

TITUS

A HOUSE IN ORDER



Pastor Nick Bergquist • Truth • January 17, 2021

*If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.
(John 8:31b-32)*

Biblical Elders have the crucial job of calling up and calling out the congregation. – “He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.” (Titus 1:9)

In the Old Testament, think of a bible hero that exemplified the traits required in a New Testament elder. Think about or discuss the similarities.

For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. Even one of their own prophets has said, “Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.”

...They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good. (Titus 1:10-12, 16b)

- **Who are these rebels?** – ...rebellious, mere talkers, deceivers...liars, brutes, gluttons...detestable, disobedient and unfit
- **What did they do?** – ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach...
- **How did they do it?** – Jewish myths...man-made rules
- **Why did they do that?** – “...for the sake of dishonest gain.”

Calling out false teachers has a purpose.

- **Rebuke a rebel for a chance to grow in maturity** - “This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth.” (Titus 1:13-14). **Scripture tells us that we should be a people where the phrase “as iron sharpens iron” is true. In the context of this verse and the sermon, how is that true?**
- **Rebuke a rebel for a chance to grow in impact** - “To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.” (Titus 1:15-16)
- **Reflecting on the sermon this week, what aspects of the work of elders in our church are you more familiar with? More sobered about? How much more respect do you have for the men that are charged with leading the flock and defending it with truth.?**
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