



Titus – Lessons for the Church Wk. 4 How to Handle False Teachers By Pastor Jody May 05/15/2022

Titus 1:10-16 ESV

Qualifications for Elders

¹⁰ For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. ¹¹ They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach. ¹² One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” ¹³ This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴ not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth. ¹⁵ To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. ¹⁶ They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

[BACKGROUND]

We are coming to our 4th 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. 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 BUT there were some real challenges. First, he had limited time, Paul was sending for him soon (3:12). Second, he had to raise up some local leadership in these churches looking for family men that had Godly character traits, not just to govern well,



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but to serve as examples for the church in Crete. But today we will also see these men had to be willing to CONFRONT false teachers, false Christians for the sake of preserving whole families of believers! Which leads us to this very surreal problem that we all are aware of, no one likes - confrontation!

Most people do not like confrontation. But most people have a point about a certain subject that if pushed too much they will stand their ground and confront that which is pushing on them.

Even though we don't like it we have a point of where we are like, "I can't stand anymore!" Unless we confront things in this world we will be pushed aside or pushed into consequences we don't like though.

Lessons for the church this morning means learning, just as these overseers must do, how to live out a Gospel that confronts the world in love. Jesus came full of both GRACE and TRUTH, and we should do the same...

WHY DO THIS: *Godly leaders confront the World to keep pulling the elect out of it and to keep the elect in the church.* Every member of the church, as they are living out the Gospel, should also learn the Godly trait of Loving Confrontation. We will be learning today how to Confront the Divisive, Confronting the Deceived, Confronting those that are Defiled.

1. **Confronting the Divisive (vs. 10-11)**

¹⁰ For there are many who are **insubordinate, empty talkers** and **deceivers**, especially those of the circumcision party. ¹¹ They must be **silenced**, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.

In case you're inclined to follow your heart still and avoid confrontation, let me tell you why you can't (v.10) "For there are **MANY**..." The scripture didn't say every once in a while, you may encounter... it didn't say that on rare occasions you might run into... it didn't say you may find in your journeys... NO, Paul says there are MANY!



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There are Many people, who will be in the church, and near to those in the church, kind of in and out of the church...

- that are insubordinate (will not follow the rules, rules don't apply to them, whether they are acts of commission or omission, blatantly or passive aggressive)
- they are empty talkers (they like to hear themselves talk, they like to have arguments for the fun of it, they love to point out why they disagree with something the pastor or anyone else said)
- they are deceivers (they have a purpose, there is intention in their actions, they build followers, they desire influence)

There are **MANY** of these types of people, and we are commanded to **SILENCE** them..

These people promote an anti-gospel message. Where the message of the Gospel says to count others more significant than you, (Phi 2:3) they were *counting themselves more important* than everyone else. They live by their own gospel that instead of loving their neighbor as oneself (Mk 12:31) they love their neighbor for the benefit of oneself."

The text called these people in Titus' day the **circumcision party**, means they were Jews that most likely were looking down on the Cretons. They saw an opportunity to gain a social-foothold on them, to exploit and control these new Christians, for their personal gain, by adding to the gospel works of righteousness. They were spiritual pirates that were going to raid the pirates of the Mediterranean seas. They were in it for themselves.

Tom Buck (Five Point Buck) and 2 others liked

 **Josh Buice** @JoshBuice · 1h
Pastor @pastordmack was recently platformed by @SWBTS and is openly advocating for a woman's right to choose abortion...in some cases. Is his position mainstream or fringe within the SBC?

 **Dwight McKissic** @pastord... · 6d
Replying to @Ryan_Hanley
I affirm adoption, counseling, providing support. If human life, stems from rape, or incest-politically, I can embrace these exceptions. Biblically, the only exception would b...

9 9 32

Today we are experiencing the same thing across churches in this land. There are **MANY** false teachers in churches that pay no attention to scripture, that have lied about their beliefs to join a body of believers, they have caused dissention by having closed talks with select people in the body, all for the purpose of private gain.



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Paul was combatting the ancient serpent's ploy that has been around since the fall, **change** up the **truth** a little, get people believing it, and they will do their own self-destructing.

Paul, was instructing Titus, this is why you need to go, this is why you need to bring order, this is why you need to raise up elders Titus, because Satan and the World like to use unsuspecting people to cause a lot of damage to God's elect. You will know them because they will not live out what the church believes...

This is why it is important for this church always to be about the business of raising up elders, deacons, leaders, so that we can plant churches that combat / *CONFRONT* the lies that the enemy has been selling the American church for years.

Here are some misdirection ploys we hear now produced by divisive church-goers:

- **It is all about the end times!**

(See how the middle-east is playing out) We were told to stop looking at the heavens for Christ to return and to be busy about reaching the lost (Acts 1:11). Some of us actually think that our eschatological position is the most important doctrine in the church. *There are many looking to the apocalypse, and they are looking at it over a see of lost neighbors.* It has caused us to sin. We have become less evangelistic and have become more condemning to those around us.

- **It's all about what you can get now!**

1 Timothy 6:4-5 ESV

[4] **he** (false teacher) is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an **unhealthy craving** for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, [5] and constant friction among people who are **depraved** in mind and **deprived** of the truth, imagining that **godliness is a means of gain**.



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This is a theology of a well-known Atlanta pastor that teaches what we call Prosperity Gospel - “You’re a fool for Christ so you might as well be a rich fool”.¹ If you add to Christ’s message you are actually taking away from Him.

- **It’s all about tolerance and acceptance!**

“But have you ever considered that tolerance is never encouraged in the Bible? The fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23) includes love and kindness, but missing from the list is tolerance. In fact, Christians aren’t called to intolerance, because we serve an intolerant God.”² – Melissa Kruger

Romans 12:9-10 ESV

[9] Let love be **genuine**. **Abhor** what is **evil**; hold fast to what is good. [10] Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

Love is actually not tolerating the messages that come against the truth of scripture. We are called to speak out if we truly love those around us.
Christian can you take being called intolerant in today’s world?

[CHALLENGE/APPLICATION]

Today let’s stop pretending to love people by not saying anything and instead can we practice loving people and confront the divisive because there are **MANY** of them. We need to practice speaking out, for one day, we may need to stand against:

- A false teaching/teacher in our church that goes against the authority of scripture showing a disbelief in its’ inerrancy and sufficiency by opening-up membership to unconfessing, unrepentive, and unregenerate worldly people all in the spirit of tolerance.

¹ Creflo Dollar, quoted in John Blake, “The Riches of God”. *Atlanta Journal/ Constitution*. August 23, 1997.

² Kruger, Melissa. “The Loving Intolerance of God”. *The Gospel Coalition*. Web. September 30, 2015. <http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-loving-intolerance-of-god>.



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- A school board that is seeking to promote an outlandish liberal agenda more interested in changing the sex of your child instead of educating them.
- A group of peers that is trying to sway your family and your friends by threats, by protests, by demeaning remarks on social media.

You may be unwilling to confront because you're thinking I don't want to mess up any opportunity of redemption for that person. That's the Holy Spirit's job, stop worrying about being winsome, worry more about loving people with truth, but also realize sometimes the witness of the gospel needs to offend those around us. Jesus confronted the world with their sin, and they killed Him for it, it was the worst thing that could be done, no matter what; retaliation against you will never get that bad.

Lessons for the church starts with eldership not being afraid to confront divisive people, and we do that first, so that everyone learns how to do that in a godly and loving way. There are also times though in our own body where it may be too late, a loved one may be under the sway of the world, and we need to take this to another level.

2. Confronting the Deceived. (12-14)

¹²One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always **liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.**" ¹³This testimony is true. Therefore **rebuke** them **sharply**, that they may be **sound in the faith**, ¹⁴not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth.

We exist to be a light in the world (Mat 15:14-16) and this light is there to help people see truth. As Jesus said, "...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father..." There are many people deceived in the world, and you may be the only one that they may listen to.

The Cretans that Paul is comparing these false teachers to are very worldly people, it doesn't take much to throw them off kilter, to sway them:



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- *Cretans are always liars* – Cretans had a reputation to lie so that they looked better than everyone else. They claimed that the (g)od's were not divine and that Zeus himself had been buried on the isle of Crete.
- *Evil beasts* – The philosopher, Epemenides, of which Paul was quoting, saw Cretan people as having no control over their natural instincts to the point of rampant deviant sexual behavior was expected of them. Shows that the physical pleasure was to be exalted above one's morality.
- *Lazy gluttons* – Cretans were known to rely on the wealth of others and at one time was a pirate nation living off of what they stole from others on the seas.

Paul says therefore to **REBUKE SHARPLY!** – An abrupt, sharp, hard reprimand, to those listening to the divisive people! Cretans are already hard of hearing Titus, get their attention, **like you did with the Corinthians** (2 Cor. 7:13-15)...

What's that say to you, because to me it says that people are in danger so get their attention! Do you know of anyone in your life that needs a little shaking up? **If not, you may need to expand your circles some, and if so what are you doing about it?**

Now why do we rebuke them? **Because there is hope**, they can learn from their mistakes, God still wants them, Paul is telling us they can still be "sound in their faith"(v. 13). That means safe, how strong of a warning are you willing to give to keep someone safe?

Example: There is something that I have done as a parent that I am not happy about doing but I am proud of it, and that was corporal punishment. I grew up in a home that came equipped with a belt, a switch, or hangar that was at the ready to be used if I got out of hand. When God blessed me with kids of my own it was my last wish to have to reprimand my kids like my parents reprimanded me. It was not a pleasure to have to correct my kids in this way, but I would do it again, for the reason I corrected them for was well worth it.

The times where my children have had to receive physical reminders of rules for the home was when their behaviors **endangered their own physical existence**. Whether it was for running in the street, when told not to, I spared



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not the rod so that my child would not suffer destruction. Confrontation of the deceived, especially of those that you know, is never a pleasant experience, but it is definitely needed. It needs to be **sharp to be remembered**, and one day all parties involved in that conflict may rejoice for the life that it saved.

The world says ignore, tolerate, and condone the behavior of a wayward neighbor. The Gospel says pay attention to those in trouble (Lk 10:25-37 *Good Samaritan*) or as the good shepherd (Mat 18:12), seek them out and be involved in their lives!

1 Timothy 5:20 ESV

“As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.”

James 5:19-20 ESV

“My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”

[CHALLENGE/APPLICATION]

Today is there someone in your life that is listening to this world that has fallen under the lure of false teaching? You may be under the strain of losing them as a friend if you say something, but family if they truly are your friend how can you not say something!?

The Good shepherd has come after us, in my own life Jesus used another man to seek me out because I would not listen and was endangering my life. I thank God regularly for that interference in my will. Before ever desiring to *decrease so that He may increase* God brought someone into my life that **loved me more than fearing being rejected**. Someone that would challenge my false views of this world, so that I could bring glory to the one that has saved me.



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Family, you too can be used in the same way, and like Titus in 2 Corinthians you will receive joy from it, but you will need to endure first the unpleasant chastising, but it is well worth it!

3. Confronting the Defiled. (vs. 15-16)

¹⁵To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. ¹⁶They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

Lastly, Paul saw it getting to the point as he had in several other early churches, that his own people, **the Jews**, could not be trusted anymore. That when their rebellion went on too long, it may be too late for them to be salvaged. Their denial of knowing God, accepting Jesus' works in place of their own, had made them unfit vessels of the gospel – *"unfit for any good work"* (v.16).

We all probably have someone like that we know. They have become entrenched in what they think is Biblical Truth only to lose the Gospel Truth. But Paul was willing to give the hard word, to Titus, because he loved Jesus and His bride, more than he did his own people. He loved his real family, the church, more than those that claimed his cultural ancestry, his tribe if you will.

Jesus knew this same pain as he confronted the same type of people called Pharisees. In one dialogue with them he gives them a sharp rebuke, a warning if you would, trying to get their attention.

Matthew 15:11 ESV

[11] it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person."

Jesus knew that what the Pharisees really believed is shown in how they spoke. For them what condemns you is not sin, but cultural ancestry, and just like then, that is a FALSE GOSPEL TODAY! In the same way, let me ask you



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what Jesus was pointing out to the good church-goers of His day. *What is coming out of your mouth and is it defiling you? Could you be on a dangerous path of being deceived to defilement?*

[CHALLENGE/APPLICATION]

You see, I think the hardest area of confrontation we will all face today is, are we willing to confront ourselves? Do you really want to take into account what you are saying and how you are acting and ask yourself, *are these words of life or do they smell like death?*

To my young people in here, what do you talk about the most? Is it the next smart phone that's coming out, is it what you're doing on Friday night, is it what sports hero that you secretly long to be like, is there someone you always join in on in making fun at school? Let me put it to you this way. When you are around your friends do your words ever point to Christ or are they only pointing to things that interest you? That is a False Gospel.

I have found among women even those in the church, that sometimes they are a little too concerned about what other people may think about them and it comes out by what is promoted on their social threads. I just want to ask you as your brother in Christ, are you spending too much time figuring out how to make sure other people know what you are all about, or are you busy pointing to Christ, and your need for Him?

Men, look I know it will be football season soon, but does that really mean that all you ever will talk about for the next three months in FB? Does promoting a sport that is all about raising up guys with monster egos the thing we want to spend a lot of time doing? **If not sports**, what is it you like talking about more than people. Men we love to hide in our hobbies and interests, and we call it being busy. Just like a Cretan we are being lazy because it avoids the hard work of loving other people and speaking truth to them. Jesus sees that as well, who will be an interest to you this year in 2022, who are you discipling as a leader in this church?

See this is hard isn't it? But the beauty of the gospel is if today you have felt



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any conviction about becoming more confrontational with the world, friends, or yourself please understand that's because you are loved.

The Gospel says that if you feel conviction in your heart, it is because God the Father has applied His son's perfect confrontational skills to you because we needed the help!

Because of Jesus victory in confronting the temptation of wanting to be popular and choosing to live a life where many people would hate him, we now can be emboldened to confront our defilement of desiring people to like us.

Because of Jesus victory in confronting Satan and all the powers of Hell, we will never have to know permanent slavery to them, but will be in the perpetual motion of escaping them.

Because of Jesus victory in confronting death on a cross we will never have to know its permanent sting.

Because of all of life that Jesus confronted for us we will never have to sweat, "Did I do it good enough to get in?", because all of God's people get in on the blood, sweat, and tears of Jesus.

Let Jesus fill you up this morning; let Him fill your hearts with praise.

Because your heart will be known by the words your mouth says.

A heart that loves Jesus will reveal its' desire to confront even when it's uncomfortable:

- Yes, we will stand up to the biggest religion bully there is and defend the gospel.
- Yes, we will stand up for our friends and family and will keep lovingly rebuking them believing that if we can be saved so can they.
- Yes, we will stand up and look in the mirror and keep searching their dark spaces to keep getting rid of our defilement.

So let us all be people today that commit to be a little more confrontational so that we truly become people that are being saved by the Gospel of Christ.



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[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that confronted our sin with love and provided Salvation.

Go in the name of the Son, that confronted the powers of this world, and got them to release us from condemnation.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that helps us confront this world and what we see in the mirror, preserving the church until His glorious return.