



Titus – Lessons for the Church
Wk. 2 Family Man
By Pastor Jody May 05/01/2022

Titus 1:5-9 ESV

Qualifications for Elders

⁵This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— ⁶if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. ⁷For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, ⁸but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. ⁹He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

[BACKGROUND]

We are coming to our 2nd week in Titus so let's review again why we are studying this epistle of Paul:

Titus 2:11-12 ESV

[11] For the **grace of God** has appeared, bringing **salvation for all people**, [12] **training us to renounce** ungodliness and worldly passions, and **to live** self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

The Gospel **SAVES, TRAINS,** and **FUELS** us to
LIVE on the Great Commission!

It's doctrinal teaching, **Lessons for the Church**, that will one day multiply and reproduce. If a church is not busy family planning how to grow, to make next steps, then that church is preparing to die, because all churches have life spans. You either get busy with living and growing or you can start digging a grave. The church in Crete was about to grow and Titus was the man to lead in tending that field so that it may produce one day. He had a job to do, and he can't waste time, for Paul says, *"I am sending Artemas or Tychius to get you because I need you this winter in Nicopolis."* (3:12). Titus don't Dilly-Dally I have given you these specific instructions for an island the size of Jamaica!



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The Gospel waits for no man, you are going to hit it and go, and let the Spirit sort it out. That's a good reminder for us, Evangelism+Discipleship will always seem overwhelming, it will always seem like you don't have enough resources, it will always feel like an impossible task to do what God is asking you to do and that's exactly how it should feel. If it was **easy**, then it wouldn't **need God's involvement**. Supernatural movements, reformations, the tearing down of spiritual strongholds will never seem like a task you are up for, and it's not supposed to. God is setting up the church in Crete so that **He will get ALL the glory**, these polytheistic people needed to see there is only one God.

WHY TITUS? That is exactly what people in our land need to see. They need to see that **answers aren't found** in **Washington** or rich **philanthropists**, but Salvation is only found in the one True God AND we better be busy because the Father is sending His Son soon to take us back home! So don't expect church expansion to look easy either, there is work here that only the mighty Jesus can do, through His Spirit, and that is to bring His Father glory.

The problem though is that along with church expansion and multiplication the faster you grow the less control you have (universal rule). So, whatever you are growing as far as churches go, whatever **DNA** is in that **spiritual seed** of a particular body when it gets planted in the soul/soil of that community, that will be what you are going to reproduce. That church will make more of the same.

If it is tainted, it will produce bad fruit. Whatever a church's **leadership embodies**, whatever **doctrine** a church has decided to **cling to**, that is what will be **reproduced**. If the doctrine and leadership of a church does not coincide and submit to the authority of scripture, then it's just a train wreck waiting to happen.

[INTRO – WHY IT MATTERS]

When Heather and I were in our first years of marriage we had moved west, like many pioneer types, to make a new life for ourselves. We had gotten a house, I guess you could say we had started prepping the nest for a family. So along with getting a yard to cut, a dog to play with, neighbors to eat with,



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came the quest for a church to call home. That quest led us to a church similar to ours (a little bigger) with an up-and-coming pastor, praise team, small group structure, and in that day, we were the progressive contemporary SBC model and style of the local church.

After falling in love with the ‘how’ they did things we were soon involved in church life. Not even a year later though tragedy struck, and the Lead Pastor of that church and his wife split, she left the home for a while, to stay with family. We discovered that this was not the first time, but the wife had a history of this type behavior. We learned that she suffered from a Histrionic Personality Disorder (HPD) which is basically super extroverted people that love attention. The Pastor had tried to confront this several times before, in love, and like usual his wife wanted to come back home but this time it was too late, and he filed for divorce.

I remember Heather and I sitting at the church offices that night listening to all of this and I remember turning to Heather and looking at her and telling her we were not leaving, we were called there for a purpose. Just so you know it was two years later at that church that I was called into fulltime ministry, and where I received my ordination. The two years up to that point were not easy, you could say I was birthed into ministry by fire and for the most part it has been like that ever since.

Not less than a year later that same man came back to the church where my pastor / mentor was leading the church through survival mode. The previous LP explained that he wanted to come back, not just to community but to preach and lead. I was so proud of my friend when he confronted him, along with people in the church loyal to their ex-pastor, and even some other lay elders and explained **according to the scriptures** that he was no longer qualified to be pastor. You would not believe the backlash based on what seemed like a black and white issue in scripture. Which was so important, for over the next several years we both confronted multiple divorces and affairs in that church for it seemed that once the old pastor did it everyone else had less of a problem with it.



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The scruples, ethics, morality, and Godliness of the church rises and falls with its' leadership. Sad to say that my personal story is just one of many that has plagued the modern church for many years now. **It is no longer thought of in the evangelical world that a pastor is called to higher standards of morality than others.** A church cannot have a powerful pulpit without a leader that has a powerful testimony. Churches are willing to put up with sin to gain a speaker that can get people in the doors but getting people in the doors is a different calling than getting people to obey God's Word so they may be saved. [- Steven Lawson or Purity breeds Power – Charles Stanley]

Today we will see that Paul understands that **whatever gets planted** in the **spiritual soil** of Crete will be **what it produces**. So, Paul prepares and instructs Titus to do the good job of sifting the seed. He wants to make sure that Titus is not just using the first thing he can get his hands on, he wants to make sure that the future of the church in Crete will reproduce godly leaders that will be ready to make even more churches.

We are going to look at the DNA of an Elder, that seed that Paul wanted to start with in growing the church at Crete. We will see that Paul wants Titus to start with a **Family Man**, he wants Titus to look in the homes for this man, not the business district, not the political courts, not even in the schools, **start with the home life first** Titus. We will see three different components to this type of person as a Lesson for the Church in helping us prepare for our future expansion as well:

- The charge to be faithful in the electing the Family Man. (v.5)
- The calling to be faithful in marriage by the Family Man. (v. 6a)
- The command to be faithful in childrearing by the Family Man. (v. 6b)

1. The charge to be faithful in the electing the Family Man. (v.5)

⁵This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put **what remained into order**, and appoint **elders** in every town as I directed you



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Titus was left behind just like Kirk Cameron in those ‘*Left Behind*’ movies. I can picture it now, Titus is standing on the seashore reading this letter, and thinking, “*You want me to do what? In less than a year!?*” He must have felt like the Rapture had happened as he looks around at what he has to do and who he has to do it with. That’s why I have a certain **affinity** for **successful church planters**, they are the MacGyvers of the church world. Titus had to piece this all together so where does he start? Good thing Paul gave him a plan.

“Put ***what remained into order.***” Paul, or someone else, has done some preliminary work, there is something there to work with. An evangelist has been through the isle of Crete. In Acts on the day of Pentecost there happened to be some Cretans witnessing the gifting of the HS on the Apostles:

Acts 2:11 ESV

“both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”

Perhaps that day some Cretans, the lazy, entitled gluttons (1:12) got saved, and went back to Crete and brought the gospel with them, the best they could. This same awareness to God and His Gospel is what most likely Paul worked with and brought a fuller knowledge of the Gospel bringing about the birth of that church on Crete. Paul was aware enough though to understand some things still had to change, to get worked out.

Paul uses the word: **2114** ἐπιδιορθόω (*epidiorthoō*): vb.; ≡ Str 1930—LN 62.4 **put into order**, straighten out, correct (Tit 1:5+)¹ The root of that word is **ortho** as in orthodontics/orthopedics so just like crooked bones Paul wants Titus to straighten out what’s already there, to work with what he’s got! That’s good news btw, because **Jesus doesn’t throw out Christians when He wants to do new work!** Just because a church flounders, doesn’t mean it can’t be straightened out to flourish. Many people flee a church when it goes through growth pains when all that God is doing is putting on some painful retainers, braces, straighteners, and no one likes that! 😊

¹Swanson, J. (1997). [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#) (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.



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The way in which he is going to straighten this body out is to appoint elders: πρεσβύτερος (*presbyteros*). adj. **older, elder, presbyter**. *In general, a leader whose authority comes, in principle, from the wisdom associated with age; in the church, a particular kind of leader whose responsibilities included directing churches.*² All churches have elders, and that was the type of person that Paul wanted to **oversee** the church in Crete. As v. 7 says, Paul wanted that person to be the overseer, ἐπίσκοπος (*episkopos*). n. masc. **overseer**. *A believer set apart from those in the church for the purpose of watching over, nurturing, and caring for the needs of those in the church.*³ This practice became the standard in church growth for 2 millennia now. You get the experienced, the tried, the one's with some wisdom, some gray in the hair, the ones that have a reputation among people already and then you install them as leaders, they are the **painful but necessary retainers**.

I just want to let you know church that is exactly what we have been doing for the last two years. In the late spring of 2019, on the heels of a nationwide shutdown, **we took the opportunity to straighten out what needed to be straightened** out here at HCC. We followed the lessons here in Titus, and Bill and I went looking from among our body men who were a little older, a little wiser, a little gray in the hair and we called them to a time of learning, a time of testing and a time of trials.

We pulled four men out of this body (**who are they?**) for the purpose of not just governing this body but to be prepared for the advancement of the gospel. To be able to step into any pulpit if needed, to visit with families and give counsel when called upon, to oversee the teaching and preaching of God's Word. This year you will begin to see the fruit of this investment as some of them will be submitted to this body for review and then as HCC we will ordain our first official overseer/pastor/elder to this body. It has been a long process and we have documented every step of the way with notes and Individualized plans of education and growth for each person so that they

² Smith, C. A. (2014). [Church Leadership](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

³ Smith, C. A. (2014). [Church Leadership](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



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would remain above approach and that brings us to our second point this morning.

2. The calling to be faithful in marriage by the Family Man. (v. 6a)

⁶if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife,

If anyone is above reproach: **441** ἀνέγκλητος (*anegklētos*), ον (*on*): adj.; ≡ Str 410; TDNT 1.356—LN 33.433 **blameless**, free from accusation⁴ It's not asking that they would be a person without sin, but that another person (inside and/or out) would **not have the ability to discredit** their service or leadership. The elder/overseer or pastor of the church cannot be someone that when they speak can be shown to be a hypocrite. They must practice what they preach, and they must preach the whole counsel of God's Word therefore they must live that out!

In Titus' search for a family man, he was to be looking for a guy that Cretans, people who needed the model of integrity, needed to point to and say with confidence, *that guy actually believes what he preaches!* It shows the seriousness of God's Word, how we are to take it, how it has mastery over us, it is not to be used for gain, it is to be used for reproof of its' listeners (2 Tim. 3:16-17). As with the story I shared with you earlier, that man's testimony as a teacher of God's Word was destroyed for it showed he lived with this philosophy, "**Good enough for thee but not good enough for thine.**"

As well when that type of man is put into leadership then if for some reason, he is removed from leadership what it has caused is a **ripple effect**. Meaning those that were under his care are now sensing that perhaps the Bible he used to preach doesn't hold that much authority for them! Ripple effects grow far and wide and will lessen over time but the **termination of a pastor for infidelity and/or family abandonment just tells the rest of the church it's ok**. That is the last thing the church in America needs. Currently we are being attacked by those that want to see the destruction of the nuclear family (BLM), to see it tore down, which affects everyone.

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Then Paul gives two more qualifications for this person in one clause, *the **husband** of one wife*. First off, it means that **elders are to be men**. Quickly turn to back two books previous in your Bibles so you can see the same directions given to Paul's other diligent worker in the gospel, Timothy:

I Timothy 3:1-7 ESV (please put on screen in entirety)

Qualifications for Overseers

3 The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, **he** desires a noble task. **2**Therefore an overseer must be **above reproach**, the **husband** of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, **3**not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. **4****He** must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping **his** children submissive, **5**for if someone does not know how to manage **his** own household, how will **he** care for God's church? **6****He** must not be a recent convert, or **he** may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. **7**Moreover, **he** must be well thought of by outsiders, so that **he** may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

The point is that **pronouns matter!** God is identifying through Paul a difference in the sexes and commands that only one of those be a an elder. This is not about chauvinism, this is about the created order, Adam was given to lead, and Eve was given to be his helper, **equal but different roles**. The church in order, to set the example for the world in all things godly, must show that God had a plan from the beginning and that it was man's responsibility to lead and protect his family.

This is what the church models, and the church when operating correctly, displays this in submission to Christ as we submit to Him. Pronouns matter, but in our own current Presidential administration there have been those that attack this again and again. If you remove God's good order then nothing makes sense anymore, if you have transgender activists involved in our leadership in the government then your government is stating it doesn't matter what it looks like all as they watch the decline in our civilization and say "oh well, it's what you wanted." It is time for the church to lead in this



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matter and to get it right! Don't be fooled or be influenced by our new Dept. of Disinformation, or Disney, or Netflix, or the workers at Twitter, our **culture wants to know the distinction!** The majority still believes in sexual identities from birth, and it is our job to model that rightly, to be above reproach.

Secondly, Paul speaks of how the husband should be the husband of **one wife**. This is not speaking about the practice of polygamy although that did happen in that day, and that is not to be practiced btw. This is about being faithful to the spouse you have, to uphold, honor, to cherish, till death do they part. **That means an elder cannot leave his wife for no reason whatsoever (Hosea and Gomer).** It does not mean that divorce doesn't happen and that a person cannot be allowed back into the body, after a process of restoration, but to continue in the role of elder, this doesn't fly.

In this context you see, it also means an elder cannot be accused of infidelity and/or the practice of divorce **before becoming an elder**. Yes, that is a controversial topic in this day and age. I am not saying that there are not considerations for a man that was married to an unbeliever before as an unbeliever themselves. BUT even then, that would have to be treated very seriously and investigated because again the call is for overseers to be above **reproach** (Titus 1:5, 1 Tim. 3:2) as Paul uses the strength of that person's testimony to lead for the church:

1 Timothy 4:12 ESV

¹²Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an **example** in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in **purity**.

Another reason that it has taken two years to raise up elders, and another reason that we don't embrace the practice of hiring a pastor from outside, is because it is important that we see how the man loves his wife well. Can they handle a disagreement with their wife and not cast them off? Can they love their wife while they are enduring the hardships of life? Can they live as a 1 Peter 3 man?

1 Peter 3:7 ESV



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⁷ Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an **understanding way**, showing **honor** to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

If they can't do this then how can they lead, how will their prayers be answered for the body, of what effect can they truly be? So, there is a call for an older man, a family man, a husband of one wife, and well, what about his kids?

3. The command to be faithful in childrearing by the Family Man. (v. 6b)

⁶ ... and his children are **believers** and not open to the charge of **debauchery** or **insubordination**.

The family man, to be a family man worth following worth modeling, should show that his kids are believers - πιστός (*pistos*). adj. **trustworthy, faithful; trusting, believing**. *Describes a person or thing as characterized by trustworthiness or belief.*⁵ They are trustworthy, that is they can be trusted by the father, to represent the family name well. If the family name is associated with God, then that is what they show, they are the living example of integrity, they **show** that the **elder is not a hypocrite**. What he preaches he lives out and his children are showing the fruit of it. They are faithful, they are showing that they too believe in God, and they follow their earthly father out of respect for their Heavenly Father.

Growing up in the church there has always been this stigma that all preacher kids (PKs) were the worst children around, according to evangelical moral standards. Now I have to tell you, that there are pastor kids that are a little messed up, that perhaps the pressure of being a PK has hit them harder than the rest. One of my favorite pastors, John Piper, one of his boys has become a total reprobate. But that's the point, PKs are actually judged harder by the world and therefore when one behaves in an unfaithful way, it stands out so much! That is also the warning as to why a Family Man that is an elder should

⁵ Fenlason, A. C. (2014). [Belief](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



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have a faithful child because they by proxy represent a faithful home to the world (it's part of their lives as examples, how they parent).

Then there are two things Paul says that a child should not be, a person that practices debauchery and insubordinate. Debauchery is not necessarily drunkenness, it is what too much drunkenness brings, like the song said, "I'm a real wild one And I like a wild fun" – Iggy Popp. A Wild child, a loose cannon, a person that has no grip on moral restraint, this is reckless abandonment for things and people around them, they are living the *Spring Break Life*. That is the qualifier. Sometimes people want to hold PKs to a higher moral standard than their own children, that is not what this passage says, it holds them the same way as all believer's children, they are to represent the faith well as self-controlled children that are GROWING into mature adults. As we talked about during our Proverbs series, they have not been spoiled but they have been saved by **not sparring the rod of discipline**.

The children of the family man are lastly not insubordinate, they follow rules. They don't mind the structure of the home, **as a matter of fact they thrive in it**. As children being raised right their upbringing shows that **they don't fight against instruction**. Children being raised in the gospel of Christ, show a growing respect for their own Savior. That is, they show that as they age their faith is becoming their own. They begin to speak as if their faith is not a chore or burden but that it means something to them.

So, the family was the place where Titus had to start, he had to go looking in the home to see what was there, to ensure the DNA was good.

[CHALLENGES + APPLICATIONS]

Highlands, I just want you to know that the calling to be a Godly Family, to be led by a Godly Family Man, is not just the calling of elders or future elders, it is the calling of **every household in this building**. We aren't going to train up Godly men by focusing on a few but we will call out men from a church that is geared to **Cultivate Kingdom Minded Families**. Everything we do is not just to promote godly children but to promote Godly leadership in the home. In this secular driven culture, we cannot afford to sit back and allow the world to



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help shape our families. You should know where that is headed if you have watched any media over the last year. Here's what we are going to do to pursue this vision together.

1st, we are going to have our **elder candidates** begin to **preach more often** and that starts this year. This summer they will all have an opportunity to preach to you from this pulpit, and please know that means after doing life for a couple of years with these guys, **they are now on notice**, you are to watch them, and see if they practice what they preach. They are our family men, that we have called out, that perhaps one day they will help oversee our church and possibly another community church nearby.

2nd, Men of Highlands, I am calling you to step out and lead. Be a one-woman man, date your wife, obey the command in **1 Peter 3:7** and seek to **understand her** and **honor her** by loving her the way she needs. Our kids need to see dad try and not complain, our world needs to see husbands lead their wives humbly and not be passive, and they need to see us defend our homes with veracity proclaiming the truth of scripture.

3rd, to have children that glorify God with their own established faith manifested in their behaviors I need us all **to take serious family devotions**. Every week we add another catechism question, we provide the "how to" of how to lead a family devotion in the bulletin, so it is expected by our homes to practice family discipleship, this is what we do. Even if you don't have kids, I am asking empty nesters to pursue devotions together and yes learn the catechism for yourself. For our church to cultivate Kingdom Minded Families we need to live as if Kingdom building is important to us.

Family, Lessons for the Church, starts and falls with leadership, but we all honor Christ, His sacrifices, by being obedient to the call to help develop a church that produces future leadership. We all have a part in helping **Cultivate Kingdom Minded Families**. For some it means taking the challenge seriously, for some it means being obedient to the calling of this specific church, and for others it means surrendering to Christ and his call on your life. Let's go to Him today and ask Him to help us to serve His bride faithfully.



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[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that has given us the way to develop the church through modeling His Son.

Go in the name of the Son, that has redeemed the church and seeks some Family Men to lead the way.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, who will help us all in our pursuit of Kingdom Minded Families so we can do our part in the Great Commission.