

Pastor Karl Payne, May 17th, 2020
Titus 1:10-16

Sovereignty	Christian living is not a 50/50 agreement between God and man; one boss.
Elder/Overseer	God's appointment and selection, not a vote of the people.
Truth/Error	It takes sound doctrine and courage to stand on truth and refute error.
Purity	Spiritual maturity should include both thought and deed.
Grace	Biblical salvation is all about God's mercy and grace, not man's work.
Good works	Good works do not save. But saving faith should produce good works.

Lamb/Lion N/W--Pluralism, loving non-judgmental friend/judge who expects to be obeyed, not just treated as one more competing opinion. Scripture and cultural are on a collision course. What is fair has replaced what is biblical. Tolerance is considered more virtuous than truth.

False teaching must be confronted and corrected, not ignored or tolerated: Titus **1:9, 10-11, 16; 2:1, 7, 8, 12, 15; 3:2, 8-11.** (Verses 10-13 illustrate why verse 9 is so important for Christian leaders. Standing on sound doctrine and refuting false teaching is not "if" for leaders, it is "when".)

Nothing unique or new: Acts **15:1-2; 17:11; 20:28-31; 1 Cor. 1:10-13; 12:1-3; 14:10-12; 2 Cor.11:12-15; Gal.1:6-8; 3:1-3; Eph. 4:14-15; Col. 2:16-19; 1 Thess. 5:19-21; 2 Thess. 2:1-5; 3:14-15; 1 Tim. 1:3-7; 4:1-6; 6:3-4; 2 Tim. 2:15-18; 2:24-26; 4:1-5; 1 Pet. 3:15; 1 John 2:3-5; 3:7-8; 4:1-6; Jude 3.** (Think of construction; a flawed foundation = a flawed building.)

- 10 Jewish converts, think Acts **15:1-2; Gal.3:18-26.** Rebellious—refusing to submit to any authority, they are the authority, and always right; empty (mere) talkers---silver tongued, impressive/eloquent, but never get past talking and theoretical ideas (clouds w/out rain); deceivers--- manipulator, masters of half-truths and self-serving deception, leading the spiritually immature astray.
- 11 They must be "silenced" (muzzled/gaged), their false teaching is undermining entire families; peddlers whose teaching is motivated for financial gain, not truth. Eliminate their platform immediately and completely. The more opportunity false teachers are given, the more they confuse and destroy. In today's pseudo-tolerant culture, even within many churches, this biblical teaching would be ignored or rejected as unfair, arrogant, and bigoted. "Who are you to say?" is why Scripture is our standard, not pluralism.
- 12 Epimenides, poet/philosopher, 500 BC-to "Cretanize" meant "to lie" for those living in the Mediterranean area. Liars/amoral animals//lazy, expecting to reap when they refused to sow. Very wealthy trade center, considered themselves spiritual/philosophical elitists. Contrast our culture's current view of lying with **Titus 1:2, Acts 5:3 and 1 Tim.4:2.**
- 13 A biblical rebuke/refute was to be curative or restorative, not vindictive. Sharply or severely cut them off immediately. Eliminate their platform to mislead others right now. The motive is to return them to sound faith; assumes they were once walking in truth. **Gal.2:11-14; 6:1.**

14 Sounds very similar to **1 Tim.1:4**. Jewish/Gnostic observances and teaching which ultimately represent nothing more than the commandments and priorities of men. (1 Tim and Titus are very similar...Paul's protégé's are sent to appoint church leaders that God has selected through the Apostle Paul and help put things in an orderly manner. Both epistles emphasize the need to know and teach sound doctrine as the foundation of faith and truth. Both churches are plagued with false teachers that must be rebuked and corrected immediately. 1 Timothy teaches that sound doctrine will expose false teaching and establish sound faith. Titus teaches that sound doctrine will expose false teaching and establish moral purity and a zeal for good works.)

15 Character: Jesus consistently taught against the ceremonial distinctions Judaism made between pure and impure; the commands of God and teachings of man. He focused on the heart motives rather than external appearances. **Matt.15:10-14; Luke 11:37-41.**

16 Conduct: Character precedes conduct. Conduct is birthed by character.

A right heart will produce right thinking, which in turn will lead to right actions.
An evil heart will produce wrong thinking, which in turn will lead to wrong actions.
Mark 7:20-23.

How important is right thinking? How important is standing on truth, whether it is popular or not?

Scripture teaches that friendship with the world produces enmity with God. Why do so many Christians seek first the approval of a world in rebellion against God, thinking this somehow will please God and enhance our testimony to men and women walking in darkness and headed to hell apart from a genuine heart-changing relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ?

James 4:4

How important is silencing and refuting false teaching rather than providing it a platform and allowing it to flourish, whether that platform is a pulpit, a classroom, music, poetry, a book, a blog, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, a television or a movie?

How important is it for church leaders to be founded and teaching sound doctrine, rather than allowing political correctness, cultural affirmation and pagan popularity to determine truth?

1 Tim.1:10; 4:6, 6:3-5, 2 Tim.4:3; Titus 1:9, 2:1, 2:7, John 8:32. Truth sets people free.

Promoting truth at the expense of relationships is not biblical. Promoting relationships at the expense of truth is not biblical. The biblical standard is not truth or relationships as is often sold in the 21st century as if truth and relationships are antithetical. The biblical standard is truth and relationship or truth in relationship. Right thinking is the first step to right actions. Wrong thinking is the first step toward wrong actions. Guard your steps and you will guard your life.

Most false teaching that undermines biblical Christianity begins with small steps, not a giant leap. If we have the courage to stand on truth, error can be caught and corrected before it is allowed to undermine faith and destroy lives. **Acts 20:28; 2 Tim. 4:1-5; Titus 1:9; 1 Pet.5:2-5**