

Introduction to Titus

Wednesday, April 2, 2025 8:00 AM

Paul wrote the book of Titus for his companion, who was tasked with visiting Crete, a place infamous for sin and corruption. Titus was to restore order to house churches in Crete and replace corrupt teachers with godly leaders.

Paul commissions Titus to show how the good news of Jesus can transform Cretan culture from within.

Paul's letter to Titus urged him to remind Cretan believers that while they live in a sinful culture, they can be transformed into a new humanity by the same grace that Jesus demonstrated when he died to redeem them.

As a new humanity, they can reject a lifestyle that is inconsistent with God's generous love. They can show God's salvation message and transform their communities by participating in Cretan culture, rejecting anything corrupt, living and devoting themselves to Jesus, and promoting the common good.

Titus 1

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CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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. They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work. (**Titus 1: 15-16**)

According to Paul, what are the primary signs of a person's authentic faith? What about church leadership? We see all too often churches falling into the trap of selecting leaders based on natural leadership or motivators. People who are successful in business have money and influence. But the truth is not based on the standards of the world. We are not to lower God's standards for those He calls to ministry. To allow someone to represent Him only based on performance and not on personal holiness would discredit the church and stain God's name. Falling short by destroying trust or misrepresenting the word of God doesn't forfeit salvation or forgiveness, but he does forfeit the privilege of church leadership.

Church leaders are to be above all godly teachers "He must have a strong belief in the trustworthy message he was taught; then he will be able to encourage others with wholesome teaching and show those who oppose it where they are wrong."

Paul's concern, and God's concern, was to prepare the church to counteract the false teachers and immoral living of people claiming to be leaders and to use effective evangelism in a pagan culture. It is not enough to correct false doctrine and denounce immoral behavior, but to silence and remove the cancer from the church fellowship.

Lord, thank you for the privilege of knowing and serving you. Help us to know your word so that we can remove any cancerous false doctrines from our fellowship. May we honor you from our hearts and with our deeds.