

Edgemont Bible Church
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Titus 1:10-16

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Intro: Paul was very direct about truth. He charged Titus, and thus the churches, not to just correct false teaching and denounce the immoral behavior of those that teach it, but to silence them and remove such men from the fellowship. These men were much like those in Ephesus, where Paul warned Timothy to charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith – 1 Tim 1:3-4. And from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm - 1Ti 1:6-7. These may have been salvagable, but those in Crete had moved beyond being salvagable - They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work - Tit 1:16. The task of the Church and especially of godly leaders is to silence those who associate with the body of Christ for the purpose of perverting God's truth and confuse and corrupt His people. **First**, they must overpower them with truth. Jesus thwarted Satan's temptation by countering each with Scripture. He dealt with the unbelieving Sadducee's attempt to confound Him with unanswerable questions by saying - "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven - Mt 22:29-30. In so doing, He had silenced the Sadducees - Mt 22:34. And again, He did the same thing with the Pharisees - Mt 22:35-39, 46. **Second**, they must revoke the right to preach, teach, or have leadership authority in the Church. That would include refusing to support them in what they write or propagate through other ministerial means. **Third**, false teachers are to be opposed by believers living holy lives. Error promotes sin, ultimately false teachers will live sinful lives, where righteous living promotes truth and it "is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men – 1 Pe 2:15. Here, Paul describes the false teachers, specifies what reaction to them should be, and evaluates their lives.

IV. Men Who Must Be Silenced

A. The Description of those who must be silenced

1. Their Proliferation – vs 10a

a. For there are many

b. This is why Titus was to appoint elders in every city – vs 5

i. no one man could have time to deal with the growing number of heretics

ii. most of the believers were new in the faith and had little defense against false doctrine

c. The greatest spiritual danger always comes from within the Church

i. Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. - Ro 16:17-18

ii. "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. "Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. - Acts 20:29-30

- d. By definition, dissension comes from within a group
 - i. they disguise themselves as believers and true teachers of the Gospel
 - ii. Ga 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.
- 2. Their Behavior – vs 10b
 - a. insubordinate,
 - i. they are spiritual and moral insurgents
 - ii. They are enemies of God
 - b. both idle talkers
 - i. they are captivating and persuasive
 - ii. Their words are smooth and cleverly disguise their falsehoods in terms that make them seem true
 - c. and deceivers,
 - i. they usually disguise their deceit in biblical terminology
 - ii. They seldom lack for an audience – 2 Tim 4:3-4
 - d. especially those of the circumcision,
 - i. the early church was plagued by Judaizers
 - they tried to obligate believers to Jewish legalism
 - even though the Jerusalem Council ruled that circumcision was not necessary – Acts 15
 - Peter stepped away from Gentiles when the Jews showed up and Paul had to rebuke him – Gal 2:11-12
 - ii. They are enemies of God and must be opposed
- 3. Their Effect – vs 11a
 - a. whose mouths must be stopped,
 - i. they were not speaking in the main worship service
 - ii. in a large group, there was more likely to be someone with discernment
 - b. who subvert whole households,
 - i. small group was easier to intimidate
 - ii. cults focus on person to person, door to door ministries
 - c. teaching things which they ought not,
 - i. For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, - 2Ti 3:6
 - ii. Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. - 2Ti 2:14
 - iii. But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. - 2Ti 2:16
- 4. Their Motive – vs 11b
 - a. for the sake of dishonest gain.
 - b. he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself. - 1Ti 6:4-5
- 5. Their Character – vs 12-13a

- a. One of them, a prophet of their own, said,
 - i. the poet Epimenides, 6th century B.C., one of the seven great wise men of Greece
 - ii. He was Cretan, so his statement was not in malice and he may have been exaggerating, but his assessment was correct
 - b. "Cretans are always
 - i. liars, - their most famous falsehood, a self deception, that the god Zeus was buried on their island
 - ii. evil beasts, - behaving like a wild animal, living on the level of sensual appetites and passions
 - iii. lazy gluttons – they were self indulgent, hated to work, greedy, lustful, overfed, perhaps in poor shape
 - c. This testimony is true.
- B. Reaction to the Men who must be silenced – vs 13b-14
- 1. Reprove Them – vs 13b
 - a. rebuke them sharply,
 - i. **apotomos** - abruptly, peremptorily:--sharply(-ness).
 - ii. this rebuke was to cut with penetrating force
 - b. that they may be sound in the faith,
 - i. the rebuke was to be remedial, not to condemn
 - ii. to seek to correct their doctrinal error and personal sinfulness
 - 2. Repudiate Them – vs 14
 - a. not giving heed
 - i. carries the idea of devoting oneself to
 - ii. Used in 2 Co 6:14-18 to be bound together with an unbeliever
 - b. to Jewish fables and commandments of men
 - i. Paul gave same warning to Timothy
 - 1Ti 1:4 nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.
 - 1Ti 4:7 But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.
 - ii. the addition of man made traditions – Mk 7:5-9
 - c. who turn from the truth.
 - i. indicates they had been exposed to the truth and had acknowledged it
 - ii. rejected it for Satan inspired and man made myths, precepts, and traditions
- C. Evaluation of the Men Who must be Silenced – vs 15-16
- 1. Their Inner Lives – vs 15
 - a. To the pure all things are pure,
 - i. "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "Therefore by their fruits you will know them. - Mt 7:17-20
 - ii. Jewish legalism presumed that a person could become acceptable to God by meticulously following ceremonies and traditions that were considered good - Then the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees make the outside of the cup and dish clean, but your

inward part is full of greed and wickedness. "Foolish ones!
Did not He who made the outside make the inside also? - Lu 11:39-40

- b. but to those who are defiled and unbelieving
 - i. salvation through the ages has always been by faith in the revelation that God has revealed, so if they are not saved, it is b/c they are an unbeliever
 - ii. a person is morally and spiritually defiled by sin in their heart and mind, not by material things, - Mt 15:11-20
 - iii. Peter came to understand this several years later
 - he had a vision of a sheet filled with unclean animals, God telling him to eat, saying "What God has cleansed you must not call common" – Acts 10:10-17.
 - Next He is called to witness to Cornelius when he realized that Gentiles were not ceremonial unclean – Acts 10:20-48

2. Their Outer Lives – vs 16

- a. They profess to know God, - the self-righteous claim to know him better
- b. but in works they deny Him,
 - i. b/c of unbelief – vs 15, ultimately, what is in their heart comes out
 - 2Ti 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power.
 - Mt 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.
 - ii. The description of their works
 - being abominable – **bdeluktos** - detestable, idolatrous:-- abominable.
 - disobedient – their life will betray their profession – Eph 2:2
 - and disqualified for every good work.
 - **Adokimos** - unapproved, rejected; worthless, castaway, rejected, reprobate.
 - 2Ti 3:8 Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith;

Application: How many of us are diligent to listen to any message with an ear to discern? In Acts 17, we read about the Bereans, who when the Apostle Paul Spoke, they didn't get caught up with personality, they studied to see if what he was saying, lined up with scripture.

Ac 17:10-11 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.