



THE STRUCTURE OF THE CHURCH (PART 3)

Titus 3

Sunday, September 12, 2021

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Today is the last part of our Study Series, "The Structure of the Church: Elders and Deacons". We have paused from the Book of Romans to investigate the scriptures regarding: (1) the Qualifications of Church Leadership, (2) the Church's Responsibility of Appointing Leaders, (3) Establishing a Healthy Church. Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus have helped out greatly in giving us guidelines to follow for FBC Cypress. I realize some will consider this truth and live accordingly. While others will be polite and nod their heads as they walk away, but deciding to not live righteously according to the Word of God. Discipleship is hard! Being a sound, godly church does not come natural. However, the Church is to be responsible in "holding fast to the trustworthy Word as taught, giving instruction in sound doctrine". The Spirit of God will bring a true transformation of a person's life. Are we not blessed and grateful for God to use our Church as the means to bring about His glorious plan? We are blessed indeed. Paul's letter to Titus give words of instruction such as:

1. **CHOOSE Healthy Leaders WISELY for the Church (v. 1:5)**
2. **PROTECT THEM, the Church from False Teachers (v. 1:13)**
3. **TRAIN THEM to be Sound (v. 2:7-8)**
4. **KEEP WORKING at Encouraging & Rebuking by the Word of God (v. 2:15)**

The Church at Crete was to set an example both inside the church and outside the church. This is why Titus was sent to clarify that Jesus Christ, being God our Savior, is completely different than the Cretan Greek gods. Another task was to encourage followers of Jesus to live a life according to the Word of God which was also very different than their culture. So here is where we see the importance of training people inside the church so they can live godly lives wherever they go outside the church.

Titus 3:1-10

*"Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, **2** to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. **3** For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. **4** But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, **6** whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

8 The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. **9** But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. **10** As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him,"

5. BE GRACIOUS (v. 1-8)

- **What drives the Christian WAY OF LIFE is based on God's Generous GRACE.**

6. BE CAUTIOUS (v. 9-10)

The kind of person God uses:

1. A Person who seeks PURITY (v. 1:1)
2. A Person who is CALLED (v. 1:2-3)
3. A Person who is COMMITTED (v. 1:4-5)
4. A Person able to COMMUNICATE (v. 2:1)
5. A Person who is COOPERATIVE (v. 3:1-2)

Paul is confident that the Spirit empowered faithfulness to the teaching of God's Word will produce new kinds of people. For Titus, this cautious, but bold faithfulness will open up doors to declare the gospel all over the island of Crete and to the rest of the world. **The letter of Titus reveals Paul's mission strategy — that the church is to be God's sending agents of transformation within their community** — within our community of Cypress. We won't see this transformation by fighting against culture, or assimilating to the Cretan way of life... rather God calls the church to participate in culture and reject what is corrupt and embrace what is good by living peaceably so that we can **(v. 2:10)** "attractively present *the message of God our Savior*".