

The New Testament Church
Book of Titus #2: Character is Critical
 Pastor Paul Jehle – May 8, 2022
 Titus 1:5-9

I Titus' Mission to Crete

A. The Challenge

1. Thought to be the home of Jupiter – Minos was his son (Minoan civilization)
 - a. Greek civilization created “god” in man’s image
 - b. They also rejected absolutes – greed, theft, immorality – *most corrupt place?*
2. Book of Acts (2:11) mentions Cretans on the day of Pentecost
 - a. Some got converted, went back to their homeland...
 - b. *A mission begins when people get converted, not when leaders are sent!*
3. By 67 AD, when Titus would have been there, it was governed by Rome
4. Titus – a Greek disciple who had worked with Paul in Corinth and Dalmatia

II Titus 1:5-9 – Being an example of Christ's character is critical to impact a pagan culture

A. Titus 1:5 – straighten out was unfinished and appoint elders in every town

1. The church did not have the foundations it needed to transform the culture
2. Titus reveals the truths needed for any church to transform a godless culture
3. Titus was to “appoint” elders in every town (believers were in every town!)
4. Note that churches were always identified with their towns (kingdom vision)
5. But what did appoint mean?
 - a. The word “appoint” is actually ordain – *to channel, or put in order*
 - b. This was the end of the process – not the beginning
 - c. An individual releases their gifts (God's hand), the people notice (their hand) and then other leaders recognize it and lay hands on the one recognized
 - d. Paul's testimony - he was an apostle “according to the faith of God's elect”

B. Titus 1:6-8 - **character qualities** that the people should notice and other leaders confirm?

1. The people should notice character before gifting – **Christ's image** in the person
2. **Blameless** – above reproach... not perfect – but wise, cautious, and without guilt
3. **The husband of one wife** – *what does this actually mean?* (a lesson hermeneutics)
 - a. Is marriage mandatory? Married to the church? (unmarried?)
 - b. Married only once (no widowers, no divorced pre or post conversion?)
 - c. Monogamous – no polygamy – was it that common among new converts?
 - d. It appears most consistent to interpret this as a “*one woman man*” – fidelity
4. **Having children** who are not accused of dishonor to parents or riotous (while young)
5. **Good steward** of resources and particularly wisdom (right use of knowledge)
6. **Not self-willed and temper** – putting others before themselves – anger under control
7. **Not greedy of wine or money** – abstain or curtail greed and strong drink (abstinence)
8. **Hospitable** – willing to share what one has – generous – in or out of the home
9. **Lover of good, sobriety, justice, holiness, temperate** (reserved) – character qualities

C. Titus 1:9 - **Holding fast the faithful word** – practicing what is taught – **sound doctrine**

1. Able to exhort – exhortation is a balanced presentation of truth with compassion
2. *Whenever a standard is raised in the midst of weakness it exposes the pain of loss*
3. Desiring to see the Holy Spirit do the conviction – see the fallacy of contradictions