reading plan in order to earn the green Bible Reading merit.

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