

Wednesday Night Fellowship Discussion Guide

6/22/22

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

After reminding Titus that he had left him in Crete in order to appoint pastors, Paul brings up the importance of the character of these men. He begins with a call to public blamelessness and then proceeds to identify marks of character which must be present in a pastor's home, in his interactions, in his pursuits, and in his beliefs.

Discussion Questions

Godly at home

Titus 1:6–9

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.

Do you think a pastor should care about his public testimony? If you do, why do you see it as important? If you don't think it should matter, what reason would you give for a pastor to be unconcerned about his public testimony?

Is there a difference in this matter between a pastor and every other believer? Should we be concerned with our public testimony?

Paul places emphasis upon the public testimony of a pastor's home. Why is it so necessary for a pastor to have home that reflects the character of God?

Godly in interactions

Titus 1:6–9

^{7b} must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain,

Consider the 5 negatives in Titus 1:7b and discuss what they mean.

What theme ties together all of these negatives?

How would such negatives be damaging to the cause of Christ in the life of a pastor? How about in the life of any believer?

If someone is bent toward such reactions what can they do to change?

Godly in pursuits

Titus 1:8

⁸ but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined.

Consider the 6 positives and discuss what they mean.

Of the 6 positives, which mark of character is most surprising that it made the list? How does this reality shape priorities in your life?

How do we know what is “good” and what is not?

How do we train ourselves to love that which is good?

What are some spiritual disciplines that you have learned to love?

Godly in beliefs

Titus 1:9

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.

What are some common themes that make their way into messages from pastors which are not from the Word of God?

How can church members cause the ministry of a pastor to be effective or ineffective in their life?

How can we use the Word of God to encourage others? What are effective ways to provide instruction for others? Ineffective?

How can the church be involved in rebuking error? In what ways might a pastor be strengthened and supported in such an endeavor? In what ways might he be undermined?