

Wednesday Night Fellowship Discussion Guide  
6/29/22

Titus 1:10–16

<sup>10</sup> For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. <sup>11</sup> They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach. <sup>12</sup> One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” <sup>13</sup> This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, <sup>14</sup> not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth. <sup>15</sup> To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. <sup>16</sup> They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

**Passage Summary**

With this passage Paul reminds Titus of another of the challenges that he no doubt is aware of but which he must continue to address. Within the various groups of believers there in Crete there was a contingent which were rebelling against Scripture and the teaching of the Gospel. Paul describes them at length by referencing their teaching, their motives behind their message, and how they are living. He then gives direct commands on how Titus must lead with them in mind.

**Discussion Questions**

**Identifying False Teachers through their words**

Titus 1:10-11

<sup>10</sup> For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. <sup>11</sup> They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.

The first mark of identification Paul brings forward is the notion that these troublemakers are insubordinate. Against what are they rebelling? What in the passage makes this clear?

Paul accuses these rebels of engaging in empty talk. How should we define empty talk in the church today?

How should we define “deceivers”?

What are some examples which are present today?

What does Paul identify as wrong motives for these false teachers?

## **Identifying False Teachers through their works**

Titus 1:16

<sup>16</sup>They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

If we are to look at the works of teacher in order to determine if that teacher is true or false, does this mean that pastors and teachers must be perfect? If not, then what standard should we use?

What are some examples of false teachers whose works reveal them?

What are some examples of imperfect godly teachers whose works reveal them?

## **Responding to False Teachers**

Titus 1:11-14

<sup>11</sup> They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach. <sup>12</sup> One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." <sup>13</sup> This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, <sup>14</sup> not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth.

How does Paul command Titus to respond to these rebellious people within the church?

How would this be a challenge for Titus and church leaders today? What fears might be present?

Is it possible for church leaders to abuse their power and seek to silence people improperly? What would that look like?