

5 This is why I left you in Crete,
so that you might put what remained into order,

Paul's reason for leaving Titus in Crete. 'Put in order' is the overall task; 'appoint elders' is the first step in that task.

and appoint elders in every town
as I directed you—

Who an elder is --
one above reproach

6 if anyone is above reproach,

Above reproach in family life

the husband of one wife,

and his children are believers

The reason for being above reproach -- he has a stewardship from God.

and not open to the charge of debauchery
or insubordination.

7 For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach

He must not be arrogant

Above reproach in reputation

or quick-tempered

or a drunkard

or violent

or greedy for gain,

Negative descriptions of being above reproach

8 but [he must be] hospitable,

a lover of good,

self-controlled,

upright,

holy,

and disciplined.

Positive descriptions of being above reproach

9 He must hold firm to the trustworthy word

as taught,

so that he may be able

to give instruction in sound doctrine

and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

What an elder does --
hold firm to the word...to give instruction...to rebuke

10 For there are many who are insubordinate,
empty talkers
and deceivers,
especially those of the circumcision party.

11 They must be silenced,
since they are upsetting whole families
by teaching for shameful gain
what they ought not to teach.

12 One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said,
“Cretans are always liars,
evil beasts,
lazy gluttons.”

13 This testimony is true.

Therefore rebuke them sharply,

that they may be sound in the faith,

14 not devoting themselves to Jewish myths
and the commands of people who turn away from the truth.

15 To the pure, all things are pure,
but to the defiled and unbelieving,
nothing is pure;
but both their minds and their consciences are defiled.

16 They profess to know God,
but they deny him by their works.

They are detestable,
disobedient,
unfit for any good work.