

They Must Be Silenced

Titus 1:10-16

Paul is writing to Titus:

- "...for the sake of the **faith** of God's elect and their **knowledge of the truth**, which accords with **godliness**." Titus 1:1
- "...so that you might put what remained into order, and **appoint elders** in every town as I directed you." Titus 1:5
 - Above Reproach
 - Can teach sound doctrine and refute false doctrine

FOR: There are many false teachers

Who are they?

- People within the church focused on:
 - Legalism
 - Circumcision Party: Taught that Gentile Christians must also be circumcised and obey the law of Moses
 - Addressed 14 years prior in AD 50 (Acts 15)
 - Paul and Titus addressed in AD 48 (Galatians 2:3)
 - Mysticism
 - Jewish myths: ex. Lilith, leviathan
 - Special ascension to God, special anointings of the Spirit
 - Dream, visions, personal words from God
 - Man-made commands
 - Matthew 15
 - "And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?" Matthew 15:3

What are they like?

- They profess to know God
- Deny Him by their works
 - Insubordinate, disobedient: rebellious; resistant of coming under church authority
 - Empty talkers: blowing hot air, no substance, emotionally driven
 - Deceivers, liars
 - Evil beasts, lazy gluttons: led by the appetites of their flesh
 - Detestable: vile, disgusting
 - Unfit for any good work
- Opposite of the description of elders in Titus 1:6-9

Why are they teaching?

- For shameful gain

The Internal Character

“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.” Titus 1:15

- Matthew 15 and Mark 7
 - “But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.” Matthew 15:18-20
- No external rule following or self-righteousness will make you pure
- Purity is internal and manifests externally
- Our minds and consciences must be renewed and made pure by Christ
 - “The fact is that conscience, although it must practically be to man his guide, is not a safe one ever, for the true guide of every man is the Bible, the revealed will of God. That is true and pure and right, but my conscience may often be a dark conscience, an ignorant conscience, a perverted conscience. My business is not to follow my conscience as I find it, but to go to God and ask Him to enlighten my conscience and guide it.” -Charles Spurgeon
- To be pure in heart is a work of the Holy Spirit in our lives
 - “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” Matthew 5:8
 - “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10

What is Titus to do?

The Ministry of Confrontation

- They must be silenced
 - Do not give them a platform to teach
- Rebuke them sharply
 - They must be confronted and corrected
- What is the goal?
 - That they may be sound in the faith

“As a surgeon cuts away diseased and infectious tissue that threatens the health of the body, we must cut away such toxic teaching. But our goal is pastoral and redemptive. We cut to cure. We operate to liberate. We confront, but we confront in love (Eph 4:15). We love others enough to point out their error and with the hope of their recovery to spiritual health and vitality.” -Daniel Akin

“It is true that certain troublesome heretics need to be rebuked sharply that they may be sound in the faith, but discretion is needed, and a loving spirit to guide the discretion. The sheep must not be driven as if they were swine. The tendency of stern orthodoxy is to act toward an erring one as cruel fathers do when they whip their boys without mercy, for they drive ten devils in while they think they are whipping one out...The gentleness of Christ is a choice qualification for a pastor. Heresies are better kept out by a full gospel than driven out by fierce controversy.” -Charles Spurgeon

