

The New Testament Church  
*Book of Titus #3: A Pure Conscience*  
 Pastor Paul Jehle – May 29, 2022  
 Titus 1:10-16

I Titus' Mission to Crete

- A. The Challenge – how do you preach to a people that have abandoned absolute truth?
1. A Greek civilization where “god is made in man’s image”
  2. A culture that has rejected all absolutes... - how do you reach them?
- B. The Mission – *reaching a lost culture that has an evil conscience*
1. Paul sends Titus (Greek) to strengthen spiritual foundations of believers (Acts 2:11)
  2. He is to appoint elders (God’s hand, people’s hand, leaders confirmation)
  3. But what should a church emphasize in reaching a culture that has rejected truth?
    - a. **Character is critical** – higher priority than gifts, talents and intellectual debate
    - b. **Qualities** (Christ-like) such as being *blameless* (above reproach); a *one-woman man* (covenantal faithfulness), *children under authority* (has demonstrated an ability to manage smaller spheres of authority), *good steward of resources* (right use of knowledge – wisdom), *control of emotions* (self-governed), *not greedy* (not under the power of wine or money), *hospitable* (willing to share one’s resources), *a love of what is good, sober (serious), justice, holiness, temperate* (reserved)...
  4. **Most of all, holding fast the faithful word** – training the conscience by the Word – *“Internal or self-knowledge, or judgment of right and wrong; or the faculty, power or principle within us, which decides on the lawfulness or unlawfulness of our own actions and affections, and instantly approves or condemns them.”* – a pure motive

II Titus 1:10-16 – *how do you discern motive and a pure conscience?*

- A. v. 10-14 – the contrary condition of Cretans and some Jewish believers...
1. They are insubordinate (rebellious), idle talkers (gossip) and deceivers
  2. *Especially* those of the circumcision (Jewish), who demanded a works salvation
  3. Must cease divisive talk, unnecessarily dividing households  
 Note: Memorial Day (tomorrow) is an example of seeking unity after a divisive war
  4. Much of the “teaching” was for economic gain – love of money the root of evil
  5. One of them (Epimenides), Cretan of 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, wrote in a poem – *Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons* – and this was actually true (prophet)
    - a. Quoting non-Biblical sources that confirm the truth (unbelievers with light)
    - b. A way to wake up a pagan culture – your own character exposes inconsistency
  6. Rebuke believers who perform “holy works” but inwardly have deceptive motives  
 Note: *our culture today is deceiving us like never before – divisive talk, religious teaching for economic gain... tempted to expect deception and not discern motive*
- B. v. 15-16 – how do you know what is of God and what is not of God?
1. To the pure all things are pure – *a sincere heart and conscience purifies the motive*
  2. To the defiled nothing is pure – *a defiled conscience and motive can’t be trusted*
  3. To profess to know God, but deny Him in your works (know them by their fruits)
    - a. Though character can change, it takes time to rebuild trust
    - b. Abominable character, disobedience to God (habitual sin)
    - c. This disqualifies one from leadership...
      1. Be cautious of both individuals and ministries whose character is corrupt
      2. Fame and fortune can corrupt...
      3. Leaders whose habitual sins are exposed need to know that character is the key