

Titus 1:9 — “*The Duty of Every Elder/Pastor: Hold Fast the Word to Teach the Truth & to Prevent Lies!*”

“Every pastor ought to have two voices: one, for gathering the sheep; and another, for warding off and driving away wolves & thieves. The Scripture supplies him with the means of doing both!” (John Calvin)

WHY is this so crucial to maintain the two-fold role of teaching & defending?

1. because of OBEDIENCE TO GOD
2. because of LOVE FOR TRUTH
3. because of WORTH OF SOULS
4. because of SUBTLETIES OF SATAN
5. because of IMITATION OF JESUS

Every elder/pastor must be an *expert* on one thing: the Bible!

Background to Titus 1:

We’ve been seeing that the elder must be **ABOVE REPROACH** — (1.6 & 1.7)

1. domestic piety // in the HOME (6) [marriage/parenting/purity/leading]
2. honorable integrity/character // in his HEART (7-8) [self-control, integrity, holiness, self-discipline]
- 3. theological fidelity // in his ABILITY (9)**

The last characteristic of elders (v.9) is LAST BUT CRUCIAL!

It’s FINAL, but it’s ESSENTIAL.

It’s mentioned LAST but it’s of PRIMARY importance!

Now, Titus 1.9 says he must “hold fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching...”

- “hold fast” the faithful word —

- Which is in accordance with the teaching [=the doctrine]—

THESIS — Every elder must **HOLD fast the Word for two main purposes...**

*Every elder must be a “BIBLE-MAN.” Here’s why.

I. TO EXHORT IN SOUND DOCTRINE (9a)

A. To “**exhort**” means:

B. In **sound doctrine** (lit. *Healthy doctrine*):

Every faithful elder/pastor must **(1)** get in, **(2)** grow in, **(3)** give out *sound doctrine!*

II. TO REFUTE THOSE WHO CONTRADICT (9b)

The MINISTER MUST ALWAYS PROMOTE THE TRUTH AND WARD OFF ERROR (Homer Kent).

Part of good leadership requires the preventing from harmful half-truths.

A. To “**rebuke**” means:

B. Those who ‘**contradict**’:

This requires a fear of God that swallows up the fear of man.

The ambition to please God must squeeze out the man-pleasing temptations.

One preacher put it like this:

“The dual role of the godly preacher and teacher is to proclaim and to defend God’s Word. In the eyes of the world and, tragically, in the eyes of many genuine but untaught believers, to denounce false doctrine—especially if that doctrine is given under the guise of evangelicalism—is to be unloving, judgmental, and divisive...The faithful pastor must have no part in it. He himself tolerates, and he teaches his people to tolerate, only sound doctrine.”

SINGING to the tune of: *Jesus Shall Reign!*

O bless thy servant, dearest Lord,
While he shall preach thy gospel word;
May he declare delightful things,
Touching the glorious King of kings.

O grant him bright celestial views,
While he proclaims the gospel news;
With fiery zeal his soul inflame,
While he exalts the bleeding Lamb.

Give him clear light, and burning love;
Shower down thy blessings from above;
O may we hear the Savior’s voice,
And in his precious name rejoice.

Where two or three, with sweet accord,
Obedient to their sovereign Lord,
Meet to recount his acts of grace,
And offer solemn prayer and praise;

“There,” says the Savior, “will I be,
Amid this little company;
To them unveil my smiling face,
And shed my glories round the place.”

We meet at thy command, dear Lord;
Relying on thy faithful word;
Now send thy Spirit from above;
Now fill our hearts with heavenly love.

Hymn medley from the Gadsby Hymnal