

## **Sermon Notes / Titus 1.5-9**

Sunday, 14 September 2025

Key Theme: God calls for order in His church through qualified leaders who are above reproach, reflecting His character and protecting His people.

### **I. From Pentecost to Present: A Timeless Timeline**

(Acts 2.11, 37-41)

- Historical jump: ~1,961 years since Titus; just 30 years from Pentecost to Crete's church.
- Cretans at Pentecost hear the gospel and carry it home, birthing the church Titus serves.

### **II. From Jerusalem to Crete: Explosive Church Expansion**

(Matthew 28; Acts 1-28)

- The Great Commission launches disciple-making (Matthew 28).
- Empowerment at Pentecost (Acts 1-2): From 120 to thousands.
- Multiplication through preaching, persecution, house churches, and Paul's missions.
- Growth to tens of thousands by AD 63-66—fueled by obedience to "Go and Make Disciples."

### **III. Paul's Purpose for Titus: A Call to Order**

(Titus 1.5; 1 Corinthians 14.33, 40)

- Paul leaves Titus to "put what remained into order" and appoint elders.
- God is a God of order; Satan sows disorder, chaos, and division.
- Disorder wounds people; order protects God's people (see: chaotic services in Corinth).

### **IV. God's Antidote to Chaos: Start with Qualified Leaders**

(Titus 1.5-6)

- Titus's task: Appoint elders to bring structure—because leaders set the tone.
- The command is non-negotiable ("as I directed you")—a strong imperative from God.

- Without ordered leadership, hurt is guaranteed.

### **V. Worldly Wants vs. Godly Requirements**

(Titus 1.6-7; 1 Timothy 3.1-2)

- Worldly suggestions: Charisma, success, talent, degrees, wealth, trendiness, influence.
- God's standard: Resolute leaders who rise above reproach ("without blame," not sinless perfection).
- Problems in Crete/Ephesus: Leaders' conduct disgraced the church.
- Elders must be unimpeachable—worthy of imitation, protecting the gospel's reputation.

### **VI. Elders Above Reproach in 3 Key Areas**

(Titus 1.6-9)

- Area 1: Marriage & Family (v. 6): Faithful husband, believing children not wild/rebellious.
- Area 2: Character & Conduct (vv. 7-8): Not arrogant, quick-tempered, etc.; instead, hospitable, self-controlled, holy.
- Area 3: Solid Grip on True Teachings (v. 9): Hold firm to sound doctrine; teach and refute errors.

### **Personal Reflection**

1. Looking back, have we prioritized "flash" over biblical qualifications in choosing leaders? How has that impacted our church?
2. Where have we seen disorder cause hurt, and how can godly order heal it?
3. In what area (family, character, doctrine) do our leaders shine, and where can we support growth?
4. How can I personally aspire to or encourage "above reproach" living to reflect God's holiness?

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