



The Elder's Task (Titus 1:1-16)

Opening

“Paul, a **bondservant** of God and **an apostle** of Jesus Christ, according to **the faith of God's elect** and **the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness**, in **hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie**, promised before time began, but has in due time **manifested His word through preaching**, which was **committed to me according to the commandment** of God our Savior; To **Titus, a true son** in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.”

Titus 1:1-4 NKJV

Titus 1:1-4

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Titus 1:1-2 NKJV

Bondservant

- A bondservant is a voluntary slave—a slave who had the right and the opportunity to go free but instead chooses to stay and serve his master forever. (See Exodus 21:6-10)
- What you discover if you read the details in the law of the Hebrew servant, is that the slave after six years of service, has the right to leave in the seventh year with a few stipulations. He can keep his wife if he came into his service with a wife, but if he received his wife from his master, his wife must stay behind.
- If he loves his master and his wife, he can choose to stay forever, this is a one time permanent decision, and to seal his decision he must have a public piercing of his ear, which testifies his choice to the world.
- It should be obvious that this law is precisely what Y'shua was considering in the garden of Gethsemane when He chose the cross and His bride, who he received AFTER He became a bondservant, when He was born a man— instead of going free!

Apostle

- A sent one!

The Faith of God's Elect

- ☑ Paul knows he was chosen, that the faith that redeemed him was a gift from God—nothing he could have earned.
- ☑ **The Truth which Accords Godliness**
 - ☑ Godliness is holistic integrity. When the triune man, his spirit, soul and body, are in complete alignment with God’s will—that is godliness.
 - ☑ The truth is that the only way to achieve such is by becoming born-again and filled with the Holy Spirit. That is the only thing that accords godliness.
- ☑ **Hope because the promise is from a God who can’t lie!**
 - ☑ God is not a man, he cannot lie (Numbers 23:19), so the hope we have is based on an unalterable reality.
 - ☑ What God says He will do, he does! And if He says we have eternity because of faith—it is true. This is hope!
- ☑ *“but has in due time **manifested His word through preaching**, which was **committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior; To Titus, a true son** in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.” Titus 1:3-4 NKJV*
- ☑ **Manifested in His word**
 - ☑ **Through preaching:** *“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And **how shall they***

*believe in Him of whom they have not heard? **And how shall they hear without a preacher?** And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”” Romans 10:14-15 NKJV*

- ☑ Immediately after Paul pens the “sinners prayer”, that if you confess with your mouth... He reveals the way someone will be informed about such things.
- ☑ Someone has to be sent to preach, that was him; that is you!
- ☑ **According to the command:** [To Ananias] *“But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he [Saul/Paul] is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. **For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.**”” Acts 9:15-16 NKJV*
- ☑ Paul, against his will, was knocked down, redirected from his wrong path, and commanded to go represent Christ. It was a command—not an option!

Qualified Elders

“**For this reason** I left you in Crete, that **you should set in order** the things that are lacking, and **appoint elders** in every city as

I commanded you— if a man is **blameless**, the **husband of one wife**, having **faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination**. For a **bishop must be blameless**, as a **steward of God**, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but **hospitable**, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the **faithful word** as he has been taught, that he may be **able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.**” Titus 1:5-9 NKJV

Titus 1:5-9

☑ *“For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should **set in order** the things that are lacking, and **appoint elders** in every city as I commanded you— if a man is **blameless**, the **husband of one wife**, having **faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.**” Titus 1:5-6 NKJV*

☑ The Order of Business

☑ Paul assigns a task to Titus. He must set things in order because without this order many things are lacking.

☑ The first order of business is to appoint elders.

☑ Appoint Elders

☑ Read I & II Timothy and see the verse by verse exposition on KingdomEmbassyMinistries.org

- Blameless:** A man born-again and walking faithfully with no chronic sin or prevailing strong holds.
- Husband:** If he is married, he must be a faithful successful husband. Of course, with only one wife. And that wife should be able to support his position and affirm his qualities as an excellent husband and father.
- Children:** His children should be believers who do not live a life of rebellion against the faith, dissipating and wasting their energy and resources serving the world rather than God.

- “For a bishop must be **blameless**, as a **steward of God**, not **self-willed**, not **quick-tempered**, not **given to wine**, not **violent**, not **greedy** for money, but **hospitable**, a **lover of what is good**, **sober-minded**, **just**, **holy**, **self-controlled**, **holding fast the faithful word** as he has been taught, that he may be able, by **sound doctrine**, both to **exhort** and **convict** those who **contradict**.” Titus 1:7-9 NKJV*
- Qualifications for Church Leaders of Leaders**
- A blameless steward of God:** we already saw the blameless part (a man born-again and walking faithfully with no chronic sin or prevailing strong holds).

- ☑ Now you must be able to steward those qualities well enough to lead other leaders.
- ☑ **Don't be...**
 - ☑ **Self-willed:** It's not about you and it's not about what you want and it's not about what benefits you—every act of ministry is about others.
 - ☑ **Quick-tempered:** Stop, breathe, don't react. Be quick to listen and slow to speak (James 1:19). Use discretion and discernment. Ask questions, don't be given to emotions and predetermined ideas. Be a peacemaker, not a warmonger. It's okay to be angry, but not if that anger leads to sin (Eph. 4:26-27).
 - ☑ **Given to wine:** The Scriptures are clear about drunkenness, both literal drunkenness and the mental and emotional debauchery that comes from operating without a sober mind. Specifically, wine is not forbidden, drunkenness is! Being given over to any addiction, be it physical, or be it bitterness, rage, unforgiveness, self indulgence, etc. is all forbidden, and not to be tolerated in leaders of leaders.
 - ☑ **Violent:** Physical and emotional violence has no place in the life of any confessed believer. That does not mean there is no temptation for such sinful

behaviors. But, there is zero tolerance for those who intend to lead others to engage in any such actions.

- ☑ **Greedy:** The love of money is the root of all sorts of evil (I Tim. 6:10). Unfortunately, in the modern era, expanding ministry has all too often become motivated by selfish gain—the love of money, the love of possessions, the love of success, and the love of power. *“For where your **treasure** is, there your **heart** will be also.”* (Matthew 6:21) Greed of any type is destructive for leaders. If the treasure one seeks is of the world—that is where their heart lives.

- ☑ **Do be...**

- ☑ **Hospitable:** Provide for and care for others. Don't exclude people from your comfort, shelter, and fellowship. *“What's mine is yours”* is the proper attitude for any leader in the church. Live life with an open hand because closed hands crush and suffocate anything they hold.
- ☑ **A lover of good:** All things good come down from the Father in heaven. These are the things that should attract and excite leaders.
- ☑ **Sober-minded:** This is to what we were referring when we described avoiding drunkenness. A sober

mind is one that thinks clearly, aligns, measures and weighs all things against the word of God. I like to describe it like this; “Think in Bible!”

- ☑ **Just:** A church leader must be able to recognize what is true and fair. There can be no swaying to the left or to the right. What God says is right is right; what God says is wrong is wrong
- ☑ **Holy:** Holy means set apart. That means you are separated for God, disconnected from the trappings of the world. But, it means more than that—because holy is not just a separation from evil. Holy is additionally a separation from what is only good, otherwise known as common. Everything holy is good, but not everything good is holy. God created six days and said they were good, but He called the seventh day holy!
- ☑ **Self-controlled:** If you can’t control yourself, you can’t lead others. If you are not self-disciplined, or one who can disciple himself, he cannot disciple others.
- ☑ Stick closely to what you were taught in God’s word. Sound doctrine will allow you to exhort (encourage) and convict (find guilty) anyone who tries to contradict

you! Leaders must know the Word well enough to correct anyone or any doctrine contrary to the Word!

The Task at Hand

“For **there are many insubordinate**, both **idle talkers** and **deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped**, who **subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not**, for the **sake of dishonest gain**. **One of them, a prophet of their own, said**, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true. Therefore **rebuke them sharply**, that they may be **sound in the faith, not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men** who turn from the truth. **To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled**. They **profess to know God**, but **in works they deny Him**, being **abominable, disobedient, and disqualified** for every good work.” Titus 1:10-16 NKJV

Titus 1:10-16

☑ *“For there are **many insubordinate**, both **idle talkers** and **deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped**, who **subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not**, for the sake of **dishonest gain**.”*

One of them, **a prophet** of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons. **This testimony is true.** Therefore **rebuke them sharply**, that they may **be sound in the faith**, not **giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men** who turn from the truth.”” Titus 1:10-14 NKJV

☑ Your job as an elder...

☑ Who?

- ☑ Identity those who are insubordinate (defiant of authority and disobedient to orders.)
- ☑ **Idle talkers:** They talk a lot, but say very little. “*In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise.*” (Proverbs 10:19 NKJV)
- ☑ **Deceivers:** Someone who purposely causes someone else to think something that is not true, so they can gain something from the person they are misleading.
- ☑ **Of the circumcision:** In this case it is those who are claiming to be believers who are from a Jewish background.

☑ What?

- ☑ **Subvert whole households:** These evil-doers intend to undermine the authority structure in a household, meaning they intend to lead the leader astray. Once

they capture the leader, all those he leads will also be led astray.

- ☑ **Teaching things they should just not be teaching:** This violation falls into two categories. One, they are simply teaching false doctrine. Two, they have no authority or commendation to be teaching in the first place. They are not qualified.
- ☑ **Why?**
 - ☑ **For the sake of dishonest gain:** There is nothing new under the sun. What motivates anyone to deceive anyone else is for them to gain something for themselves: resources, authority, power, prestige, attention, praise, etc.
- ☑ **Your Assignment as an Elder or Bishop!**
 - ☑ Shut them down!
 - ☑ Rebuke them sharply!
 - ☑ **Why?**
 - ☑ It's as much for them as it is for those they are deceiving!
 - ☑ You want their faith to be healthy and in good condition.
 - ☑ You want to correct their adherence to Jewish fables and commandments of men who pervert the truth.

☑ **Diagnosis**

- ☑ Judaism, in the first century, was filled with doctrines that needed to be corrected.
- ☑ Y'shua was constantly correcting the religious leaders of the day because they cared more about the doctrines they had added to the Word of God, than the Word of God itself.
- ☑ *“Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying [Is. 29:13]: ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But **their heart is far from Me**. And in vain they worship Me, **Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**’ ”” Matthew 15:7-9 NKJV*

☑ ***“To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.” Titus 1:15 NKJV***

☑ **Pure**

- ☑ Purity means unmixed, not soiled with the things of the world—the sins of the world. Those operating in purity are attracted to things that are pure and holy and just and righteous and excellent and praiseworthy and are God honoring!

☑ Defiled & Unbelieving

- ☑ Defiled means desecrated, profaned, soiled, spoiled, marred—there's probably no better antonym to purity. This is the primary character trait of a non-believer. They operate by only one spirit, the spirit of a man that is animated carnality and selfish desires.
- ☑ See: [Best Supporting Actor](#) for a detailed teaching on the two spirits, the spirit of man in the spirit of God.

☑ *“They **profess to know God**, but **in works they deny Him**, being **abominable, disobedient, and disqualified** for every good work.” Titus 1:16 NKJV*

☑ Pure Hypocrisy

- ☑ There is nothing more egregious than to claim you know God, and then by your constant actions prove you actually deny Him.
- ☑ This is the most dangerous type of sin of all! Why?
- ☑ It might be hard to imagine, but ignorance of who God is is a safer place to exist than actually knowing who He is, pretending you follow Him, maybe even being self-deceived into believing you follow Him, but then by your lifestyle and choices proving you don't.

- ☑ If you live in that state chronically, you are at risk of committing the sin that leads to death—blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.
- ☑ Please see: [The Sin that Lead to Death](#)
- ☑ **The Character of a Pure Hypocrite!**
- ☑ **Abominable:** causing moral revulsion; loathsome, detestable, obnoxious, despicable, etc.
- ☑ **Disobedient:** refusing to obey rules or authority; the opposite of loving God. If you love God you will obey God (John 14:15).
- ☑ **Disqualified:** declared ineligible; banned, barred, eliminated. It is clear that these hypocrites are not permitted to serve in ministry, lead, or teach anything. It's something altogether different and more horrifying when their disqualification reaches eternity!
- ☑ **To those who reproach God:** *“Let them be **blotted out of the book of the living**, and not be written with the righteous.”* Psalms 69:28 NKJV

NEXT TEACHING

We ARE the Church (Titus 2:1-15)