

Titus 1:14-16 — “How to Handle False Teachers in the Church, Part 2 -- Their Corruption & Condemnation”

“This whole section (Titus 1.10-16) gives the **reason** why elders apt at teaching are required (Titus 1.9). There are many active rebels in the church spreading human teaching with a Jewish basis; they are upsetting the whole church. Therefore, the church leaders must attack falsehood as well as commend the Truth. What we have here, then, is concerned with the problem that church leaders need to face and with the way in which they must deal with it” (I Howard Marshall).

Acts 20.30 - From among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. So be on the alert!

- **False Teachers are...**

1. are REAL
2. are DANGEROUS
3. are DECEIVED [and deceiving!]
4. are SUBTLE (disguised)
5. are UNHOLY (defiled)

False teachers /N the Church.

See how Paul describes them & what the church must do about them...

- 1 Tim 4:1-2; 1 Tim 6:3-5,10; 2 Tim 2:16-18,25-26; 2 Tim 3:5!
- Summarizing plea: see Gal 1:9-10 and here in Titus 1.11,13,14!

Background to Titus 1:10-16

- Paul’s charge to Titus on Crete is to ‘set things in order’ (Titus 1:5) and establish godly elders (vv.5-9) and they must be qualified in the Word to exhort in sound doctrine & refute those who contradict (v.9) to be vigilantly & courageously on guard from false teachers (vv.10-16).
- In these final few verses of the chapter, Paul pleads with Titus in strong, fatherly, apostolic language to **guard and prevent these deceivers**.
 1. Urgent **Confrontation** of False Teachers (14) // **confront** their deception
 2. Undying **Condemnation** of False Teachers (15-16) // **consider** their destruction

THESIS — Here are the reasons *why* we must have godly, above reproach & competent leaders in the church. *I will give you 7 urgent & indispensable reasons...*

Because of the

1. abundance of the deceivers (many) (10)
2. danger of their teaching (upsetting whole families)
3. motives of their heart (greedy gain)
4. necessity of firm reproof (reprove them severely)
5. **preserving of the Truth (turn away from the truth) (14b)**
6. **infecting of their impurities (nothing is pure) (v.15)**
7. **hypocrisy of their conduct (by their deeds they deny God) (v.16)**

V. PRESERVING OF THE TRUTH! (14b)

- Paul charges Titus to reprove the deceivers *and the congregation* so that the *congregation* may be sound in the faith (v.13b).
- We are about the truth, preach Christ, call for you to believe the truth & build you up in the Truth!

The Distraction - not paying attention to:

1. Jewish myths —
2. Commandments of men —

The Danger - these turn men away from the truth!

In verses 15-16 – Paul is going to give **TWO evaluations** of false teachers.

1. V15 - inner life → *corrupt!*
2. V16 - outer life → *hypocrites!*

VI. INFECTING OF THEIR IMPURITIES! (15)

v.15a- To the pure, all things are PURE

Meaning: When a person is PURE in heart and mind (=saved, cleansed, washed, renewed), his perspective on all things are pure and his inner purity produces outer purity.

This is the very *HEART* of every false religion = works-righteousness.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.
-- Augustus Toplady (“Rock of Ages”)

v.15b - To the defiled/unbelieving - NOTHING is pure...

Meaning: to those who are defiled and unbelieving, NOTHING IS PURE. This means that *all* their perspectives, actions, motivations, deeds & thoughts are infected with their inner defilement.

VII. HYPOCRISY OF THEIR CONDUCT! (16)

- This is the “final evaluation” of these men *in* the church.
 - ✓ Many people hold to a form of godliness but deny its power (2 Tim 3.5)
 - ✓ Jesus said: you’ll know them by their fruits/deeds (Matt 7:16).
 - ✓ Faith, if it has no works, is **dead** (James 2.17).

v.16a - they profess to know God...

v.16b -but by their deeds they deny Him...

- He preaches one thing with his mouth and preaches another thing with his life.
- His life is a walking sermon that contradicts what he says in the pulpit.
- Thus he unpreaches in his life what he preaches in his sermon.

v.16c - being detestable, disobedient, worthless.

Spurgeon speaks of the boldness & courage of Christ in exposing false teachers:

Brethren, the Savior’s character has all goodness in all perfection; he is full of grace and truth. Some men, nowadays, talk of him as if he were simply incarnate benevolence. It is not so. No lip ever spoke with such thundering indignation against sin as the lips of the Messiah. “He is like a refiner’s fire, and like fuller’s soap. His fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor.” While in tenderness he prays for his tempted disciple, that his faith may not fail, yet with awful sternness he winnows the heap, and drives away the chaff into unquenchable fire. We speak of Christ as being meek and lowly in spirit, and so he was. A bruised reed he did not break, and the smoking flax he did not quench; but his meekness was balanced by his courage, and by the boldness with which he denounced hypocrisy. “Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites; ye fools and blind, ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?”

And from *The Jesus You Can’t Ignore* (by John MacArthur):

Many books today suggest in one way or another that if Christians want to reach unbelieving people in a postmodern culture, we need to be less militant, less aggressive, less preachy, and less sure of our own convictions. Christians should meet other worldview with conversation not conflict.

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But sometimes it is vital and just simply *wrong* to let a contrary opinion be aired without any challenge or correction. ONE of the worst things a believer can do is show a kind of feigned academic respect or artificial cordiality to the purveyors of serious, soul-destroying error (Psalm 129:4-8 and 1 Cor 16:22).

Here is the principle: The closer any doctrine is to the HEART OF THE GOSPEL (the core of sound Christology, the fundamental teaching of Christ that salvation from hell is in Christ alone, by grace alone, through faith alone), we must *more* diligently be on guard against perversions of the truth and the more aggressively need to fight the error and defend sound doctrine.

Remember, the sermons of Jesus usually featured hard truths, harsh words, high-octane controversy. His own disciples complained that his preaching was too hard to hear.

MY SOUL FINDS REST IN GOD ALONE [Psalm 62]

My soul finds rest in God alone,
My Rock and my salvation;
A fortress strong against my foes,
And I will not be shaken.
Though lips may bless and hearts may curse,
And lies like arrows pierce me,
I'll fix my heart on righteousness,
I'll look to Him who hears me.

**O praise Him, hallelujah,
My Delight and my reward;
Everlasting, never failing,
My Redeemer, my God.**

Find rest, my soul, in God alone
Amid the world's temptations;
When evil seeks to take a hold

I'll cling to my salvation.
Though riches come and riches go,
Don't set your heart upon them;
The fields of hope in which I sow
Are harvested in heaven.

I'll set my gaze on God alone
And trust in Him completely;
With every day pour out my soul
And He will prove His mercy.
Though life is but a fleeting breath,
A sigh too brief to measure,
My King has crushed the curse of death
And I am His forever.

PRAYER MEETING GUIDE:

1. Praise for possessing the Truth! [Praise and thank God]
2. Petition for protecting the Truth! [Plead with God for protection from error, division, falsehood]
3. Intercession for advancing of the Truth! [Pray for missionaries, evangelists, children, conversions, growth]