In Titus, Paul explains how Christians should live in a world that has forgotten how to be good.

One of his goals is to teach us to “live in accord with sound doctrine” (v. 1).

There are other reasons for living a faithful Christian life. But here, emphasis falls on the impact of our behavior on the world.

What finally proves the gospel to a person is the Holy Spirit. But as Titus 2 points out, the Holy Spirit uses the ordinary lives of God’s faithful people to be a pointer to the gospel for others.

Four marks of a life that attracts people to Christ.

I. The Life that Attracts is a Life Worthy of Respect

An example is Eric Liddell the hero of the movie *Chariots of Fire*.

It’s like the unbelieving Red Cross worker said to the chaplain: “Whatever you’re dishing out at your services, I need a dose of it. The people that come out of there get under my skin.”

II. The Life that Attracts is a Life of Self-Control

Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit (see Gal. 5:23; 2 Tim. 2:7)

In *With Justice for All*, John Perkins tells how the Holy Spirit produced self-control in him during his awful experience in a Mississippi jail.

The goal is to make this a habit.

You believe the gospel; maybe you have done so for years. But every day you find yourself being sucked back into the reality of fallen life. What is the answer?

All I can tell you is that we have to re-live the gospel every time we pray, every time we go to church, every time we feel like that. We have to re-live the gospel on the spot and ask ourselves what we are doing and why.

We do this until it becomes more than a habit. We do it until it becomes indelibly burned into our lives. – Tim Keller, *The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness*

III. The Life that Attracts is a Life of Connectedness

How do we use our natural differences to attract others to Christ?

Dann Spader’s use of the principle of “seven touches” is one possibility.

IV. The Life that Attracts is a Life of Grace (2:11)

How does grace in my life transform others?

Jean Valjean’s story from *Les Miserables* drives home Paul’s point about grace.

Access to Christ’s riches is offered freely, based simply on our need of refuge and willingness to receive. There is no reason to steal it and it
cannot be earned. Yet grace has the power to change our lives deeply from within.

“I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world. But still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am.” – John Newton

**CONCLUSION:**

Sometimes the impression we make has no effect.

On other occasions, the impression is powerful to draw a person to Christ.

“What we practice, not (save at rare intervals) what we preach, is usually our great contribution to the conversion of others.” – C. S. Lewis

That’s why Paul tells us to

- Live a life that is worthy of respect
- Live a life of self-control
- Live a life of connectedness to God and others
- Live a life of grace