

Titus 1:8-16

Elders are Lovers of Good and the Word

Review: The mission: Set in order.....lacking

A) Appoint Elders

ELDER – The man – mature in the Lord

Bishop - **The ministry** - to oversee

Pastor - **The method** - to feed and tend

B) Blameless = above reproach or not chargeable with some offense.

C) Blameless in his Marriage: Husband of one wife - a ONE woman man

D) His relationship to his wife is the 2nd most important relationship in his life

1) Devoted to his wife above all else - even the ministry

Blameless as a father: Kids are believers and followers of Jesus - manages his home well.

A) Children = formative yrs - in the home

B) Children is plural - **whole package** -

1) One rebellious child doesn't disqualify him

Blameless in his conduct- How they treat others inside the church

A) How he treats others outside - good reputation at his work and in his business practices

In V.5-9 We noted 5 negative traits to avoid and six positive traits to embrace.

A) I want to come back tonight to V.8 and this phrase a Lover of what is good.

B) What does that look like? Best commentary on the bible is the Bible - Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O man, what is good;
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justly, To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

C) **What is good? What is God looking for?**

1) Do justly - be fair in your dealings with people

2) Love mercy - AMP **to diligently practice kindness and compassion**

D) To walk humbly - **don't think too highly of yourself.**

1) Humility is an attractive trait in a leader

Lover of what is good.

A) Good seems to be a central theme for Paul in the book of Titus - he uses the word good 11 times

B) We will see that Paul admonishes those that want to lead well and have fruitful lives to:

- Be a pattern of good works
- Be zealous for good works
- Be ready for every good work
- Be careful to maintain good works

Elders are to be men of the Word! V.9

⁹ 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.

A) The difference between Elders and Deacons

B) **Deacons** love Jesus and love the church, but their bent is more towards practical service and practical matters more than people matters.

C) Deacons love to set up and tear down - love to take care of practical things - Usher -

1) help people get seated. - Build things - use their gifts in that way.

D) After a service Deacons are more drawn towards putting things away **than looking for people to pray for** -

1) nothing wrong with that - that is their bent and gifting

Elders: Love Jesus and love the church - but their bent is more toward people vs the practical

A) Elders have servant hearts and should be willing to help in practical ways - but they tend to notice who is hurting and needs prayer.

B) They are drawn to those needs way before - being drawn to the practical needs

C) Totally available for practical needs once the people needs are met

Both Elders and Deacons are Vital and needed in the church

A) Oregon - Deacons vs Elders

B) Here at CV we have a good mix of both.

1) But we always need more of both

C) Key is to know your bent and gifting

Sometimes Deacons become Elders - Problem: Choose 7 men good rep - full of the HS

A) 7 of men were chosen - Two would end up serving in more Elder type roles - Stephen and Philip

B) Because an Elder's ministry is more people than practical -

1) Elders need to especially be men of the word -

C) Hold fast to the word - firmly connected to the word - men sound in doctrine

D) For this reason: Elders have to combat false teachers - -

¹⁰ For there are many insubordinate, {**rebellious**} both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, ¹¹ whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain. ¹² One of them, 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 giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth.

¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

Characteristics of the false teachers:

➤ **Rebellious to the truth:** These false teachers were legalist -

A) **Define legalism - Jesus + something else** - in this case it was circumcision

B) Legalist - misery loves company

➤ **Deceptive in practice** - They have an agenda - Acts 20 sobering word - wolves will spring up from among you

- Often they don't start off as wolves - sidetracked

➤ **Wrong Motives** - Greed -

C) Dishonest gain - money - but also position - the approval of others - always seeking attention

D) **Hypocrites** - Profess with the mouth and deny with their lives

"Paul gives two divinely inspired evaluations of false teachers in the Cretan churches, evaluations that apply to false teachers in any age. First he assesses their inner lives and finds them to be corrupt. He then assesses their outer lives and finds them to be hypocritical and debauched.

John MacArthur

Rebuke them sharply - sternly: {Goal is to turn them. that they may be sound in the faith}

²⁸ Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily. Colossians 1:28,29

² Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. **Convince, rebuke, exhort**, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 2 Tim 4:2-4

Consider this phrase: ¹⁵ 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.

Pure= no added mixture or foreign element.

A) Used in that culture Pure Alloy - Pure Wine - Pure milk - unadulterated.

B) Pure motives, flow from a pure heart

C) In my years of ministry- I have come across people who because their motive is wrong

1) resort to manipulation to try and get their way in a particular situation

D) Seen people justify church splits - disunity in a church - pulling people to their side

1) I have seen people spiritualize and justify slander

E) At the core of it all- the issue was impure motives

They wanted a role or a position - and rather than allowing the Lord to put them there

A) They would manipulate others, and try to win others to their side or point to view.

B) Like Absalom - Stood in the gate - made himself available - instead of covering dad

1) My dad is too busy- or my dad is not interested but I am.

C) That kind of thing happens all the time in churches - Impure motives

1) I will do whatever I need to do to get where I want to be. Get my way

¹⁵ 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.

Be careful to not take these words out of context

A) People have used that verse to justify vile magazines, suggestive movies, and even immorality itself.

B) Let it be clearly understood that this verse has absolutely nothing to do with things that are sinful in themselves and condemned in the Bible...

C) This saying must be understood in the light of the context.

Paul has not been speaking about matters of clear-cut morality, of things that are inherently right or wrong.

A) He is referencing things that ¹⁴ not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men who turn from the truth

B) Legalist were majoring on minor issues - feast days and sabbaths -

C) Eating food sacrificed to idols

1) things that were ceremonially defiling for a Jew living under the law

D) but that are perfectly legitimate for a Christian living under grace.

An obvious example is the eating of pork.

A) It was forbidden to God's people in the OT,

B) but the Jesus changed all that when He said that nothing entering into a man can defile him ([Mk 7:15](#)).

C) Paul echoed this truth when he said: "But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse" ([1Cor 8:8](#)).

It is not what a person eats that defiles him but what comes out of his heart ([Mk 7:20 21 22 23](#)).

A) But the false teachers - the legalist were teaching that Jewish dietary laws still applied to Christian believers (see 1 Tim. 4:3-5).

B) They said If you ate forbidden food, you defiled yourself;

1) but if you refused that food, you became holier.

C) Paul is arguing the opposite: "These teachers have defiled minds and consciences.

D) Therefore, when they look at these innocent foods, they see sin, because sin has defiled their vision.

E) But those of us who have pure minds and consciences know that all foods are clean.

1) It is not the foods which are defiling the teachers; it is the teachers who are defiling the foods!"

Modern day example:

A) The debate between secular and sacred - is there even such a thing?

B) Backward masking? - hidden messages - turn you into a Satan worshipper

C) Music is music - our calling is to be a discerning listener

I like to listen to classical instrumental music when I study - unsaved composers - is that wrong

A) U2 is a favorite band - several of the members profess to be Christians

B)but their songs are not overtly Christian - but they are songs that promote justice

1)Songs that challenge wrong -

C)Cold play - has songs like that

D)Happy Birthday

To the pure - they are able to discern is this a song that is appropriate - good lyrics

A)Discern between a song - that might have great beat but bad lyrics

B)But to those who are bound in legalism - they can't discern that -

C)Any music that doesn't glorify Christ is wrong

When an Elder is a man of the Word - balanced in grace - lover of what is good

A)He will properly discern those types of things

B)A Elder will take seriously from trying to keep others from being brought under bondage