

LESSON THREE
TITUS 1:10-16
"Defending the Gospel"

Identifying & Confronting False Teachers

The Epistle to Titus

- **Introduction**: Titus 1:1-4:
  - Salutation, Promise, & Paul's Mission
- **Body**: Titus 1:5 – Titus 3:11
  - Appoint Elders
  - Provide Sound (Healthy) Doctrine
  - Encourage Holy Living
- **Conclusion**: Titus 3:12-15
  - Personal greetings & further instructions

Holiness in the Body of Christ

Introduction		
✓ Lesson One	Titus 1:1-4	Salutation, God's Promise, Mission
✓ Lesson Two	Titus 1: 5-9	Godly Leaders: Elder Characteristics
Lesson Three	Titus 1: 10-16	Defending the Gospel
Lesson Four	Titus 2: 1-6	Sound Doctrine for every Generation
Lesson Five	Titus 2: 7-10	Adorning the Gospel
Lesson Six	Titus 2:11-15	The Power of God's Grace
Lesson Seven	Titus 3: 1-7	Christlike Kindness and Mercy
Lesson Eight	Titus 3: 8-15	Zealous for Good Works
Conclusion		

Titus 1:1-9 Review

- **Verses 1–4: The Gospel Foundation** (Paul's authority and commission) Paul communicates his credentials; a Servant of God and an Apostle of Christ, tied to the truth that leads to godliness and the hope of eternal life…
- **Verse 5:** Paul left Titus in Crete to: Appoint elders in every town and put in order what was left unfinished.

Titus 1: 1 - 9 Review

Verses 6-8: Paul sets elder characteristics leaders must posses to anchor the church.

- Blameless
- Husband of one wife
- Having faithful children
- Lover of hospitality
- Lover of good men
- Sober
- Just
- Holy
- Temperate
- Not Self-willed
- Not soon Angry
- Not given to Wine
- No Striker
- Not given to Filthy Lucre

Titus 1: 1- 9 Review

- **Verse 9:** A final qualification is that Elders must hold fast/firm to the faithful word
  - To be able to exhort by sound doctrine
  - To be able to rebuke those who oppose the word

TITUS CHAPTER ONE
"THE CHURCH"

God the Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; [2] In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; [3] But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour; [4] To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Godly Leadership: Appoint Elders with Reputable Character & Integrity

Blameless, Husband of One Wife, Faithful Children, Not Self-Willed, Not Soon Angry, Not Given to Wine, Not Striker, Not Given to Filthy Lucre, Lover of Hospitality, Lover of Good Men, Sober, Just, Holy, Temperate, Holding Fast the Faithful Word

Defend the Gospel: Rebuke False Teaching

Identify, Confront, & Restore

Lesson Three

Titus 1:10-16

Defending the Gospel

Titus 1:10-13 (KJV)

10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:

11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

12 One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, the Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.

13 This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

Titus 1:14-16 (KJV)

14 Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.

15 Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

Titus 1:10 For there are **many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers,** specially they of the circumcision:

False Teachers

- **Unruly** – rebellious, resistant to God's order and authority
- **Vain Talkers** – there speech is persuasive and religiously decorated but spiritually empty
- **Deceivers** – there words mislead, distort grace, or add human requirements to the Gospel

FALSE TEACHERS

Matthew 7:15 (NIV): “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them.”

Jude 1:4 (NIV): “For certain individuals, whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.”

1 Timothy 4:1(NIV) The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.

Titus 1:10 For there are <u>many</u> unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, <u>specially they of the circumcision</u>:

Judaism for Christianity

- In the early church, Jewish Christian believers insisted that Gentile converts adopt the Law of Moses as a requirement for Salvation
- Most notably, the laws for Jewish ceremonies, rituals, diet, & circumcision.

Titus 1:11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

False teachers must be silenced/stopped.

Subvert/Damage/Disrupt/Ruin/ the church - households

- In the early church, believers met in homes. False teaching could therefore mislead entire families, undermining faith and unity in the Body of Christ.

Titus 1:11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

Corrupt Motives

- Paul highlights that these teachers were driven by **dishonest gain.**
- Shaping their message **to profit financially**.
  - Ministry is a business or a means to profit for them.

This corrupt motive disqualified them from Eldership.

Corrupt Motives

2 Peter 2: 1-3a; “But there were also false prophets among the *people*, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. ***In their greed*** these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories…

Titus 1:12 One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, the Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.

The Cretian Culture was Corrupt:

Paul cites a Cretan (Greek) “poet & prophet”:

Identified historically as Epimenides, wrote about the island’s reputation for **deceit, brutality, and laziness.**

The Cretian culture made it easy for false teachers to take advantage of current cultural vices (laziness, greed, deceit).

Corrupt Culture Affects the Body of Christ

- When corruption - such as greed, abuse of power, or hypocrisy exists in the Body of Christ **it damages the witness of the church**.
- Corruption in the church can lead to spiritual stagnation, where the focus **shifts from the kingdom of God to worldly priorities**
- A corrupt culture could pressure the church to **soften the gospel to accommodate social norms**.
- When church leaders or institutions align with corrupt cultural values, they **lose moral credibility**.

Countering a Cretian (Corrupt) Culture:

The church cannot adopt the surrounding culture's values; we must counter them with:

- Strong Christian Leadership
- Sound Doctrine
- Godly Living

Titus 1:13 This witness is true. Wherefore **rebuke** them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

Paul's instructions: silence them "sharply"

- By exposing, reproving, or convicting them with evidence.
- It is not gentle criticism; it is direct, firm, and sometimes harsh correction
- The gospel must be defended to prevent damage to the Body of Christ

Titus 1:13 This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

The goal is not cruelty, but restoration—that they may be "sound in the faith".

- Correction can be firm — love for the church may require sternness, not softness
- The aim is sound doctrine & spiritual health

Titus 1:14 **Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men**, that turn from the truth.

- Reject "Jewish fables and the commandments of men“
- Prioritize scripture and the gospel over human interpretations.
- Discern truth from error in teachings and traditions.

Titus 1:14 Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, **that turn from the truth.**

- Defend/Guard the church against influences that distort faith and morality
- Rebuke messages contrary to the gospel of grace
- Ground the church in the Word of God, not in cultural or religious traditions

Titus 1:15 **Unto the pure** all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

- The “pure” are those whose hearts have been cleansed by Christ.
  - **John 15:3** says, “You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.”
  - **Acts 15:9** states, “He made no distinction between us and them (Jews & Gentiles), for he purified their hearts by faith.”
  - **Matthew 5:8** reads: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God

Titus 1:15 Unto the pure **all things are pure**: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

"The heart that seeks to glorify God sees the world through a lens of love and hope. Purity in heart transforms our perceptions." **– Max Lucado**

- Life is seen through the lens of the blood of Christ
- All things" refers especially to morally neutral matters—foods, days, rituals.
- A believer with a clean conscience can receive these things with thanksgiving.
- This does **not** mean sinful actions become acceptable; rather, neutral things are not spiritually contaminating

Titus 1:16 **They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him,** being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

- **Behavior** is the real evidence of your belief
- **Hypocrisy** is exposed by actions.
- Without **genuine faith**, religious activity is counterfeit

Titus 1:16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, **being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate**.

- Abominable – extremely bad, disgusting, detestable, atrocious, awful
  - Offends God's Holy Character
- Disobedient – refusing to obey rules, laws, instruction, or authority
  - Reveals a heart not submitted to Christ
- Reprobate – unprincipled, wicked, immoral, corrupt
  - Identifies one with ***NO*** moral compass

Defend the Gospel

Jude 1:3 (AMP) “Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I was compelled to write to you *[urgently]* appealing that you *fight strenuously* for *[the defense of]* the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints *[the faith that is the sum of Christian belief that was given verbally to believers]*.”

Questions & Comments

To check your understanding complete the Lesson Three Handout

For Lesson Four read Titus 2: 1 - 6

Lesson Three; Titus 1:10–16

Match The verses in Column A to meanings in Column B

Column A Verses

1. _____ “Insubordinate, empty talkers, and deceivers” (v.10)
2. _____ “Especially those of the circumcision party” (v.10)
3. _____ “They must be silenced” (v.11)
4. _____ “Upsetting whole families” (v.11)
5. _____ “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons” (v.12)
6. _____ “Rebuke them sharply” (v.13)
7. _____ “Not devoting themselves to Jewish myths” (v.14)
8. _____ “To the pure, all things are pure” (v.15)
9. _____ “They profess to know God, but deny him by their works” (v.16)
10. _____ “Unfit for any good work” (v.16)

Column B — Meanings, Context, or Responsibilities

A. Their lifestyle contradicts their claims, revealing hypocrisy
B. A cultural quote Paul uses to show the seriousness of Crete’s moral environment
C. Their teaching causes spiritual damage within households and communities
D. Purity is determined by the heart transformed by the gospel, not external rules
E. False teachers who mislead through persuasive but empty speech
F. Titus must stop their influence to protect the church from deception
G. Correction aims to restore sound faith, not merely punish
H. These myths represent human-made rules that distract from truth
I. Their corrupted minds and consciences make them unable to produce godly fruit
J. A group promoting legalism and requiring circumcision and law-keeping for salvation