

# TOUGH GRACE IN DIFFICULT PLACES: A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF TITUS

## THE TOUGH SIDE OF MINISTRY

TITUS 3:8–11



### The Heart of the Matter

Both hospitals and churches face a similar danger—the healthy may catch a disease that could kill them. Invariably, difficult people, Christians who have strayed from the truth and refuse to return, filter into our churches and spread the cancer of division and strife. Strong leaders must learn to endure it wisely. And just as a surgeon must operate in order to cut out diseased tissue, so leaders in churches must confront those who would infect the body of Christ with discord and factions.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. A Realistic Fact

While all leaders tend to be targets of criticism, those engaged in ministry, at all levels, become recipients of some of the most vicious attacks.

#### 2. A Brief Scriptural Survey

A look at Moses, David, Nehemiah, Job, John, and Paul, along with some principles, will illustrate the fact that leaders, and particularly godly leaders, are walking pin cushions of criticism.

#### 3. A Wise Warning (Romans 16:17–18)

Whether they were on the island of Crete or in the metropolitan city of Rome, Paul expected troublemakers to arise, and he warned every leader in the church to put on a tough hide.

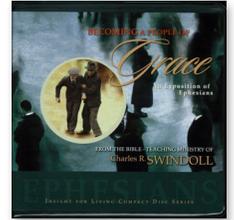


### Starting Your Journey

No leader is immune from critics, and Titus provides a specific example of how to handle rabble-rousers by teaching us *what to speak* (Titus 3:8), *when to avoid* (3:9), and *whom to reject* (3:10–11).

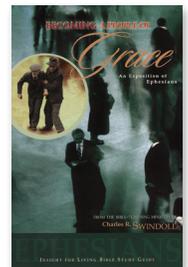


### Tools for Digging Deeper



#### Becoming a People of Grace

by Charles R. Swindoll  
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#### Becoming a People of Grace

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#### The Grace Awakening

by Charles R. Swindoll  
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