

Sermon Notes 10/30/22

“Entrusted with God’s Work”

What is God’s work for elders?

1. It is being good _____ and _____.

Titus 1:6

Colossians 3:18-21

2. It is avoiding the common mistakes of _____.

Titus 1:7

Mark 10:42-45

3. It is being a good example for all _____.

Titus 1:8

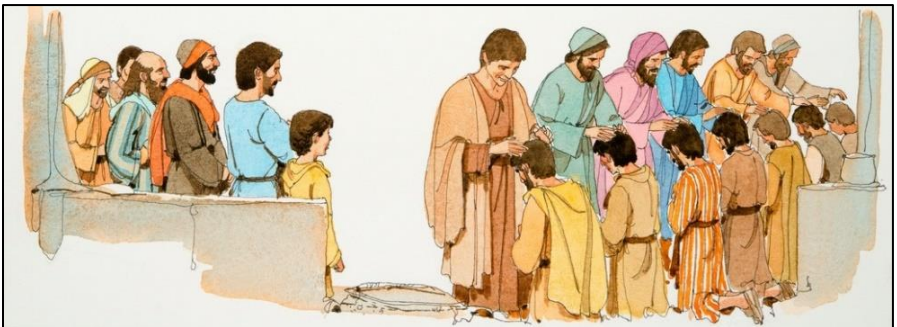
1 Peter 5:2-3

4. It is encouraging people with _____ doctrine.

Titus 1:9

1 Timothy 6:3-4a

2 Timothy 4:3



“Since an overseer is entrusted with God’s work, he must be blameless...” —Titus 1:7a (NIV)

Life Group Discussion Questions

Week 2: October 30 – November 6

Titus 1:5-16

All Christians should be members of a Bible-believing church with godly leaders who are helping them to grow spiritually (Heb. 13:17). And every congregation must plan for the future by training and equipping members for works of service and leadership in the church (Eph. 4:12). In the first chapter of this letter, Paul tells Titus to appoint elders in each congregation. Here, as well as in 1 Timothy 3, Paul gives us the qualifications for church leaders. This is important for all Christians because most of the qualifications in these passages are character traits that all Christians should develop. However, it is also relevant to all of us because we are all involved in the development of our future leaders.

Read Titus 1:5-9

1. Why did Paul leave Titus in Crete? (1:5)

Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell comment on verse 5:

"Elders" (note the plural) were to be appointed "in every town."

The plurality of elders in each place alerts us to the need for multiple persons in our churches who will assume responsibility for the spiritual care of others.¹

2. What is the first qualification Paul gives for elders in verse 6?

C. Michael Moss notes,

Paul begins by saying that an elder is to be "blameless" (ἀνέγκλητος, *aneklētos*), a synonym to the word used in 1 Tim 3:2, "above reproach" (ἀνεπίληπτον, *anepilēmpton*).

"Blameless," like "above reproach" in 1 Timothy, serves as the primary qualification by which other qualifications must be understood.²

¹ R. Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell, *1–2 Timothy and Titus* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 320.

² C. Michael Moss, *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1, 2 Timothy and Titus* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 1995), 144.

3. What does it mean to be “the husband of but one wife”? (1:6)

James Smith observes,

The husband of one wife is the same requirement set forth in 1 Timothy 3:2. The phrase literally refers to “a one-woman man,” i.e., a man who does not flirt with women or chase women; a man devoted to his wife. The phrase would not necessarily exclude a man whose wife had died or one who was divorced from a wife.³

4. Why is it important for the children of an elder to be obedient believers? (1:6)

5. According to verse 7, why must an overseer be blameless?

Moss comments on verse 7:

Paul gives the reason that an elder or overseer “must be blameless” (in the sense of v. 6, a man whose marital life is above reproach and a good father): “Since an overseer is entrusted with God’s work” (θεοῦ οἰκονόμου, *theou oikonomon*, literally “entrusted as God’s steward” or “entrusted as the caretaker of God’s house”).⁴

6. How does Paul further define being blameless in verse 7?

Being blameless does not mean living a sinless life. Rather it means being men of such good character that no one in the community would bring a charge against them. In verse 7, Paul gives five negative descriptions emphasizing what being blameless is not. Then in verse 8, he gives six positive descriptions illustrating what being blameless is.

7. How does Paul further define being blameless in verse 8?

9. Why must church leaders “hold firmly to the trustworthy message”? (1:9)

³ James Smith, *Pastoral Epistles Revisited* (Coppell, TX: lulu.com, 2017), 198.

⁴ Moss, *The College Press NIV Commentary: 1, 2 Timothy and Titus*, 147-148.

The Greek word for “sound” is *hygiainō*. It means to be healthy. Our English word “hygiene” comes from this word.

Smith writes,

It is the ministry of the elder to encourage in others “healthy” doctrine. Nine times in the Pastoral Epistles Paul used various forms of the word translated “healthy.” Here we have the word used four times in succession: 1:13; 2:1, 2, 8. *Sound doctrine* is the body of truth in which Christians are to be instructed. No preacher should intentionally serve, nor should any member actively crave, diseased doctrine!⁵

10. How did Paul describe the false teachers in verse 10?
11. What did Paul say the false teachers were doing in verse 11?
12. How did one of the prophets of Crete describe his own people? (1:12)
13. Why did Paul urge Titus to rebuke the false teachers? (1:13)
14. What did Paul tell Christians to pay no attention to? (1:14)
15. What happens to our minds and consciences when we don’t seek spiritual purification through Christ? (1:15)
16. According to verse 16, what does it mean to truly know God?
17. Why is it necessary to appoint multiple elders in the church?
18. What work in the church has God entrusted to you?
19. What area of your character development will you work on this week?
20. How can you show appreciation and support for your church leaders?

⁵ Smith, *Pastoral Epistles Revisited*, 202.