



November 3, 2019  
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## GOSPEL-CENTERED LEADERS TITUS 1

**INTRODUCTION TO TITUS AND CRETE** Titus 1:5 – *“For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you.”*

- Paul and Titus must have gone to the island of Crete on a missionary journey. Galatians 2:1-3; 2 Corinthians 7:13-16; 8:16-21. Now, some time later, around 63-65 AD, Paul instructs Titus to bring order and appoint leaders.
- Cretan Culture - the quote in Titus 1:12 about Cretans as “always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons” is from a Cretan philosopher named Epimenedes who was held in high honor by the people of Crete.
- This letter would be read aloud to all the believers in Crete. Paul wanted everyone to hear that these are the kind of leaders Titus will be appointing in each city.
- The reason for this letter is described in the problems of Titus 1:10-16 with the action to take in 1:5. There were Judaizers and legalists adding to the gospel of grace. Paul’s central concern is the character, not the structure or skillset, of the leadership team.
- What must these leaders be like? Above reproach in home, character, and doctrine.

**ABOVE REPROACH IN THE HOME** Titus 1:6 – *“if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.”*

- Why? Because an overseer stewards God’s household. The church is God’s family and must be led well.
- The most important reference for a church leader is what goes on in their home life.

**ABOVE REPROACH IN CHARACTER** Titus 1:7-8 – *“For the overseer must be above reproach as God’s steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled.”*

- 1 Timothy 3:1-7 is another list of character traits for overseers
- What behaviors do you instinctively seek to justify? Are there behaviors in your life that you know are sinful, but you find easy to excuse or belittle so you can feel like your life is in line with God?

**ABOVE REPROACH IN DOCTRINE** Titus 1:9 – *“holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict it.”*

- Godly leaders must **exhort** (encourage, comfort, persuade, admonish) with sound doctrine
- Godly leaders must **refute** (rebuke, expose, show fault) false doctrine

## RESPONSE

- **Our Calling:** We all are called to follow and give honor to leaders that display these traits.
- **Self-Reflection:** please fill out the anonymous, personal assessment of how you are responding to the teachings of Titus and of our church in recent weeks and pass to the center aisle after communion.
- **Salvation & Communion:** No one can fulfill any of these traits without receiving the true gospel of Jesus and being empowered by the Holy Spirit. Respond to God today before taking part in communion. Communion is a “meal” for believers in Jesus to help us give thanks, looking back to His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. The bread represents His body given for us, and the cup represents His blood shed to pay the price for our sins. We are called to examine ourselves, especially in how we are treating other believers, and to keep looking forward in hope to Christ’s return (1 Corinthians 11:17-34).

## DIGGING DEEPER

Titus is all about ensuring the gospel is central to the everyday life of the church.

Chapter 1 - Keep the gospel central and counter false teachers by appointing godly leaders who encourage and rebuke.

Chapter 2 - Ensure the gospel is central to everyday family and work life.

Chapter 3 - Ensure the gospel is central for the sake of our mission to reach people for Christ.

*Credit for this summary goes to Dr. Tim Chester in Titus for You.*

## 4 LEADERSHIP ROLES IN THE CHURCH (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)

1. Elders (presbuteros) - Titus 1:5 - senior, older, may or may not refer to official leader of the church depending on the context
2. Overseer (episkopos) - Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:1-2 - bishop, primary leader in local church. This is the biblical word most people are thinking when they hear the word “pastor” or “Senior/Lead Pastor”
3. Deacon (diakonos) - 1 Timothy 3:8 - servant, minister, a person who renders service and help to others, a role in the early local church.
4. Pastor (poimen) - Ephesians 4:11 - shepherd, one who tends and guards flocks or herds

## LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS

1. Who is a leader you know that displays these characteristics? How has that person impacted your life?
2. Why is it important for an elder to have a family life that is above reproach?
3. Name one trait that you feel like is a strong point in your life. How can you use that for God’s kingdom even more? Name one trait that is a weakness for you. How can God strengthen that in your life?

## NEXT STEP

**Grow in Community:** The Bible encourages Jesus-followers to be planted, rooted, growing, maturing, and able to withstand the pressures of the world. At Calvary, we believe this happens best in community. So, take a next step today and explore ways to deepen and grow in your faith by joining a Group or attending a Gathering. Pick up the new Fall 2019 Groups & Gatherings guide in the Lobby or visit [calvarylife.org/grow](http://calvarylife.org/grow)