

Titus 1:10-16 A Portrait of False Teachers

Verse 10 Their Description

For there are many – There are numerous opponents to the gospel of grace.

Rebellious – They have a spirit of independence from the truth of Scripture as the final authority.

Empty talkers – Their words are without power.

Deceivers – They deceived people by their false doctrine. See Ephesians 4:14

Of the circumcision – There was a Jewish connection probably similar to the Judaizers of Galatians.

Verses 11 Their Practices

They must be silenced because of:

Their motive – *dishonest gain*

Their method – *teaching what ought not be taught*

Their results – *upsetting whole families*

Verse 12 Their Manner of Life

Always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons. A quote from 6th Century Cretan prophet/poet Epimenides.

Verses 13-14 Their Reprimand

Reprove them severely – The purpose of severe rebuke was:

1. *That they might be healthy in the faith* – They hold to the received apostolic doctrine as normative and binding.
2. *They would not pay attention to Jewish myths* – Legends or fictitious tales added to Old Testament history.
3. *They would not teach the commandments of men who turn away from the truth* – Various legalistic and ascetic rules that people try to add to the gospel of grace and our liberty in Christ. (Colossians 2:16-23)

The commandments of men:

1. Old Testament regulations that are no longer valid for believers such as circumcision or observing feasts.
2. New Testament practices like baptism or the Lord's supper presented as a means of salvation or sanctification.
3. Anything to be done or not done in order to gain God's favor that is not spelled out in Scripture.

Verses 15-16 Their Condition

To the pure, all things are pure- It is what is on the inside of a person that makes them who they are. Mark 7:15-23

To the defiled and unbelieving

-*Nothing is pure*

-*Their mind is defiled*

-*Their conscience is defiled*

Conscience –

The place of our standards, our sense of right and wrong. It is our place of moral awareness. It can be good. It can be seared and calloused. 1 Timothy 4:2

A Good Conscience:

1. Has a Biblical set of standards for right and wrong. Hebrews 9:14
2. Is sensitive and not calloused.
3. Is cleared of guilt through immediate confession of sin. 1 John 1:9

They profess to know God –

They claim to know God in a deeper or more intimate way.

They promote legalistic or ascetic rules that add to the gospel of grace. Colossians 2:16-23

By their deeds they deny Him – They have slipped back into works or legalism and have fallen from the grace way of life. Their Condition – *They are detestable, disobedient and worthless for any good deed.*

Unless our works are the product of a life empowered by God's grace as we rest in the sufficiency and enablement that Christ gives, they will be rejected or useless.