

1. Intro

- The church on Crete was disorganized and had no leadership, so Paul tasked his spiritual son and coworker, Titus, to bring it to order and instruct them in godliness.
 - Today, we're going to look at the first task Paul gave to Titus.
- The Church is **precious** to Jesus!
 - The New Testament refers to the Church as the "Bride of Christ" and the "Body of Christ" of which He is the Head.
 - The word "church" is from the Greek word "ekklesia" which means "an assembly" or "called out ones".

2. Text

Titus 1:5-9

"5 I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there and appoint elders in each town as I instructed you. 6 An elder must live a blameless life. He must be faithful to his wife, and his children must be believers who don't have a reputation for being wild or rebellious. 7 A church leader is a manager of God's household, so he must live a blameless life. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered; he must not be a heavy drinker, violent, or dishonest with money.

8 Rather, he must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must love what is good. He must live wisely and be just. He must live a devout and disciplined life. 9 He must have a strong belief in the trustworthy message he was taught; then he will be able to encourage others with wholesome teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong."

- Paul tells Titus to appoint **elders** (not just one elder) in the church in each town.
 - **Proverbs 15:22** "Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many advisers bring success."
- Paul teaches that the office of elder is for **godly men** in the church.
- What makes a godly man is not his skills or his ability but his **character**.
- **Isolated** and **passive** men will never be godly men.
 - "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

- Godly character must be **cultivated**.
 - **2 Peter 1:3-9** “By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. 4 And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world’s corruption caused by human desires. 5 In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God’s promises. Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, 6 and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, 7 and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. 8 The more you grow like this, the more productive and useful you will be in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But those who fail to develop in this way are shortsighted or blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their old sins.”

3. Application

- Let’s finish with application by briefly touching on the characteristics of a Godly man that Paul says are the qualifications of a church elder.
- Godly character qualifications of a church elder:
 - Live a **blameless** life
 - He must be **faithful** to his wife
 - His children must be believers who don’t have a reputation for being wild or rebellious.
 - He must not be **arrogant**
 - He must not be quick-tempered
 - He must not be a heavy drinker
 - He must not be **violent**
 - He must not be dishonest with money
 - He must enjoy having guests in his home
 - He must **love** what is good
 - He must live wisely
 - He must be just
 - He must live a **devout** life
 - He must live a disciplined life
 - He must have a strong belief in the trustworthy message he was taught and be able to teach truth and refute false teaching.
- HCC needs Godly men like this! Do you desire to be this kind of Godly man?