

# “Jerusalem Meets Rome and Finds Babylon: A Study in Church Purity”

Fall 2022-Spring 2023

## Organizing the Community – Acts 6; Titus; 1 Timothy 3

### I. The Need for Community

#### A. The Problem – Acts 6:1

1. Church Growth brings its own difficulties  
Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying,
2. The Ease of remembering your own and forgetting others
  - a. there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists,
  - b. because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

#### B. A Possible Secondary Problem – vs 2

1. Tendencies of normal leadership
  - a. Jump in and do
  - b. Ignore and let them figure it out
2. Delegation – the calling of some disciples
3. Prioritizing
  - a. Our Job - "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God
  - b. The need - serve tables.

#### C. A Solution -vs 3-7

1. The Work of the Ministry – vs 3a
  - a. The people find those that will serve
  - b. Guidelines to solve the problem – Qualifications for those who will serve
  - c. The appointment from the Leaders
2. The Reason for People to be the Solution – vs 4 - "but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."
3. The Commissioning – vs 5-6
  - a. People having responsibility for the work is pleasing
  - b. Seven chosen
  - c. Association with the leadership
    - i. Prayed for
    - ii. Laid hands on
4. The Result – vs 7
  - a. the word of God spread
  - b. the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem
  - c. a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith

### II. Not Just Servants – vs 8-15

#### A. More than Serving Tables - vs 8-10

1. Standing out by faith – vs 8
2. Can't argue with God – vs 9-10

#### B. The Framing of the Godly – vs 11-15

1. When you can't argue with God, ..... Lie – vs 11
2. Stir up the mob – vs 12
  - a. Tell CNN
  - b. Get some religious leaders and politicians involved
3. Operate a kangaroo court – vs 13-15
  - a. False witnesses

- b. False testimony
- c. Look grimly at the defendant
- d. The power of peace

### III. The Need and Qualifications for Elders – Titus 1; 1 Ti 3

#### A. God's Design has Leadership

##### 1. Why Titus was left in Crete

- a. Tit 1:5 - 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—
- b. *presbuteros* - older; a senior; an Israelite Sanhedrist (figuratively, member of the celestial council) or Christian "presbyter":-- elder(-est), old.
- c. *kathistemi* - to place down (permanently), to designate, constitute, convoy:--appoint, be, conduct, make, ordain, set.

##### 2. A good work to be Desired

- a. 1 Tim 3:1 - This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.
- b. *episkopos* - a superintendent, Christian officer in genitive case charge of a (or the) church, bishop, overseer.
- c. *oregomai* - to stretch oneself, reach out after (long for):--covet after, desire.

##### 3. Words for leader are used of the same men in Ac 20:17,28

#### B. Qualifications – vs 6-9

##### 1. Blameless

- a. Above reproach - unaccused, irreproachable, blameless; not arrested, unblameable.
- b. Repeated in vs 7; 1 Ti 3:2a

##### 2. the husband of one wife – vs 6; 1 Ti 3:2b

- a. A one-woman man
- b. The concept of proven faithfulness
  - i. Not dealing with must be married, can't be divorced, widowers, etc
  - ii. Deals with a man's sexual purity

##### 3. one who rules his own house well – vs 6; 1 Ti 3:4-5

- a. having faithful children
  - i. not accused of dissipation – excess, riot – drunken revelry
  - ii. .... insubordination. – unruly
- b. having his children in submission with all reverence
- c. (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);

##### 4. For a bishop must be blameless, - vs 7

- a. The imperative is used this time
- b. as a steward of God, - overseer or manager of another's household
  - i. What he must not be
    - not self-willed, - arrogant self-interest
    - not quick-tempered, - a propensity to anger
    - not given to wine, - to be continually along side of the wine, addicted – 1 Ti 3:3
    - not violent, - pugnacious, a fist-fighter, forceful to get one's way – 1 Ti 3:3
    - not greedy for money, covetous, - seeks wealth at any cost – 1 Ti 3:3
    - not quarrelsome, reluctant to fight, peaceful – 1 Ti 3:3
    - a novice - lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. - 1 Ti 3:6
  - ii. What he must be – vs 8

- Temperate -watchful, vigilant – 1 Ti 3:2b
- but hospitable, - giving practical help to those in need – 1 Ti 3:2b
- a lover of what is good, - having strong affection toward good
- of good behavior, respectable, an orderly life – 1 Ti 3:3
- sober-minded, - prudent, saved mind, sensible, of sound mind – 1 Ti 3:2b
- just, - what is proper or right
- holy, - true to divine direction and purpose
- self-controlled, - by the power of the Spirit, lives what he teaches
- gentle, considerate, congenial, forbearing – 1 Ti 3:3
- he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. – 1 Ti 3:7

### C. His Job

#### 1. What

- a. holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught,
  - i. primary ministry
  - ii. *antechomai* - to hold oneself opposite to, adhere to; to care for:--hold fast, hold to, support.
- b. Able to teach – 1 Ti 3:2b

#### 2. Why - that he may be able,

- a. by sound doctrine,
- b. those who contradict. - to dispute, refuse, answer again, contradict, deny, gainsay(-er), speak against.
  - i. both to exhort - to call near, invite, invoke, beseech, call for, (be of good) comfort, desire, (give) exhort(-ation), intreat, pray.
  - ii. and convict - to confute, admonish, convict, convince, tell a fault, rebuke, reprove.

### D. The Need – Tit 1:10-16 – False Teachers

1. many insubordinate
  - a. idle talkers and deceivers
  - b. especially those of the circumcision,
2. whose mouths must be stopped,
  - a. who subvert whole households,
  - b. teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.

## IV. The Qualifications for Deacons – 1 Ti 3:8-13

### A. Likewise, deacons – vs 8-10,12-13

#### 1. must be

- a. reverent, - serious in mind and character -
- b. not double-tongued, - saying one thing to one person and another to a second
- c. not given to much wine, to turn one's mind to, to occupy oneself with
- d. not greedy for money, - since they would be distributing money to widows, orphans, and others in need, don't be like Judas – Jo 12:4-6
- e. the husbands of one wife
  - i. ruling their children
  - ii. and their own houses well.

#### 2. Their Spiritual Life

- a. holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. - Living what they say they believe
- b. But let these also first be tested;
  - i. to approve, allow, discern, examine
  - ii. being found blameless.

- c. then let them serve as deacons,
- B. The Why - For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves
1. a good standing – *bathmos* - a step, grade (of dignity), degree. “put on a pedestal”
  2. and great boldness – *parrhesia* - all out-spokenness, i.e. frankness, bluntness, publicity; assurance:--bold (-ly, -ness, -ness of speech), confidence
  3. in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. – the sphere of Christian truth and family of believers