

“Elders on Mission, Part 5: Protect the Flock”
Titus 1:10-16

March 22, 2020

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SERMON OUTLINE

Our mission to make healthy disciples of Jesus requires that we have qualified elders (vv. 5-9).

Elders, protect the flock!

Leading God’s people to		1) silence the rebels (10-13a) and 2) expose every impurity (13b-16)
Who are they?	False teachers	1) are devilish in character and 2) hold to deceptive convictions.
Why dangerous?	False teachers	1) promote rebellion (10-13a) and 2) spread religious corruption (13b-16).

Community Group Study Questions

We're going to follow the general COMA method of studying the Bible, with adaptation to our text, Titus 1:10-16. The COMA method comes from Pastor David Helm in the book *One-to-One Bible Reading*.

Context

The New Testament has a lot to say about false teachers. Spend each day this week studying a different teaching on false teachers:

Sunday: 2 Timothy 1:12-14; 2:14-19; 3:1-8, 12-14; 4:2-5

Monday: 1 Timothy 1:3-11; 4:1-5; 6:2-10

Tuesday: Read Jude

Wednesday: Read 2 Peter 2

Thursday: Acts 20:17-38 (especially vv. 28-31)

Friday: 1 John 4:1-6

Saturday: Matthew 7:15-23

What are the marks of false teachers? What deceptive convictions do they hold to? What is their devilish character like?

What clues do these verses of Paul's letter to Titus provide about Paul? About the person of Titus and the situation in Crete?

What was the main point of the passage before Titus 1:10-16, that is, in Titus 1:5-9?

Observation

How does the text break down into sections? What are the key connecting words (e.g. for, therefore, but, because, etc.) that indicate the logical flow of the passage?

What ideas are repeated elsewhere in this letter (hint, there are many - before and after!)?

Are there any surprises in the flow of the argument (Like: what are the reasons why Paul doesn't name names of false teachers, like he does in his two pastoral letters to Timothy? What is Paul doing by quoting a Cretan "prophet"?)?

Meaning

What words does Paul use to describe the false teachers?

When Paul says, "those of the circumcision party", who is he referring to (see Rom 4:12; Acts 10:45; 11:2; Gal 2:12; Col 4:11)?

What sort of dishonest gain do the false teachers in Ephesus pursue (see 1 Tim 6:5-10)?

What impact do the false teachers have upon people?

What do the false teachers add to the message of Christ? Take away from the message of Christ?

What does it mean “To the pure, all things are pure.” (see Matt 5:8; Mk 7:14-19; Lk 11:37-41; Acts 10:9-15, 28; Rom 14:20; 1 Tim 4:1-5)?

What do we learn about God?

What does the passage teach us about God’s people and life in this world?

How would you summarize the main point in one sentence?

Application

How does Titus 1:10-16 confirm or challenge your beliefs, desires and actions?

How do you relate Paul’s clear and serious call to silence and rebuke, with Jesus’ command not to judge (Matt 7:1)?

Do you enjoy rebuking others? Is confrontation easy or hard for you? How might one misuse or abuse admonishing others?

Who are heretic or false teachers to watch out for on TV, the internet, in bookstores? Who are publicly-recognized teachers who you might disagree with on non-essential issues, but should refrain from calling them “false teacher”?