

Titus' Mission: Appointing Elders

July 31, 2022

Titus 1:5-9

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Paul is inspired to give a list of necessary leadership qualities so that Titus may effectively carry out his mission to strengthen the churches on Crete.

I. Titus is to straighten out church problems and appoint appropriate elders. (v. 5)

A. Episkopos = overseer / bishop / guardian

B. Presbuteros = elder / presbyter / older & wiser

C. Poimen = pastor / shepherd / lead, feed & protect

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:1)

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you. (Hebrews 13:17)

Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)

II. No accusation should be valid against an elder, particularly in the area of home life.

(v. 6)

But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— (Colossians 1:22)

...so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. (Philippians 2:15-16a)

A. An elder is to be a one-woman man (sexually pure).

Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity. (1 Timothy 5:1b)

B. The children in his home must generally be respectful of his parenting.

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation... (Ephesians 5:18 NAS) (leads to debauchery – NIV)

They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you. (2 Peter 4:4)

III. Being blameless includes the absence of a number of character defects. (v. 7)

A. Not arrogant or self-willed

B. Quick to become angry

But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. (Colossians 3:8 see also Ephesians 4:31)

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. (Ephesians 4:26-27 NIV)

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. (James 1:19-20)

C. Incautious about inebriants.

Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine and champions at mixing drinks. (Isaiah 5:22)

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)

D. Not pugnacious (v. 1:7e)

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. (Philippians 4:5)

E. Not Money grubbing (c. 3d)

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5)

Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. (Ecclesiastes 5:10)

Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (1 Timothy 6:9-10)

IV. Being blameless also includes the cultivation of positive character traits. (v. 8)

A. Welcoming and generous to guests (2f/8a)

Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. (1 Peter 4:9)

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. (Romans 12:13)

We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth. (3 John 1:8)

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:1-2)

B. A friend of what is good (8b)

C. Of a sound mind.

D. Striving to be righteous

E. Committed to godliness rather than worldly living

Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed." (Revelation 15:4)

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15-16)

F. Having strength over passions and appetites

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

V. Church leaders are to be men of the Scriptures.

The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. (Psalm 119:72)

When your words came, I ate them;
they were my joy and my heart's delight,
for I bear your name,
LORD God Almighty. (Jeremiah 15:16)

So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. (2 Thessalonians 2:15)

A. In order to come along-side believers who want to grow,

If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. (1 Timothy 4:6)

My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. (Colossians 2:24)

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. (2 Timothy 4:2)

B. And to confront and stop those who teach error.

Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. (Jude 1:3)

But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning. (1 Timothy 5:20)

Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth... (2 Timothy 2:25)

How do we cultivate proper Christian traits?

- Evaluate yourself (ask others)
- Choose a weak area
- Pray for God to strengthen you (Holy Spirit)
- Be vigilant for slip-ups
- Memorize and meditate on relevant verses
- We must desire and discipline ourselves for spiritual growth