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**Striving for Unity – Leader’s Notes**

Titus 3:9-15

*For the week of June 28, 2020*

**Background:** A major concern that compelled Paul to write this letter was discord in the body of Christ due to false teaching and arguments. As he concluded his writing, he encouraged Titus to steer clear of controversies and divisive people, and to be devoted to doing what is good.

**Discussion:**

1. Read 1:10-16. What were the types of issues which threatened the churches on Crete? People were arguing about things that could not be supported in scripture. These included legalism, profiteering, myths, elevating human laws to equal God’s laws, preferring those who have the “correct” genealogy, and making a priority of winning arguments to exalt themselves over others. See also 3:9-10.
2. Why is false teaching a serious threat to the health of a church? Two reasons: 1) Jesus is the truth (John 8:12, 31-32 & 14:6) so false teaching moves us away from Jesus our source of spiritual life and health. 2) Disagreements about what is true lead to arguments, disunity and divisions.
3. What did Paul encourage Titus to avoid and what did he encourage him to do? Paul encouraged him to avoid entering into the arguments others were trying to foment (v.9). He also encouraged him to devote himself to helping others (Paul, Zenas, Apollos, and any others had urgent needs. See vs. 12-14).
4. What are some ways we can love and care for each other to strengthen the unity of our church? Answers will vary. It is good for us to stay alert to the needs of others and to do what we can to assist them.
5. Why did Paul choose to conclude his letter with the benediction, *Grace be with you all*? Grace expresses God’s mercy and forgiveness as well as His enabling in our lives. Apart from Him, we can do nothing of true or lasting value.