

Wednesday Night Fellowship Discussion Guide
6/8/22

Titus 1:5–9

⁵ This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— ⁶ if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. ⁷ For an overseer, as God’s steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. ⁹ 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 it.

Passage Summary

Titus 1:5 identifies the major reason that Paul left Titus in Crete and calls him to bring the task of planting churches on the island to full completion. Full completion of that task extends throughout the book and includes the continued emphasis upon sound teaching, confrontation and resistance to false teachers, and proper emphasis upon grace and godliness. Yet Paul also makes it clear that the appointment of elders is a significant part of developing a proper order for church life. Paul’s message is clear, the task of church planting is not complete unless there are pastors appointed for each church.

Discussion Questions

(These questions are intended to generate discussion and promote application. Don’t feel pressured to make it through all of them. The questions are made for the discussion leader, not the discussion leader for the questions.)

Team Missions

Titus 1:5

This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—

Although the message on Sunday did not address this issue, consider the reality of team missions which Paul and Titus modeled.

What are the advantages of missions pursued from a team concept? (Each person brings different strengths to the table and therefore the body of Christ may be blessed in a more full manner. Support – consider Ecc. 4:9-12 from this perspective; the ability to “divide and conquer” as demonstrated here by Paul and Titus)

What are the challenges? (Finances; individuals working together well / conflict on the field; etc.)

Should team missions be a requirement for missionaries of FBC? A possibility? (This would likely be a case where the example of team missions does not appear to be a requirement as much as possibility. The model set forth appeared often to be more than one but even that does not seem to be a command. It is a good concept to consider and might work really well in certain situations, but might not in others.)

Elders

Titus 1:5

This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—

What is the connection between elder and pastor and bishop? What passages demonstrate this reality? (They are similar terms for the same office. Acts 20:17 and 28; 1 Peter 5:1-2 – both passages demonstrate that an elder is synonymous with pastor and with bishop).

Why does Scripture use different terms for the same office? (While it is not abundantly clear, it would appear that different terms are used when different functions are in mind. For instance – elder would refer to wisdom and maturity; bishop would refer to oversight and management; and pastor would refer to feeding and leading.)

Does Paul give Titus any direction about the financial situation of these elders? What implications can we make from the silence? What other passages might provide clarity for us? (1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 Corinthians 9:3-14 – the passages does not provide clarity about whether or not these pastors would be paid in Crete, but other passages make it clear that such is not just possible but expected. An argument could be made for both paid and unpaid pastors to be a part of a church congregation in various contexts)

Raising up pastors

How does our church seek to raise up pastors? What are some further ideas that might be possible and profitable for our church to consider in the task of raising up pastors?

What role can or should institutions of higher learning play in the process of raising up pastors? What would it look like for a church in America to fail in the process of raising up pastors? What would it look like to succeed?

What are the benefits and detriments of calling someone to be a pastor of FBC from our own congregation? What are the benefits and detriments of calling someone to be a pastor of FBC from outside of the congregation?