

SETTING THE CHURCH’S TESTIMONY IN ORDER

INTRODUCTION

My first traffic ticket in Brazil: the problem between different traffic rules.

Christian life is a life between two “countries”: our earthly country and our heavenly country.

A church that is in order is a church that lives correctly not only in regard to its internal relationships, but also in regard to its relationship with the outside world.

In **Titus 3:1-8**, Paul teaches us 2 facts about the church’s testimony before the world that should impact the way we relate to our community.

1. The Responsibility of a Good Testimony (1–2)
2. The Reason for a Good Testimony (3–8)

1) THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A GOOD TESTIMONY (1–2)

[VERSE 1]

Submission to authorities

“to be subject...to be obedient” (Romans 13:1–7)

Cooperation with authorities

“to be ready” (Jeremiah 29:5–9; Matthew 22:21)

[VERSE 2]

Our speech and our relationships with unbelievers

“to malign no one” =

“to be peaceable” =

“gentle” =

2) THE REASON FOR A GOOD TESTIMONY (3–8)

[VERSE 3]

Remember who we were

[VERSES 4–7]

Remember what God has done for us

Main clause: “He saved us” (v. 5)

God’s motivation in our salvation (vv. 4–5a)

God’s means of salvation (v. 5b–6)

God’s purpose for our salvation (v. 7)

[VERSE 8]

The responsibility of the preacher: “speak confidently”

The responsibility of the hearers: “be careful to engage”

CONCLUSION

Loving people is not easy, specially when their values are opposed to what we believe. But we are called and equipped to this responsibility by the Gospel that saved us and that we need to proclaim in words and deeds for the salvation of the world.