

# Establishing Discipline

June 25, 2017 ~ Titus 1.10-16

## Part 3 of 7-Part Series

- ❖ Read starting at v9 -> “An elder must .. hold fast ..”
- ❖ Parts 1 and 2 were on Following Orders and Choosing Lieutenants
  - ✧ First week was Titus’ task - “set things in order” and “appoint elders”
  - ✧ Last week we covered the role and qualification of elders

## Paul Shares His “Sit-Rep” with Titus

- ❖ Verse 10 starts with the word “For” / We must review what came before . . .
- ❖ Let’s catch up by rereading verse 9 ~ “An elder must .. hold fast ..”
  - ✧ Paul just said an elder must “exhort and convict those who contradict”
    - ◇ He then goes into a detailed rundown of the situation as he sees it
    - ◇ In military lingo the phrase is “sit-rep” for “situation report”

## Private Communication Necessary in War

- ❖ This letter is very private / It was not intended for distribution on Crete
  - ✧ Paul’s letters went to churches or they went to individuals
    - ◇ !!!: List them on fingers – R,12C, GEPC, 12Th -> 12Tim, Titus, Philemon
  - ✧ When Paul wrote to churches he might be blunt / Not this blunt
- ❖ Some commentators say Paul is being unchristian in this letter
  - ✧ What he’s being is honest / An honesty that can’t be shared openly
- ❖ Elders have to communicate like this / That’s why discretion is so important
  - ✧ Sensitive information must only be shared on a “need-to-know” basis

## Three Sets of People Referred To

- ❖ Listened through this portion of **ch1** many times over the past week
- ❖ Paul doesn’t have much good to say of Cretans in these 7 verses
  1. **v10-11** ~ Villains / “insubordinate .. idle talkers .. deceivers”
    - ◇ “Whose mouths must be stopped”
  2. **v12-14** ~ Victims / “liars .. evil beasts .. lazy gluttons”
    - ◇ Titus must “rebuke them sharply”
  3. **v15-16** ~ Unbelievers / “abominable .. disobedient .. disqualified”
    - ◇ So defiled that nothing they do can be regarded a “good work”

**Xition: Titus and 1 Timothy are very similar**

## Titus Faced Greater Opposition than Timothy

- ❖ Timothy was in Ephesus / Titus was on Crete
- ❖ They each had to deal with opponents / false disciples & teachers
  - ✧ **Read 1 Tim 1.4-6** ~ “As I urged you when .. turned aside to idle talk”
    - ◇ Twice Paul refers to the number of opponents as “some”
    - ✧ **Read Tit 1.10.11** ~ “For there are many .. sake of dishonest gain”
- ❖ Titus appeared to have the more difficult field
  - ✧ More opposition / Fewer to help (*elders in Eph already – 1 Tim 5*)

## Similar Challenges On Crete and at Ephesus

- ❖ The situations of both places was similar (**Titus 1** vs. **1 Timothy 1**)
  1. **v10** ~ “insubordinate” (**v9** – “insubordinate men”)
  2. **v10** ~ “idle talkers” (**v6** – “some .. have .. turned aside to idle talk”)
  3. **v12** ~ “liars” (**v10** – “liars”)
  4. **v13** ~ “sound in the faith” (**v10** – “contrary to sound doctrine”)
  5. **v14** ~ “Jewish fables” (**v4** – “fables and endless genealogies”)
- ❖ If you expand beyond 1<sup>st</sup> chapters there are more

## Three Groups

1. **vss 10-11** ~ **Villains** ~ (*Vocal opponents / Heretical Leaders*)
2. **vss 12-14** ~ **Victims** ~ (*Cretan People*)
3. **vss 15-16** ~ **Unbelievers** ~ (*of either camp*)

## 1. Villains (vss 10-11)

### Opposing the Deceivers (vss 10-11)

- ❖ Syncretism is a huge problem for the Church
  - ✧ **Def** ~ This is where you adapt an existing religion to aspects of a new one
  - ✧ Jewish teachers creatively integrated Christ into a corrupted Judaism
- ❖ Retained 1) circumcision, 2) dietary laws, 3) genealogy
- ❖ False teachers were:
  - ✧ “insubordinate” ~ They refused to be bound by the Word of God
  - ✧ “idle talkers” ~ They said much – but it amounted to nothing
  - ✧ “deceivers” ~ They know what they’re doing / It’s intentional
  - ✧ “dishonest gain” ~ They were smooth talkers / didn’t want to give up \$

**Xition: Let’s go back 33 years . . .**

## Dr. Gene Scott

- ❖ 1984 ~ Young believer living in Southern California
- ❖ Gene Scott – Christian program on TV – wore suit and fedora
  - ✧ Very charismatic – eloquent but rambling presentation – Egyptologist
  - ✧ Ordained pastor in Assemblies of God (missionary) – resigned 1970
  - ✧ Founded Westcott Christian Center in Oroville – moved to Glendale
  - ✧ 1975 – Began nightly broadcasts of Faith Broadcasting Network
- ❖ Openly disdained other televangelists such as Jerry Falwell and Jimmy Swaggart
- ❖ He died in 2005 but his 3<sup>rd</sup> wife Pastor Melissa Scott now runs operation
  - ✧ He'd stare intensely into camera during fund raising efforts

## Y2K

- ❖ Fall 1997 – Became concerned due to Gary North's writings
- ❖ Spring 1998 – Published book and began speaking engagements
  - ✧ Spoke at a mixed event downtown – gold coins and viaticals
    - ✧ Sold and signed books at a table ~ sold box to someone
  - ✧ Female preacher bought box too – Cheated me but I knew she would
  - ✧ Viatical salesman wanted me to tour with him

## 2. Victims (vss 12-14)

### Believing the Deceivers (vss 12-14)

- ❖ Epimenides described Cretans as: “liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons”
  - ✧ Paul supported this assessment: “This testimony is true”
  - ✧ “liars” ~ III: NASA Asst Branch Chief – lied to me about sharing news
  - ✧ “evil beasts” ~ Behaving savagely, rudely, instinctively, animalistically
  - ✧ “lazy gluttons” ~ don't want to work / just eat and drink all day
- ❖ Their character made them susceptible to “giving heed to:”
  - ✧ “Jewish fables” ~ genealogy traced back to angels
  - ✧ “commandments of men” ~ “touch not / taste not” (**Col 2**)
- ❖ You'd think such people would be the more wary
  - ✧ Laziness makes them more susceptible (III: Hungry animal at trap)
  - ✧ They don't want to work for anything / They want it the “easy way”
  - ✧ III: Nigerian prince story / CA acquaintance fell for it
  - ✧ III: Ponzi scheme at work in Brookfield (Send \$50 to 3 people)

**Xition: Now we've come to the only positive statement . . .**

### v13 ~ “Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith”

- ❖ Paul has hope – confident hope – that they can be “sound in the faith”
  - ✧ But Titus has his work cut out for him
  - ✧ He must “rebuke them sharply”
- ❖ The Cretans can only grow in true faith if the false faith is abandoned
- ❖ “Why would they not give that up?”
  - ✧ It requires humility ~ They must acknowledge their error
  - ✧ It requires further humility ~ They can’t save themselves

### 3. Unbelievers (vss 15-16)

#### Pure and Impure

- ❖ Read v15 ~ “To the pure all .. and conscience are defiled”
  - ✧ Some commentators only see the dietary laws in this statement
    - ✧ But I see quite a bit more . . .
- ❖ This statement reflects a philosophy of life
  - ✧ If you live by God’s law you’re kept pure
    - ✧ You avoid the stain of sin by resisting it / repenting of it
  - ✧ If you do not live by God’s law – everything is eventually defiled
    - ✧ That which is most wholesome and pure in your world gets tainted
    - ✧ !!!: One example - People hooked on drugs can pimp their own children

#### The End of Unbelievers

- ❖ Read v16 ~ “They profess to know God .. disqualified for every good work”
- ❖ Unbelievers are described as:
  - ✧ “abominable” ~ Sin is a road and it leads to destruction
    - ✧ Sin always leads to greater sin
  - ✧ “disobedient” ~ Unbelievers are proud of their resistance / nonconformity
  - ✧ “disqualified” ~ Unbelievers are incapable of doing true “good works”
    - ✧ True “good works” only arise from believers
    - ✧ All “good works” of unbelievers are simulated (tainted / impure)

- Paul tells Titus that deceivers “mouths must be stopped”
- Yet he told Timothy (read 1 Tim 6.3-5 ~ “If anyone .. withdraw yourself”)
- Elder must decide which based on circumstances and H.S. guidance
- But the goal is that believers be made “sound in the faith”

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,  
And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,  
To God our Savior, who alone is wise,  
Be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.  
Amen \*pause\* Go in peace . . .