
He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict. (Titus 1:9)

I. Trouble Elders Face (vv.10-16)

- a. Two primary things are needed in the establishing and profitability of a church, leadership and teaching of the word. Both of these elements must be uncompromised and untainted.
- b. Notice in verse 9 the direct responsibility of the Elders office. Guide and rebuke others with wisdom from the Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:16)
- c. Pastors and elders are not in churches to simply administrate or to be the "face" of the church. They are a very necessary and needed voice of truth.
 1. When strong leadership is grounded in the Word, they serve as a vanguard against opposition. Trouble may come, but there is protection in place for the people as long as the Word is present.
- d. Notice the description of the false teachers: "*many are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers (v.10), detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work (v.16).*"
- e. The most disturbing detail of all that describes the false teachers is the word *many*.
- f. Paul says that the *insubordinate* are unfit for any good work. If we are not submitted to God, even the "good" we attempt to do will *not* be good or turn out good.
- g. False teaching inside the church is like an infection to the physical body.

II. How to Have a Healthy Church (2:1-15)

- a. Biblical teaching is critical to the stability, function, and mission of the Church.
- b. Elders were to carry on the apostolic work of the church and combat renegade teachers.
- c. We must multiply the number of true teachers and they come in different shapes and sizes.
- d. Paul encouraged Titus to imitate the apostle by singling out special groups for special instruction.
- e. Titus is instructed to teach these groups *what is in accord with sound doctrine* (v.1). This means that doctrine and practice are to keep in step with each other. We must live out what we learn.
- f. Titus must teach the *older men* what it means to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, faithful, loving, and steadfast Christian.
 1. Older men should act their age (not foolishly) and should be well respected.
 2. Their lives should reflect a seriousness about God. Sound in faith means "spiritually healthy."
 3. A younger man should look at an older man and say, "I want to be like him." **(Read vv.7-8)**
- g. *Older women* were to be taught *reverent behavior, not to be slanderers or slaves to much wine*.
 1. The *Older women* were to teach the young women what is good by training them in marriage and parenting. The home life must be stable and managed with wisdom. (Proverbs 31)
 2. The "church mothers" should have "church daughters."
- h. The church should be in a state continuous of imitation of what Christ is. First of all, every believer should seek to imitate Christ, because He is our standard and best example. (v.14)
- i. Secondly, we have "real life" examples in our "church life" that we can watch and learn from.
- j. We have the Holy Spirit who will lead us into righteous living if we allow Him. (Gal 3:1-5)
- k. Church leadership must stand their ground "in the Word" without compromise. (v.15)

III. A Personal Application of the Text

- a. What special biblical teaching do men, women and young people need?
 1. Women –
 2. Men –
 3. Young women / young men –