Crossroads International Church Singapore Dr. Rick Griffith

Title

15 Sep 2019 Message 58 of 66

NLT 50 Minutes

**Be Reputable**

***Paul’s Letter to Titus***

**Topic:** Reputation

**Subject:** How can we be reputable in the midst of so much false teaching today?

**Complement:** Our elders must teach respectable conduct based on God’s grace.

**Purpose:** The listeners will change one area of their life that’s hurting their reputation.

**Attribute:** We worship God as Our Saviour

**Reading:** Titus 2:11-14

**Song:** Worthy of Worship, Trust & Obey, Is He Worthy?

**Reading:** Titus 3:8

# Introduction

### Interest: [Your reputation is a big deal when you in the minority opinion—especially when false teaching is becoming more common and biblical teaching is becoming scarce.]

#### Pastor Jarrid Wilson took his life this week (56-second clip).

#### To add to the many US pastors who have already taken their own lives in recent years, megachurch pastor and mental health advocate Jarrid Wilson died by suicide on Monday (9 Sep 2019). He served at Harvest Christian Fellowship in California with Greg Laurie, a popular evangelical leader.

Another Pastor…

Clip

#### “It's been said that 1 in every 4 pastors struggles with depression. Lifeway Research reveals that the number of pastors diagnosed with clinical depression was double the national average. Forty five percent sought advice from their family doctor regarding stress and anxiety issues. Nearly one-fourth of all pastors (23 percent) acknowledge having ‘personally struggled with mental illness,’ and half of those pastors say the illness has been diagnosed” (Charisma News 29 Aug 2018).

Struggles Real

#### It makes one wonder if Christianity really works, doesn’t it? Of course, we know Jesus truly changes lives, but it makes me sad to see so many who don’t see that reality in their lives. So what’s the problem, then? Pastor Wilson got caught up in false teaching—the lie that he and his family would be better off if he was dead instead of alive.

Light Bulb

#### One key problem is the false teaching all around us. In 2016, the Presbyterian Church USA even prayed to Allah, “Allah, bless us and bless our families and bless our Lord. Lead us on the straight path—the path of all the prophets: Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Moses, Jesus and Muhammed.”

False Teaching

#### We see false teaching even closer to home with churches right here who teach that God heals all who have real faith—and that God is obligated to make us wealthy—and that taking the Lord’s Supper will lead to healing! So how do we respond in such an environment?

Today

### Theme: Paul’s letter to Titus tells us that a key proper response to false teaching is our *conduct*—sound conduct against opposition.

Key Word

Theme

#### In short, as my message title indicates, “Be Reputable.” Ben Franklin noted aptly, “It takes many good deeds to build a good reputation, and only one bad one to lose it.”

Franklin

#### Likewise, Socrates said, “The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavor to be what you desire to appear.” So what happens when we actually do this?

Socrates

Title

#### In Paul’s letter to Titus, we see many results of reputable conduct.

MP

(2 slides)

Book   
Chart

Close Up Map

Pastoral Epistles

Results

##### “that the word of God may not be reviled” (Titus 2:5)

##### “that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us” (Titus 2:8)

##### “adorn the doctrine of God our Savior” (Titus 2:10)

##### Our key verse is 3:8, telling us, “"This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone."

Key Verse

### Need: So how are you doing at this? *Character* is who you *really* are. *Reputation* is who *others* *think* you are.

Character

#### How’s your reputation? Are you known by unbelievers as a follower of Jesus?

#### Do you wish everyone in this church had the same *reputation* that you have?

#### How well does your *reputation* show the love of the Lord Jesus?

Subject

### Subject: So how can we be reputable in the midst of so much false teaching today? How can we stand true to the Lord with so many heresies plaguing the church?

### Background: Titus had the tough job to teach new believers proper conduct among Crete’s brute liars. He needed to know what to say to the recently established churches.

Overview

#### We are reaching the end of our study of Paul’s letters with only 2 Timothy left.

#### These last three letters of Paul are called the Pastoral Epistles.

Empire Map

#### Paul had finished reaching the Eastern Roman Empire by the time he wrote Titus—and even had just returned from Spain.

#### After leaving Paul in Crete with newly planted church, he told him in 1:5, "For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you."

#### Crete was beautiful but had a poor reputation. So how could the believers there live out the Christian life in such a pagan place?

Crete

### Preview: And how can we be reputable in the midst of so much false teaching today? Today we will learn *three ways to be reputable amidst false teaching*.

3 Ways

### Text: We will survey Paul’s entire letter to Titus where the theme again is sound conduct against opposition.

(So what’s the first way Paul shares that we can we be reputable in the midst of so much false teaching today? It starts with the leadership where Paul says to…)

# I. Have godly elders teach truth (Titus 1).

[**Sound doctrine silences error**.]

## Paul greets Titus that truth leads to godliness amidst pagans (1:1-4).

Titus 1

(13 slides)

## Select only godly elders to refute legalistic false teachers in both word and deed (1:5-16).

### Titus must unite Crete’s churches by appointing godly elders who know the Word (1:5-9).

### These godly elders must refute legalistic and greedy Jewish heretics (1:10-16).

Transition

(2 slides)

(How else can we be reputable in the midst of so much false teaching today? Well, godliness actually looks different in the various stages of life since each stage has unique temptations. So in chapter 2 Paul says you can be reputable when you…)

# II. Act your age (Titus 2:1-10).

MP

(3 slides)

Old Wmn

(2 slides)

Yn Men

(2 slides)

[**Order life to doctrine**.]

Older Men

(2 slides)

## Older men must act *respectably* in line with their age (2:1-2).

## Older women must act *respectably* so they can teach younger women by example (2:3).

## Younger women should *learn an upright home life* from older women (2:4-5).

Yg Wmn

(3 slides)

## Younger men need *self-control* in speech and actions (2:6-8).

## Slaves must *submit* to their masters in respect, lack of slander, and honesty (2:9-10).

Bond-servants

Review

(3 slides)

(What’s the third and final way we can be reputable in the midst of so much false teaching today? We need to…)

# III. Let grace bring godliness (Titus 2:11–3:15).

MP

(2 slides)

[**Never shun good deeds**.]

Educates

(8 slides)

## God's grace *educates* believers how to choose godliness over ungodliness (2:11-15).

Empowers

(2 slides)

## God's grace *empowers* gracious behavior before all people (3:1-2).

Motivates

(4 slides)

## God's grace *motivates* good works in response to God’s mercy (3:3-8).

Protects

(3 slides)

## God's grace *protects* from division where argumentative saints are disciplined (3:9-11).

## God’s grace *relates* to people with warmth and diligence (3:12-15).

Relates

(3 slides)

Subject

(How can we be reputable in the midst of so much false teaching today?)

# Conclusion

### Main Points: Your reputation as a believer in Jesus depends on whether you…

MPI

#### Have godly elders teach truth (Titus 1).

MPII

#### Act your age (Titus 2:1-10).

MPIII

#### Experience how grace leads to godliness (Titus 2:11–3:15).

### Our elders must teach respectable conduct based on God’s grace (Main Idea).

MI

### The central issue in Titus is: Does your life look any better than the life of a non-Christian?

Central Issue

### Exhortation: How to Live?

How to Live?

#### Make sure that you have received the salvation God freely offers you (Titus 2:11 NLT).

Books

2:11

#### Continue to resist a corrupt lifestyle (Titus 2:12a NLT):

2:12a

##### Which age depiction of your gender do you need from Titus 2:1-10? In other words, what area of your life is hurting your reputation?

4 Areas

##### If you were accused of being a Christian, would your reputation convict you?

2:12b-13

##### Live in a sensible, godly manner (Titus 2:12b-13 NLT).

#### Do you need to read a good book on grace?

##### *Grace* by Lewis Sperry Chafer literally changed my life. Written in 1922 with older language, it still so impacted my life and freed me from a works-righteousness by page 60, I never felt the need to finish it!

• Chafer

##### A newer book on grace is Charles R. Swindoll. Entitled *The Grace Awakening*, it will strengthen your foundation like you wouldn’t believe.

• Swindoll

### Prayer

Prayer

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

# Questions

# Tentative Main Ideas

Text

# Illustrations That Apply

### Text

# New Testament Survey Notes

**Titus**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sound Conduct Against Opposition** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Appoint Elders** | | **Set Things in Order** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Prevent**  **False Doctrine** | | **Practice**  **True Doctrine** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Elders**  **vs. False Teachers** | | **Conduct**  **for Various Groups** | | | | | **Grace**  **Leads to Godliness** | | | | |
| **Chapter 1** | | **2:1-10** | | | | | **2:11–3:15** | | | | |
| **Organize** | | **Teach** | | | | | **Grace** | | | | |
| Truth leads to godliness  1:1-4 | Elders  1:5-16 | Older Men  2:1-2 | Older Women  2:3 | Younger Women  2:4-5 | Younger  Men  2:6-8 | Slaves  2:9-10 | Educates  2:11-15 | Empowers  3:1-2 | Motivates  3:3-8 | Protects  3:9-11 | Relates  3:12-15 |
| **Asia Minor to Crete** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Summer AD 66** | | | | | | | | | | | | |

**Key Word: Conduct**

**Key Verse: “This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone” (Titus 3:8).**

**Summary Statement: The way for us to be reputable amidst false teachers is through godly elders who teach respectable conduct based on God’s grace.**

**Application:**

**God’s grace should lead to our proper conduct.**

**Do you do good deeds:**

**• because you fear punishment by God (external motivation, the law) or**

**• because you love God in response to his grace?**

**Titus**

**Introduction**

**I. Title:** The Letter to Titus (Pro.j Ti,ton *To Titus*) is one of the three books commonly called Pastoral Epistles, which are unique in that they are addressed to individuals (not churches) and constitute Paul's last writings (cf. 1 Timothy notes).

**II. Authorship**

A. External Evidence: Support for Paul as author is as good as that of any other Pauline epistle except Romans and 1 Corinthians (cf. 1 Timothy notes).

B. Internal Evidence: The letter claims Pauline authorship (Tit 1:1) and contains the typical Pauline characteristics (cf. 1 Timothy notes).

**III. Circumstances**

A. Date: The chronology of the latter years of Paul's life is obscure (Guthrie, 623), yet one harmonization of the internal and external data yields this scenario (Hoehner, 381-84):

**First Roman Imprisonment** (Acts 28:30-31; cf. p. 142) **February 60–March 62**

Paul writes **Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon,** & **Philippians** Fall 60–early Spring 62

James, the Lord's brother, martyred Spring 62

**Freedom from Imprisonment Spring 62–Fall 67**

Paul in Ephesus and Colosse (Timothy left at Ephesus) Spring–Summer 62

Peter travels to Rome 62

Paul in Macedonia late summer 62-winter 62/63

**1 Timothy** written from Macedonia to Timothy in Ephesus Fall 62

Paul in Asia Minor Spring 63-Spring 64

Paul in Spain (anticipated in Rom. 15:24) Spring 64-Spring 66

Christians persecuted by Nero; Peter martyred Summer 64

Paul in Crete (Titus left there; Tit 1:5) early Summer 66

Paul in Asia Minor Summer- Fall 66

**Titus** written from Asia Minor to Titus in Crete Summer 66

Paul in Nicopolis (Tit 3:12) Winter 66/67

Paul in Troas (2 Tim 4:13), Macedonia and Greece Spring– Fall 67

**Second Roman Imprisonment Fall** **67–Spring 68**

Paul arrested and brought to Rome Fall 67

**2 Timothy** written from Rome to Timothy in Ephesus Fall 67

Paul beheaded Spring 68

**Destruction of Jerusalem September 2, 70**

B. Origin/Recipients: Paul's letter to Titus (Tit 1:4) was sent from an unknown location to Titus in Crete (Tit 1:5). Ephesus, Macedonia, and Corinth have been postulated, but the place Paul wrote does not change the interpretation of the contents.

C. Occasion: Between Paul's first and second Roman imprisonments, he and Titus traveled together to Crete. With the evangelistic work well under way and many new Christians, Paul left Titus to organize the new believers into local churches, and then he moved on to other ministries. Shortly afterwards Paul penned the letter to Titus to provide him with practical wisdom regarding church administration and the conduct of believers.

**IV. Characteristics**

A. Paul's letter to Titus shares many of the same concerns as 1 Timothy (leadership qualifications, advice on false teaching, need for sound doctrine and behavior).

B. While similarities exist between Titus and 2 Timothy, there exist many differences between these last two letters we have penned by Paul:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Titus** | **2 Timothy** |
| Written in freedom at Asia Minor (AD 66) | Written in captivity at Rome (AD 67) |
| Briefer (3 chapters, 46 verses) | Longer (4 chapters, 83 verses) |
| More official, less personal (6 names used) | Warm, informal (20 names used) |
| Teaches how the church is to be organized | Teaches how the church is to be led |
| Emphasis on sound conduct | Emphasis on sound doctrine |

C. Despite its greater emphasis on behavior as opposed to doctrine, Titus contains three excellent summaries of Christian theology (1:1-4; 2:11-14; 3:4-7), the last two being among the most significant New Testament passages on the grace of God (*TTTB*, 440).

**Argument**

Paul's aim in his letter to Titus is to give him practical advice that will help this apostolic delegate organize the new believers in Crete. His letter offers counsel in three general areas: how to appoint the right elders who can counter false teaching through word and deed (Tit 1), how to teach the people respectable conduct to protect the churches from being maligned by opposers (2:1-10), and finally, how to exhort the saints to live in contrast to the false teachers since the grace of God which they received leads to godly behavior (2:11–3:15). Paul stresses Christian behavior more than Christian doctrine, but the fact that Titus had to *teach* the people proper action makes doctrine and behavior inseparable.

**Synthesis**

**Sound conduct against opposition**

**1 Elders against false teachers**

1:1-4 Truth leads to godliness

1:5-16 Elders

1:5-9 Character/Scriptural knowledge

1:10-16 Needed to refute materialistic teachers

**2:1-10 Conduct for various groups**

2:1-2 Older men

2:3 Older women

2:4-5 Younger women

2:6-8 Younger men

2:9-10 Slaves

**2:11–3:15 Grace leads to godliness**

2:11-15 Educates

3:1-2 Empowers

3:3-8 Motivates

3:9-11 Protects

3:12-15 Relates

**Outline**

**Summary Statement for the Book**

**The way for us to be reputable amidst false teachers is through godly elders who teach respectable conduct based on God’s grace.**

# The way for young Cretan churches to be reputable amidst legalistic false teachers was by being taught by godly elders (Tit 1).

## Paul greets Titus that truth leads to godliness since he writes on godly conduct among pagans (1:1-4).

## Select only godly elders who can refute legalistic false teachers in both word and deed (1:5-16).

1. Titus must unite the churches on Crete by appointing godly elders who know the Word (1:5-9).

2. These godly men of true doctrine must refute legalistic and greedy Jewish heretics (1:10-16).

# The way for young Cretan churches to be reputable was for Titus to teach various groups proper conduct so enemies cannot malign them (2:1-10).

## Teach older men to act respectably in line with their age (2:1-2).

## Teach older women respectable behavior so they can teach younger women by example (2:3).

## Older women (not Titus) should teach younger women the priority of an upright home life (2:4-5).

## Teach younger men self-control in speech and actions (2:6-8).

## Teach slaves submission to their masters in respect, lack of slander, and honesty (2:9-10).

# The way for young Cretan churches to be reputable was to see that God's grace leads to godly behavior for all saved by grace (2:11–3:15).

## God's grace educates believers how to choose godliness over ungodliness (2:11-15).

## God's grace empowers gracious behavior before all people (3:1-2).

## God's grace motivates good works in response to God’s mercy (3:3-8).

## God's grace protects from division where argumentative saints are disciplined (3:9-11).

## God’s grace relates to people with warmth and diligence (3:12-15).

**Be Reputable**

***Paul’s Letter to Titus***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The way for us to be reputable amidst false teachers is through godly elders who teach respectable conduct based on God’s grace.

# The way for young Cretan churches to be reputable amidst legalistic false teachers was by being taught by godly elders (Tit 1).

## Paul greets Titus that truth leads to godliness amidst pagans (1:1-4).

## Select only godly elders to refute legalistic false teachers in both word and deed (1:5-16).

### Titus must unite Crete’s churches by appointing godly elders who know the Word (1:5-9).

### These godly elders must refute legalistic and greedy Jewish heretics (1:10-16).

# The way for young Cretan churches to be reputable was for Titus to teach various groups proper conduct so enemies cannot malign them (2:1-10).

## Teach older men to act respectably in line with their age (2:1-2).

## Teach older women right behavior so they can teach younger women by example (2:3).

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# The way for young Cretan churches to be reputable was to see that God's grace leads to godly behavior for all saved by grace (2:11–3:15).

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## God’s grace relates to people with warmth and diligence (3:12-15).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will change one area of their life that’s hurting their reputation

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: Your reputation is a big deal when you in the minority opinion—especially when false teaching is becoming more common and biblical teaching is becoming scarce.

### Need: *Character* is who you *really* are. *Reputation* is who *others* *think* you are.

#### How’s your reputation? Are you known by unbelievers as a follower of Jesus?

#### Do you wish everyone in this church had the same *reputation* that you have?

#### How well does your *reputation* represent the love of the Lord Jesus?

### Subject: How can we be reputable in the midst of so much false teaching today? How can we stand true to the Lord with so many heresies plaguing the church?

### Background: Titus had the tough job to teach new believers proper conduct among Crete’s brute liars. He needed to know what to say to the recently established churches.

### Preview: Today we will learn *three ways to be reputable amidst false teaching*.

### Text: We will survey Paul’s entire letter to Titus.

(So what’s the first way Paul shares that we can we be reputable in the midst of so much false teaching today? It starts with the leadership where Paul says to…)

# I. Have godly elders teach truth (Titus 1).

## Paul greets Titus that truth leads to godliness amidst pagans (1:1-4).

## Select only godly elders to refute legalistic false teachers in both word and deed (1:5-16).

### Titus must unite Crete’s churches by appointing godly elders who know the Word (1:5-9).

### These godly elders must refute legalistic and greedy Jewish heretics (1:10-16).

(How else can we be reputable in the midst of so much false teaching today? Well, godliness actually looks different in the various stages of life since each stage has unique temptations. So in chapter 2 Paul says you can be reputable when you…)

# II. Act your age (Titus 2:1-10).

## Older men must act *respectably* in line with their age (2:1-2).

## Older women must act *respectably* so they can teach younger women by example (2:3).

## Younger women should *learn an upright home life* from older women (2:4-5).

## Younger men need *self-control* in speech and actions (2:6-8).

## Slaves must *submit* to their masters in respect, lack of slander, and honesty (2:9-10).

(What’s the third and final way we can be reputable in the midst of so much false teaching today? We need to…)

# III. Experience how grace leads to godliness (Titus 2:11–3:15).

## God's grace *educates* believers how to choose godliness over ungodliness (2:11-15).

## God's grace *empowers* gracious behavior before all people (3:1-2).

## God's grace *motivates* good works in response to God’s mercy (3:3-8).

## God's grace *protects* from division where argumentative saints are disciplined (3:9-11).

## God’s grace *relates* to people with warmth and diligence (3:12-15).

(How can we be reputable in the midst of so much false teaching today?)

# Conclusion

### Our elders must teach respectable conduct based on God’s grace (Main Idea).

### Main Points: Your reputation as a believer in Jesus depends on whether you…

#### Have godly elders teach truth (Titus 1).

#### Act your age (Titus 2:1-10).

#### Experience how grace leads to godliness (Titus 2:11–3:15).

### Exhortation

#### Make sure that you have received the salvation God freely offers you (Titus 2:11 NLT).

#### Continue to resist a corrupt lifestyle (Titus 2:12a NLT):

#### Do you need to read a good book on grace?

### Prayer



**Rick Griffith**

15 Sept 2019

Message 58 of 66

**Be Reputable**

***Paul’s Letter to Titus***

# Introduction

* How can we be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of so much false teaching today?

# I. Have godly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ teach truth (Titus 1).

## Paul greets Titus that truth leads to godliness amidst pagans (1:1-4).

## Select only godly elders to refute legalistic false teachers in both word and deed (1:5-16).

# II. Act your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Titus 2:1-10).

## Older men must act *respectably* in line with their age (2:1-2).

## Older women must act *respectably* so they can teach younger women by example (2:3).

## Younger women should *learn an upright home life* from older women (2:4-5).

## Younger men need *self-control* in speech and actions (2:6-8).

## Slaves must *submit* to their masters in respect, lack of slander, and honesty (2:9-10).

# III. Experience how grace leads to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Titus 2:11–3:15).

## God's grace *educates* believers how to choose godliness over ungodliness (2:11-15).

## God's grace *empowers* gracious behavior before all people (3:1-2).

## God's grace *motivates* good works in response to God’s mercy (3:3-8).

## God's grace *protects* from division where argumentative saints are disciplined (3:9-11).

## God’s grace *relates* to people with warmth and diligence (3:12-15).

# Conclusion

### Our elders must teach respectable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ based on God’s grace (Main Idea).

### Make sure that you have received the salvation God freely offers you (Titus 2:11).

### Continue to resist a corrupt lifestyle (Titus 2:12a). How for you?

### Read *Grace* (Lewis Sperry Chafer) or *The Grace Awakening* (Charles Swindoll).

Download this sermon PPT and notes for free at BibleStudyDownloads.org/resource/new-testament-preaching/

Listen to this message online at cicfamily.com/sermon-listing/

**Titus**

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| **Sound Conduct Against Opposition** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Appoint Elders** | | **Set Things in Order** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Prevent**  **False Doctrine** | | **Practice**  **True Doctrine** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Elders**  **vs. False Teachers** | | **Conduct**  **for Various Groups** | | | | | **Grace**  **Leads to Godliness** | | | | |
| **Chapter 1** | | **2:1-10** | | | | | **2:11–3:15** | | | | |
| **Organize** | | **Teach** | | | | | **Grace** | | | | |
| Truth leads to godliness  1:1-4 | Elders  1:5-16 | Older Men  2:1-2 | Older Women  2:3 | Younger Women  2:4-5 | Younger  Men  2:6-8 | Slaves  2:9-10 | Educates  2:11-15 | Empowers  3:1-2 | Motivates  3:3-8 | Protects  3:9-11 | Relates  3:12-15 |
| **Asia Minor to Crete** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Summer AD 66** | | | | | | | | | | | |

**Key Word: Conduct**

**Key Verse: “This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone” (Titus 3:8).**

**Summary Statement: The way for us to be reputable amidst false teachers is through godly elders who teach respectable conduct based on God’s grace.**

**Application:**

**God’s grace should lead to our proper conduct.**

**Do you do good deeds:**

**• because you fear punishment by God (external motivation, the law) or**

**• because you love God in response to his grace?**