

Paul's Reasons to Titus Why It's Important  
To Have Godly Church Leadership  
Titus 1:10-16  
3/26/25

A quick recap and context overview:

Audience: Paul is speaking to Titus after being left behind to continue missions work on the island of Crete by Paul. (1:5)

Context: Paul has just laid out the qualifications for church leadership. He now continues the thought started in vs. 9 on holding fast to the true word of God and being able to give instruction in sound doctrine and having discretion when others contradict truth.

What we will see in our section today is the situation and type of people Titus and the church leaders were dealing with. Most of whom would purposely oppose the true word of God and would deliberately pull believers away from the church, being "insubordinate" to scriptural teaching.

### Read Titus 1:10-16

(vs. 10) There are a few words here that could use some defining.

Insubordinate: These would be false teachers who not only would not be submissive to the church or its leadership, but they may also have been opposed to Paul's authority as an apostle while he was in Crete.

Empty talkers: The original greek word for this is translated "mataiologos", meaning one who utters empty senseless things.\*

Deceivers: One who misleads his listeners and seduces them into believing a lie.

### 1 John 1: 7-11

"For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. See to yourselves, that you do not lose what we accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. Anyone who goes

too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. The one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting, for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

Circumcision party: These people were the Jews that taught that salvation required the physical action of circumcision along with many other works and rituals. Because these people denied the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, they still placed their faith in themselves and how well they could adhere to the Mosaic ceremonies. After debating these things in Acts 10, this is the conclusion Paul makes in vs. 11, “But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus”.

#### Galatians 3: 23-26

“But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the Law, being confined for the faith that was destined to be revealed. **24** Therefore the Law has become our guardian to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian. For you are all sons and daughters of God through faith in Christ Jesus.”

\*Greek translations and definitions taken from the Blue Letter Bible.

(vs. 11) These false teachers needed to be counter acted.

Note that within the context, Paul is not calling for violence against these false teachers or saying that anyone should take matters into their own hands. Paul has given guidelines and supported the need for strong, godly leadership that would act as protective shepherds of the folk, teaching and admonishing the believers. When Christians are taught well and their hearts are aligned with God’s word, the threat of these false teachers falls apart. The weak in Christ are made strong, the immature are made mature. This is how we silence falsehood.

### Ephesians 4:14-15

“As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, *even Christ*”

“Satan’s greatest weapon is man’s ignorance of God’s Word.”

A. W. Tozer

How do we live this out in our own lives? What is some practical application? How do we ensure that the weapon of ignorance is not used against us?

Are you diligent in your study of God’s Word?

Are you praying for wisdom and that the Holy Spirit will give you discernment?

### James 1: 5

“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

Strong, wise leadership within the church would also inhibit anyone from slipping through the cracks and being given the space to preach within the church itself. This wolf in sheep’s clothing would be especially dangerous as they would have more pull on a congregation that trusts its leaders for truth and wisdom.

Lies and a skewed gospel were causing divisions within families. I’m sure we see this often in our own families or friends as we encounter beliefs that do not line up with the true gospel.

False teachers are also in the business of making money and securing power for themselves. Paul condemns this many times and even had chosen to work in tent making in order to not be a burden financially to the church and to ensure he was not being mistaken for a greedy false teacher.

### 1 Thessalonians 2: 9-12

“For you recall, brothers and sisters, our labor and hardship: it was by working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, that we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and so is God, of how devoutly and rightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”

2 Peter 2: 10-15 also confirms the shame and intentionality of greedy false teachers like this. Peter says, “bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme...” “They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed.” He goes on to call them “accursed children, forsaking the right way.”

(vs. 12-14) Paul finds a witness.

Just in case we weren't totally sure if the people of Crete were corrupt sinners, Paul gives his statements credibility by pointing out that their own prophet and native Cretan agreed that the people were evil. It was not surprising to even the pagan religious leaders that their fellow citizens were marked by lies and deceitfulness, striving only for their own gain.

Can you see why the church needed strong and good leadership? Do you agree that we today are in a similar situation? Do we also live in a corrupt culture and are in need of good godly leadership within our churches?

Paul agrees, stating that the testimony is true and then tells Titus to rebuke them.

Why? What was the goal of rebuking falsehood? — That they may be sound in faith! Just because the people were lost to their own sin and blindness and defined by evil, they were not given up on. The goal is always sound doctrine enabling souls to be planted in a solid faith.

A quick recap of the world Titus was being sent to: The culture was characterized by deception, debauchery, pursuit of happiness through sin, and deviation from the truth. These were true then and are still true today.

A quick recap of what Titus's task was: He was to establish leaders in those churches who would provide a contrast of credibility against the backdrop of contamination and cultural corruption.

Again... are we seeing any similarities?

The take away for American churches today: Contradict falsehood, confront wickedness, and counter the devil's work by emphasizing and applying what it looks like to walk in sound doctrine.

Verse 14 mentions Jewish myths as well, and the commands of people who are ignoring the truth. This is the legalism we have seen so many times before in the teachings of the Jewish Pharisees. Jesus himself rebuked this consistently through His earthly ministry.

### Matthew 23:23

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the Law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.”

### Matthew 15: 1-3

“Then some Pharisees and scribes \*came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, “Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.” And He answered and said to them, “Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?”

### Matthew 12: 1-8

“At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath, and His disciples became hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat. But when the Pharisees saw *this*, they said to Him, “Look, Your disciples do what is not lawful to do on a Sabbath.” But He said to them, “Have you

not read what David did when he became hungry, he and his companions, how he entered the house of God, and they ate the consecrated bread, which was not lawful for him to eat nor for those with him, but for the priests alone? Or have you not read in the Law, that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and are innocent? But I say to you that something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, 'I desire compassion, and not a sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

(vs. 15) This verse is good insight to how our consciences function. God's design is for our consciences to be a warning sign to us to stay clear of sin. When we are well informed and knowledgeable of God's precepts, our consciences are also strengthened and able to work more effectively.

When we are not strengthening our minds with the truth of God's Word - or in this case unbelievers - our consciences are stained and unable to guide us accurately.

### 1 Timothy 1: 18-19

"This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and made shipwreck in regard to their faith."

This also sets a good reminder for us that our consciences need to be trained and trained well. They can easily be misled or be persuaded wrongly by our emotions.

As believers, we can praise the Lord for giving us the Holy Spirit to dwell within us and help us understand and follow God's law. The Holy Spirit also helps to align our minds with God's will as we submit our hearts to him.

Are there things in your life that you have become more sensitive to after becoming a Christian? As sanctification continues in your life, are there areas you see your conscience loosening or becoming tighter?

\*Remember! These are personal reflection questions. We do not judge others for areas that Christ has not made black-and-white. We are all on our own sanctification journey, and we must show grace and love towards our fellow believer as our hearts and consciences may not always align perfectly.

Of course, when when it comes to black-and-white issues, we need to be able to set our consciences and feelings aside and follow Christ willingly. Knowing that as we give up ourselves for the sake of holiness, our consciousness and hearts will follow.

John 14: 26

“but the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

(vs. 16) Once again, something we are all too familiar with are those who say they are Christians or claim to be saved whose actions do not support their claim.

Matthew 7: 15-16

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits.”

1 John 2: 4

“He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”

This is a very straight forward test. Do we live out the name of Christ in our lives or are we giving Him a bad rep?

I hear way too often that the reason people stop going to church is because there are so many “Christians” that are unwelcoming, unloving, liars, gossipers, hypocrites, greedy and so on. Ladies, if nothing else, let

your take away from today be to examine your lives and intentionally seek the fruits of the Spirit so that you indeed may be fit for every good work and able to be used by the Lord to draw others closer to Himself.

Take a moment to praise God for His establishment of godly leaders and teachers within our church. May our hearts be soften to His Word as they diligently preach it and may our actions reap the benefit as we live more sanctified, holy lives.

Pray that God will open your eyes to sin you may not even be aware of yet and pray that The Holy Spirit has His way with your conscience enabling you to not only profess God, but prove Him through your works.