

Titus 1:10-16

Rebellious People

Section 1: 1:10-11

¹⁰For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, ¹¹who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.

Were wolves in sheep clothing present in the early church? Yes. There were many rebellious men. Is it different today? No. If you never hear anything that sounds like false doctrine in our world...uh oh, because there are many rebellious men and women.

What are their characteristics? They are empty talkers and deceivers. Empty talkers are those that can “say a lot” without “saying anything”. Sound bites that sound good should still be compared to the Word of God.

How should we respond to them? Silence them. Those that contradict the Word of God are rebellious men that are doing the work of Satan. Whether they realize it or not.

Why? (1) They are upsetting whole families and (2) teaching falsehood for sordid gain.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ How do you recognize false teachings?
- ❖ Why is it important to read and teach the Bible as one continuous story from Genesis to Revelation?
- ❖ Why is it important to protect the teachings of the church?
- ❖ Why are those that teach false doctrine so dangerous?

Section 2: 1:12-14

¹²One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” ¹³This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.

Why do we reprove false teachers? So that they may be sound in the faith. The hope is correction not condemnation. Just like with church discipline. The purpose of accountability has always been restoration. But without the correction and repentance restoration can never happen.

Traditions, myths and man centered commandments cause people to move away from the truth. That means these things are dangerous. We need to be a people that follow the Word of God and ignore the traditions, myths and commands of man when it comes to knowing and worshipping God.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why is accountability so important to the life of the church?
- ❖ Why should we always have restoration in mind when we bring correction?
- ❖ How can traditions, myths and the commands of man be so dangerous?

Section 3: 1:15-16

¹⁵To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. ¹⁶They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

It is impossible to be good and do good apart from Christ. There is not a single lost person that does one thing that is righteous. Isaiah 64:6 and Romans 3:10-12 (Psalm 14 & 53):

For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

¹⁰as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; ¹¹There is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; ¹²All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, there is not even one."

It's a difficult thing to say but it doesn't change the reality of the situation...your lost friends, family, neighbors, co-workers...are evil in the sight of the Lord. In verse 16 they are referred to as detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

There are even those that profess to know God but they are detestable and disobedient. Paul tells us that their deeds deny that they faithfully believe and follow God. Two Scriptures to consider in self-evaluation: Galatians 5:22-24 (Fruit of the Spirit) and James 2:18-26 (Faith in Action).

The gospel isn't some fairytale story that sounds good and may or may not be needed. The gospel is ABSOLUTELY NESSECARRY! You cannot satisfy the wrath of God. No amount of "good deeds" will ever make you right before a holy and just God.

Understanding one's condition without Christ should move us to get them the gospel. I've noticed that believers' urgency to share the gospel wains when we soften people's spiritual condition. Without Christ you are wicked and deserve eternal punishment in hell. Why are you considered wicked? Because the glory and holiness of God is so magnificent that man is left looking evil.

Have you ever opened up a cup and it's full of mold? That is man. We may look good on the outside...charity work, serving the community, feeding the poor, etc. But God looks at the soul and spirit. It doesn't matter how clean the outside of a cup is...if its full of mold on the inside...it's worthless.

We desperately need Jesus. We need to be spiritually cleansed. Our only hope is the gospel.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why do we need the gospel?
- ❖ Why do we need to share the gospel?