

Order and Enterprise: Leadership in the Church

Titus 1:1-9

A PASTORAL LETTER

Paul → to Titus → in Crete



PAUL INTRODUCES HIMSELF

Titus 1:1-3

Paul, a BONDSERVANT of God and an APOSTLE of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began, ³ but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior;

Titus – A 'son' in the faith

With Paul in

- ANTIOCH
- JERUSALEM (Acts 15, Gal 1)
- CORINTH
- CRETE (!)

- If *anyone inquires* about Titus, *he is* my partner and fellow worker concerning you.
(2 Cor 8:23)

Cretan Christians' attitudes to Titus

- Not listening (ch1:10)
- Setting up alternative (different) ideas (ch 1:14; 2:11ff)
- Not submitting (ch2:5)

THE IMPORTANCE OF LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH

For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you. (v4)

TWIN tasks of the elders

MENDING: Fixing what is broken.
(ORDER)

COMPLETING: Finishing what is left undone
(ENTERPRISE)

Roles of elders

- Shepherd - "Shepherd the flock of God which is among you" (1 Peter 5:2)
- Bishop/Overseer – v7
- Steward – v7 – they must give an account (Hebrews 13:17)

Practical implications for church members

- Expect your elders to engage in ORDER and ENTERPRISE
- There will be occasions where you disagree with your elders' decisions
- Expect to be involved – otherwise the church doesn't work

THE RIGHT KIND OF LEADERS

Round #1 Men of Good Character (v6)

- Men with an excellent reputation
- Men who are faithful (to their wives)
- Men whose rule is respected (by their family)

Round #2 Disqualifications (v7)

- Self willed – focussed on what HE wants
- Quick-tempered – SNAPS easily
- Given to wine – UNDER the influence
- Violent – DESTRUCTIVE
- Greedy – wealth is an IDOL

Round #3 Requirements (vv8-9)

- Hospitable
- Lover of what is good
- Sober minded
- Just
- Holy
- Self-controlled
- Holding on to the word

CONCLUSION: ATTITUDES THAT HELP TO BUILD A HEALTHY CHURCH

- Embrace ORDER
- Embrace GROWTH (development, change)
- Pursue the character traits that you expect from your elders.