

Theme: Titus must seek exemplary leaders for the church who are "blameless" in life, sound in doctrine, and willing to have their lives open to examination.

Background: Church is disordered, and in danger. Titus must straighten things out and get leaders in place who can keep it straight.

Introduction: Leaders in the church must be willing to take responsibility for themselves – and for others. They must be ready for a life that is always under scrutiny.

I. Establishing Order

A. In the churches – A brief Primer on "Church Government"

1. Episcopal or Hierarchical Government - Matthew 16:18-19? (Authority of the church is lodged in an individual.)
2. Congregational - Matthew 19:20 (Authority of the church resides in the local congregation.)
3. Presbyterianism
 - a. A "representative" form of church government - "Elders" come together in assembly to govern the church(es).
 - b. Defining Principles
 - 1.) Elder/Overseer (Bishop) = one person, different roles
Philippians 1:1; James 5:14; Titus 1:5 & 7; Acts 20:17-28
 - 2.) Churches have multiple overseers (the plurality of elders)
Acts 14:23; 20:17; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:5; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:1
 - 3.) Ruling by the body's consent
Acts 1:23; 14:23; 6:1-6
 - 4.) A "representative" body
Acts 8:14ff; Acts 15

B. Order in this Church

1. Solid elders/overseers - Young, immature church
2. To bring "order" (5) - Unfinished business here

II. Through Faithful Stewards

A. Above reproach

1. Not "sinless" or "without blemish"
Ephesians 5:27 (cf. Hebrews 9:14; 1 Peter 1:19; Ephesians 1:4)
2. Above Reproach (Positive side?)
 - a. All related to their example before others – all visible!
 - b. No extraordinary tests (visions, miracles, revelations, etc.)

B. In Conduct and Character

1. Marriage & Family Life
 - a. Marital – "one woman man"
 - b. Parental
 - 1.) Tekna – "children" under the authority of the home
 - 2.) Faithful – "believers?"
 - 3.) No debauchery – "dissipation" - No thought or care for their reflection on the home
 - 4.) No insubordination – undisciplined
NOTE: Not instances of insubordination, but a pattern of argument
2. In life
 - a. Can't be (5 "negatives")
 - 1.) Arrogant (or "self-willed")

- 2.) Quick-tempered (The "slow burn" is no better)
- 3.) Drunkard
 - a.) Over-indulgent in wine
 - b.) Over-indulgence generally
- 4.) Violent
- 5.) Greedy for gain (Their work is not driven by desire for financial gain.)
- b. Must be (6 "positives"):
 - 1.) Hospitable – Opening life and home to others
 - 2.) Lover of good – What is "good" and what promotes "good"
 - 3.) Self-controlled – Not out of control
 - 4.) Upright – Knows the law and gospel – lives accordingly
 - 5.) Holy – Devout in the pursuit of "godliness" and has a visible measure of piety
 - 6.) Disciplined – Habits of an athlete in regard to the "means of grace"

NOTE: What is your "score" on this card? How willing are you to let people see your life up close?
Are you in places where you can be seen and known?

C. For the sake of the gospel!

1. The gospel changes lives – That change should be evident.
2. It must be evident – Life and doctrine must match

D. In sound doctrine (Healthy teaching)

1. Holding the Word
2. Upholding the Word (Holding out the Word)
3. Defending the Word of Truth

III. God's Unfinished Business

- A. In you
- B. In me and your elders

NOTE: We bear a measure of responsibility for the life, growth, and vitality of the church. Pray that our lives are open to scrutiny and imitation.