

Thank you for your interest in the “*Folks Like Us*” Bible studies by Fran Sciacca. Whether you’re using them for your own spiritual growth and journey, or as a resource for your small group, Sunday school, or homeschool program, you’ll soon discover why these studies originally sold over 600,000 copies in their print editions. The recent decision by the publisher to discontinue print editions and to return the publishing rights back to Fran has given him the freedom to make the nearly 70 individual character studies available to you...at no cost.

### **Before you make copies and use the studies...**

- **[COPYRIGHT]** – Each of the Bible studies that are a part of *Folks Like Us* is copyrighted. You have permission to make as many copies as you like/need for yourself and/or whatever ministry environment you intend to use them. You do *not* have permission to sell these studies. You may, however, request a small fee to cover the cost of copying, if necessary.
- **[PRINTING]** – The security setting for each PDF allows you to print the study, but not to edit it. When you print these studies, you may want to use the “Print Page Range” feature of your software, and start the printing with Page 3, and you won’t have to print the color cover or this Introduction page. *If you plan to have them printed professionally, you may want to include the cover.*
- **[DONATIONS]** – Although there is no charge for the studies, feel free to make a non-deductible donation to help offset the annual cost of web-hosting, etc. at: [paypal.me/handsofthur](https://www.paypal.me/handsofthur)
- **[QUESTIONS/COMMENTS]** – Email them to: [information@fransciacca.com](mailto:information@fransciacca.com)

### **Other great resources on fransciacca.com**

Now that you’ve begun to explore the Bible study resources developed by Fran Sciacca, you will almost certainly benefit from the other things that he has made available:

- **“*The Road to Shalom*” podcast** – thought-provoking and thoroughly biblical, Fran explores what the Bible calls “shalom,”—the way things are *supposed* to be in God’s Kingdom, why they’re not, and how to restore them. All three seasons are available on the website.
- ***Biblical literacy courses*** – Three, 13-week Bible courses covering the entire Bible. Includes individual course books, audio, and optional animated slide supplements. Course books and animated slide supplements may be purchased on the web store.
- **“*What’s Wrong With the World?*”** – A 14-part video series exploring the questions, “*What is the gospel, and does it really matter?*” and “*What is a disciple, and what does one look like?*” Each episode includes a small group handout as well as supplemental leader’s notes. You may take the series for a “test drive” and purchase the series.
- **“*Knot or Noose? - Recovering the Mystery of Marriage*”** – A 9-part video series for singles, engaged, or married couples exploring marriage from a radical perspective. Instead of trying to figure out how to get God into marriage, this series will guide you into how to place marriage into the center of the larger redemptive plan of God. This conference has been presented live throughout the U.S. in a multitude of different settings. Each episode includes everything needed for a small group. You may take the series for a “test drive” and order the series.

# FOLKS Like Us

TITUS

“You’re Being Watched.”

Timeless truths from our ancient past,  
for a journey with God in the modern era.

**Fran Sciacca**



## “*Folks Like Us*” — an introduction

Over the years I’ve written and published a number of Bible studies that collectively have sold well over a half-million copies. They were forged, most of them, in the furnaces of pain, doubt, and loneliness. Maybe that’s why they were well-used, they touched people where they hurt most.

Recently, my publisher decided that they no longer wanted to handle the books that contained these 60 or so individual studies. So, I’ve decided to make them available to any who might benefit from them. At no cost.

I have always believed that because God thought it best to become human in the Incarnation, that perhaps “incarnational truth” was His preferred method of revealing Himself and His purposes to us. I suppose that’s where the basic genre of these studies originated. I wanted to provide believers with Bible studies rooted in our ancestral past. The lives of men and women, who it turns out, are “folks just like us” in so many ways.

So, please take your time and work slowly through as many of these studies as you care to do... there’s a lot of them! And may God use the combination of the struggles and insights of your *ancient* brothers and sisters, combined with those of mine, your modern brother, to help you in your spiritual journey. That is the goal of this project.

Warmly in The Lamb,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fran Sciacca". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fran Sciacca  
Birmingham, AL

# TITUS

## *“You’re Being Watched.”*

**A** **BIDING PRINCIPLE** – Conversion begins as an intensely private matter involving our deepest secrets and darkest sins. But whether or not we are becoming more like Jesus increasingly becomes public evidence that demands a verdict.

*“Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”* — Jesus of Nazareth

**T**here has been a lot of discussion and concern among Christian leaders recently about the "marginalization of religious faith." In other words, the religious faith that once has a chair at the table of public discourse in our culture has increasingly been moved to the corner of the room. One response to this has been the many efforts to restore biblical faith to the center of the public square. Unfortunately, this has not halted the conflict. Paul's instructions to a struggling young pastor facing a penetrating battle of "Jesus vs. culture" in his own day sheds much light on the relationship between the modern person of faith and the watching world.

**KEY SCRIPTURE:** Titus 1:1-9; 2:1-15

---

### STUDY QUESTIONS...

1. Look at the Bible's detailed specifications for a church leader in Titus 1:6-9. List the characteristics that are visible and open to scrutiny and put them under the "Public" heading in the following chart. List those that are personal or hidden under the "Marginal" heading.

Public

Marginal

---

Look at your lists. Do you see any significance in the fact that one is longer than the other?  
Explain

2. In Titus 2:1-10, Paul instructs Titus in what he is to teach the various groups in his churches on the island of Crete. Under which of the headings in your chart would you place the things Titus is to teach, and why?

Paul insists that Titus is to exhort those in his church to live notable *public* lives. Why is this so important, according to Titus 2:5,8, and 10?

3. Give your description of a “blameless” person.

The word blameless comes from a word family that connotes "calling someone to account" or "finding flaws." Why do you think Paul insisted that a church leader be blameless?

Read Romans 2:17-24. Paul is speaking to Jews in this passage, but what principle can you see here regarding your own lifestyle as a person professing to know Christ?

4. According to the following passages, why is it important that Christians lead blameless lives?

Philippians 2:14-16 –

Titus 1:16 –

Titus 2:3-5 –

5. In the following passages, Paul connects our standing before God ( justification) and our spiritual growth before people (sanctification). In your own words explain Paul's main point regarding justification and sanctification in each passage.

Philippians 2:12-15 –

Why do you think God links the two?

6. Is it legitimate for people to have "expectations" of professing Christians that they do not have of other people? (Defend your answer based on what you have studied so far in this chapter.)

Do you see this as oppressive and legalistic, or reasonable and rational? Explain.

### LOOKING BACK...

**I**n this study so far, we've discovered that our own spiritual growth is on display to the world around us. As disconcerting as this may be, it is simply a reality that you and I can't dodge or even minimize. We're being watched! As the culture around us continues on its journey away from God, being blameless simultaneously becomes more noticeable *and* important. Even though you might prefer to have the *world* be more accepting of Christianity in general, the truth is, the world is watching *you* in particular!

### APPLICATION QUESTIONS

---

7. Look up the following passages. Keep in mind the issue of your life being watched by the world around you. What additional insights can you gain about:

The importance of Christian unity? (John 17:20-23; in your answer, consider the implications of believers *not* being united.)

Credibility and effectiveness in ministry to others? (1 Thessalonians 2:9-12)

The power to become blameless? (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Peter 1:3)

8. God pushes the principle of the "watched life" to limits we most likely wish He hadn't. Look up the following Scriptures and summarize what you see in each of them regarding this idea.

Luke 6:40,46

1 Corinthians 11:1

Ephesians 5:1

1 Thessalonians 1:6-7

Hebrews 13:7

9. Give the following questions some serious thought, and then answer them honestly.

Who are *you* imitating?

Is your model imitating Christ?

- yes
- no
- I hadn't thought about it

Who is imitating *you*?

Are you imitating Christ?

- yes
- no
- I hadn't thought about it

What needs to change, and what will you do about it? (This could involve moving away from or even ending relationships that are discrediting the gospel. It could mean establishing new relationships with believers who are seeking to imitate Christ in their lives.)

10. Isolate one or two truths you've discovered about yourself and your relationship with God from this study.

11. What have you discovered from this chapter that the Bible teaches about:  
God's expectations of you?

Others' expectations of you?

Your expectations of others?

Your influence on others?

12. Write "11:1" (from 1 Corinthians 11:1) on the palm of your hand or some other conspicuous place as a reminder this week that you are being watched and imitated. Each time you see it, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to empower you and prompt you regarding what He desires for your life.

### **SCRIPTURE MEMORY** (optional)

---

- The healing power of ministry for me – Isaiah 58:10-11
- God's expectations in ministry – 2 Corinthians 8:12