

## Titus 1:10-16 Discussion Guide

### Pray

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

### Read Scripture

Read Titus 1, with special focus on 1:10-16..

### Bible Study: The HEAR Method

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God's Word together. HEAR is an inductive Bible study method that looks closely at what the Bible says to discover what it means so that we can faithfully apply it to our lives.

**HEAR** stands for:

- **Highlight:** read and observe everything in the passage carefully.
- **Examine:** based on your observations, discover what the passage means in its context.
- **Apply:** determine how the meaning of the passage applies to your life.
- **Respond in prayer:** pray God's Word back to Him.

### Remember:

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all your life.

### Pray

- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives.

### Titus 1:10-16 (ESV)

*"For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. <sup>11</sup>They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach. <sup>12</sup>One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, 'Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.' <sup>13</sup>This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, <sup>14</sup>not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth. <sup>15</sup>To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. <sup>16</sup>They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work."*

**Open:** What do you think are the biggest hindrances/dangers to Christians growing in godliness? Why?

### Study:

- 1) Who does Paul identify as the "rebellious people" at the end of verse 10?
- 2) These seem to be the same group that was causes problems in Galatia too. Read Galatians 4:17-18; and 5:2-4. What does the "circumcision party" seem to have been telling Christians in both Galatia and Crete?
- 3) What does Titus need to do with these people, and why (v. 11)?

- 4) What does Titus need to do with those who are listening to them, and why (see 1:13-14)?
- 5) How does verse 12, which speaks to those of the circumcision party who try to teach a commitment to a rule-based approach to godliness, reveal the inadequacy of following a “human commands” religion? Why is Paul’s description so harsh? (To go deeper, read Colossians 2:20-23)
- 6) Read Titus 1:1-2. How has Paul already told us we can grow in godliness? Why is this so important to keep in front of us as we seek to grow in godliness?
- 7) What is true for pure people (ie: gospel-living Christians)? What is true for those who don’t believe the gospel (see 1:15-16)?
- 8) When we think of potential “rules brand religion” consider the consumption of alcohol. Read Mark 7:20-23 and 1 Timothy 4:1-4. What is it that makes drinking alcohol either “corrupt” or “pure”? Why is this distinction so important in connection to our pursuit of gospel-inspired godliness?
- 9) What, does Paul conclude, is the problem with making godliness all about following man-made rules (see 1:16)?

**Apply:**

- 10) In what ways do we find it tempting to reduce godliness to a list of do’s and don’ts? What is the fruit that is produced by reducing godliness to rules? How have you seen this in your own life?
- 11) Legalism says: “You should not do this because it’s a sin.” The Gospel says: “You need not do this because God is bigger and better than this sin.” Think of a particular sin you are struggling with (gossip, jealousy/covetousness, selfishness, anger, etc.). Are you seeking to resist your sin in a legalistic way, or in a gospel way?
- 12) How can we preach gospel truth to ourselves when we are tempted to sin?

**PRAY:**

- Take time thank God that the truth of what Jesus has done for us leads to godliness.
- Ask God to forgive you for any ways you’ve reduced godliness to rules, or for ways you’ve been ignoring ungodliness in your life.
- Ask God to give you grace and wisdom about how to live in a godly way in areas that might not be immediately clear; and to give you a such a love for Him that you will live in a godly way in areas where it is difficult or costly to do so.

NOTE: most questions have come from *The Good Book Guide to Titus* study by Tim Chester.