

Titus 1:1-9

Faithful Leaders

- Paul is clearly stating that he is under divine authority.

*slave by choice
Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ,

- Why use titles of bond-servant & apostle? Acts 20:24 Phil 2:17
- As a slave of God, Paul has no plans, purposes, desires or direction of his own. Rom 6:22 2 Cor 5:15

[for the faith of [those chosen of God] and the knowledge of the truth which is [according to godliness]

*the church

[clear perception of truth]

World of God [leading towards]
John 17:17; 1 Tim 2:3-4
Rom 10:17; 2 Tim 2:25

Faith + Truth = godliness
Titus 2:11-12 / 1 Tim 4:7-8
*The lost do not understand the truth. 2 Tim 3:7

² in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

1 John 3:2-3
Phil 3:8-11
Rom 8:18-23

*God is the source of hope and promises.

God's nature = truth
Satan's nature = liar

Before time
Eph 1:4-5
2 Tim 1:9
Heb 13:20

*We cannot obey God's will if we do not know what it is.
*We must know Him and His expectations.

³ but [at the proper time] manifested, even His word, in the [proclamation] with HIS timing

*God's Word is our only source of knowing Him, experiencing Him and glorifying Him.

preaching → 1 Cor 1:21; 2:4 / Col 1:25
↳ of what? His Word Gal 1:15-16

*preaching should: through the Word bring faith, build up in divine truth that leads to godliness

which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior,

*Paul was commanded to preach.
*God's call upon my life is not optional.

*God alone SAVES!
John 14:6

⁴ To Titus, my true child in a common faith, Grace and peace from [God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.]

* Shared

* Father & Son work together.

- Grace & peace come only from God.
- Grace & peace are gifts from the Father and Son that we experience through the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Grace & peace became a common Christian greeting.

⁵ For this reason I left you in Crete,

that you would [set in order what remains] and [appoint elders in every city] as I directed you,

*set in: "ortho" = make straight

*Based upon the repeated themes in the letter Titus was to make straight:
- certain doctrines (1:10-11, 13-14; 2:1)
- practices (1:12, 16; 3:9)

- churches need leaders. Emphasis on the right kind of leaders.
- Without the right leadership deceivers (1:10) and foolish controversies (3:9) will infiltrate the church.
- Ultimately, the Holy Spirit calls and equips elders. Acts 20:28

① 6 namely, if any man is above reproach, ②

Elders are men

↳ free from moral and spiritual charge.

* The elder is not marked by intelligence, education, influence or talent but by his moral and spiritual character measured by Scripture.

③ the husband of one wife ④ having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion

* children that follow his leadership with respect.

Early church understood this to be a man never divorced.

OVERVIEW: An elder must be ① a man, ② moral & spiritually mature, ③ a faithful husband and ④ leading his children well.

7 For the overseer must be

* The word Bishop

* Elder, bishop, pastor = same office

Not negotiational expectations

* Verse 7-8 clarify what being "above reproach" means.

above reproach as God's steward,

* Steward: manager of the owners household. Practically, God owns the church and the elders are given oversight.

* As stewards, elders are responsible to God for what they do or fail to do in directing and serving the church.

* Remember: ALL that we have belongs to God.

measurable characteristics of an elder

① [not self-willed] arrogant self-interest

② [not quick-tempered] given to anger 2 Tim 2:24

③ [not addicted to wine] not a companion to alcohol

④ [not pugnacious] physical fights

⑤ [not fond of sordid gain] unethical material gain "shady"

⑥ [but hospitable] gives practical help

⑦ [loving what is good] Phil 4:8

⑧ [sensible] sober minded

⑨ [just] right

⑩ [devout] true to divine direction & purpose

⑪ [self-controlled] ↳ stable in following Christ submit himself fully to Christ.

measurable functions of an elder

9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching,

* Always true, pure, right 1 Tim 4:6 / Act 6:4

2 Tim 3:16 Acts 2:42

* The elder must be unwavering in his loyalty to Scripture.

divinely revealed truth (John 17:17)

so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

Why all the qualifications?

- * Exhort: to urge, beseech & encourage
- * Sound: being healthy (our english word hygienic)
- * Sound doctrine provides spiritual health
- * Refute: to speak against
- * Contradict: oppose (context: oppose sound doctrine)

Elders must be prepare mentally, morally & spiritually to proclaim and defend God's Word.

Reflection Questions

- How would you describe yourself? - see verse 1
- How do we seek godliness? - see verse 1
- How important is the Word of God?
- Why does the church need the right leader?
- Why are the qualifications of an elder important?
- How faithful are you in seeking sound doctrine?