

Lesson 5

April 6, 2023

Titus 1:7 For the overseer (ἐπίσκοπος) "Episcopos" must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,

The Overseer is a word of authority, a synonym for the Pastor. The Pastor must never do anything that would destroy the principles of authority which line up with the Word of God. He carries the responsibility for proper teaching, refuting false teachings and doctrines and protecting the flock he leads. The Pastor carries a heavy responsibility for accurately leading God's people.

1. "Presbuteros" is the head Pastor, and the top authority in a church under God.

He is also the "Episkopos" (overseer).

The elders or Deacons fall under his leadership.

2. While the Deacons function in administration and have administrative authority, **it is neither independent of, nor is it higher than that of the Pastor.**

3. The idea that the pastor is a ruler in spiritual matters and the Deacon in temporal matters is a house divided. The pastor is the final authority in both spiritual and temporal matters of the local church.

Hebrews 13:7 Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith.

4. The Deacons, or whatever administrative organization exists within a church, are to help the Pastor, not use the office to fight or destroy the Pastor's authority.

5. This implies a team concept of the local church. Remember that in Acts chapter **6:1-5** the deacons performed administrative functions to release the Pastor's time for more important functions for the

Pastor, things that only the Pastor could do, as in teach and minister to the flock.

6. Therefore to fulfill **1 Corinthians 14:40** there must be one final authority in a local church. That authority is vested in the Pastor by the Word of God — 1 Thessalonians 5:12; Hebrews 13:7,17.

1 Thessalonians 5:12 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Shepherds of God's flock are not to lord it over the flock, but to prove to be examples...Examples.

They are to lead by example, as Christ did!



This is a Shepherd leading his flock. As Pastors, we are called to be leaders. This leadership affects the well-being of the entire flock. It is extremely important to find the right men for leadership.

The symbol of a military leader comes to mind;

A sergeant with a rifle in one hand, helmet cocked, and his head looking back behind him to his troops. The rifle is pointing forward toward the battle, the other arm is giving a "Come on ahead" motion, and the leader is shouting back, "Follow me"! This symbol illustrates leadership-by-example, as this sergeant calls his men to follow him into the heart of the battle.

Illustration by Michael P. Green



Vs. 1:7 Paul mentions these next few words, while instructing Titus on the qualifications of a Pastor:

Above reproach as God's steward- Being blameless, an overseer is a protector of the flock and of the truths of God's word. He is to call out false doctrines and false teachings. He is to know scripture so he can refute what is not true.

A good manager of the things God puts under his authority. The man of God does these things willingly. He does them for the love of God.

Steward - manager of a household, a business, or a flock, etc....

There are 5 negative things to avoid here regarding the Overseer in verse 7.

1. not self-willed
2. not soon angry
3. not given to wine
4. not a striker
5. not eager for dishonorable profit

Self willed - To do something arbitrarily without divine permission; to act on one's own decision rather than considering the needs of others and the purpose of God. To be determined to base your actions on your own decisions. (meaning to be **stubborn, arrogant**) This is a characteristic of **unbelievers or baby believers**. A believer can be self willed, but a growing believer cannot. This person has willingly submitted to God's will. The world's view makes us think we have control over things, but we don't. Only God knows the future we will face. A foolish man plans his future absent of God. A wise man trusts God in everything, releasing control to God for all things.

Apart from God, what can WE really control? If you are honest in answering that question, your answer will be "**nothing**". What we do have control over is our volition. God allows us to respond to Him or react to the circumstances of life without Him.

Quick tempered - Pastors should be slow to anger, having a sound mind when dealing with others and circumstances they can't control.

Not addicted to wine - A Pastor should not be a drunkard. (alcoholic) He should not go to the bottle to drown out his problems or rely on alcohol to get him through the tough times. Drinking is not a sin, But for a Pastor, others look at him in a different way. This can lead an unbeliever astray.

Pugnacious - having a quarrelsome or combative nature, wanting to start an argument or fight, or expressing an argument or opinion very forcefully.

This is not the same as being dogmatic or confident in what you are teaching. This is a man looking for a fight!

Fond of sordid gain - shamelessly greedy, excessively acquisitive especially in seeking to hoard riches, a seeker of gain in disgraceful ways.

We see the likes of these men in churches across America today. They may be recognized by their rich

lifestyle. Living in Mansions, while their congregations struggle to make ends meet daily.

They are the ones asking you to give everything in the offering plate. If we did this, we wouldn't be good stewards of what God has given us.

NEWSFLASH

God does not need your money to fulfill his plan.

He provides all we own anyway. I will clarify, there is nothing wrong with having money, but it is the LOVE of money that gets us in trouble.

If you are involved in a church that focuses on your offering and not on God's teaching, you may be at the wrong church!

1 Tim 6:10 For the "love of money" is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Titus 1:8 but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,

In Verse 8 — there are also 6 positives of spiritual leadership. These are desirable traits for a man of God. (Write them down, they pertain to you too.)

1. **Hospitable** - **1 Peter 4:9** says we are to show hospitality to one another without grumbling. If we grumble or complain while giving food or lodging to someone, we have not truly shown biblical hospitality. This is because hospitality is the glad reception of the stranger.

"grace orientation" — φιλόξενος, "Philoksenos"

It means to have a grace attitude toward people who have not earned it or deserved it.

2. **Loving what is good** - A man's heart is revealed by what he loves. Whatever a man loves becomes his passion, the thing to which he ascribes great value, from which he derives great pleasure, and for which he will labor long and hard. Such will dominate his

thoughts and motivations and will determine his priorities.

"lover of good men" — φιλάγαθος, "philagathos" means a lover of divine good. Men of strong Godly character.

3. **Sensible** - wisely keeping self-control over one's passions and desires. A Pastor should use divine viewpoint for making decisions.

"sober" — σώφρον, "Sophron" means stability of mind. This is the relaxed mental attitude, freedom from mental attitude sins.

4. **Just** - upright (right or fair) treatment toward other humans, treating others fairly.

"just" — δίκαιον, "dikaion" really means fair or equitable.

5. **Devout** - pertains to being without fault, relative to God's deity, devout, pious, pleasing to God, holy.

"holy" — ὅσιον, "hosion" means a separation to and occupation with, or a pleasing of someone. This is capacity for life. Here it would be capacity for loving God, occupation with Christ.

6. **Self-controlled** - to having one's emotions, impulses, or desires under control, self-controlled, disciplined. (The Pastor should not be ruled by emotions)

"temperate" — ἐγκρατῆ, "egkrate" means self-controlled. It has to do with mastery of the details of life.

Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

Holding fast — ἀντεχόμενον "Antechomenon" means "to be devoted to". The reading in Greek says

"Be devoted to the reliable word in the teaching, so you will be strong and urge/implore the healthy teaching and expose those who speak against it."

Titus 1:10 For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

Rejection of such authority reveals negative volition toward doctrine and three characteristics of this spiritual revolt are described in this verse.

3 things characterizing spiritual revolt:

1. "unruly" - insubordinate, undisciplined, rebellious.

The noun "unruly" means rejection of authority, the authority of communicators, the authority of doctrine itself. Therefore, God's plan is not only rejected on the island of Crete but people who are believers are in open revolt against it.

1(a) - **Insubordination** means that these people have rejected Bible doctrine, and rejected the concept of reality in doctrine. They are following Judaism and Gnosticism.

1(b) - **undisciplined** means they do not have that self-discipline necessary to submit themselves to the teaching of the Word of God daily.

1(c) - **rebellious** means that they are in rebellion against the plan of God even though they are members of the family of God. These are believers.

They are rebelling against God, but especially against God's methods. They are trying to hang on to their traditions and their own opinions. In other words, they want God to conform to their thinking.

2. "**vain talkers**" is the second characteristic of the spiritual revolt. This means to be in rebellion to doctrine, to be in rebellion to the communicators of doctrine, and to **speak in opposition** to doctrine.

3. "**and deceivers**" — the third characteristic of spiritual revolt. This should be translated "**mind deceivers**." This is legalism, disorientation to the

grace of God, their communication of false doctrine in opposition to true doctrine, every person is an island to himself, what he thinks is correct. This means that they are **mind deceivers**. They deceive their own minds, and they speak to others and deceive them too.

And "**those of the circumcision**" - a small but very effective Jewish population on the island of Crete, most of whom were believers. They were involved in two types of false doctrine, Judaism and Gnosticism. So obviously at this point there was a case for strong Christian leadership in the form of pastors all up and down the island who can deal with this rebellion by teaching the truth. This one verse establishes the problem — Spiritual revolt. Believers who were in opposition to Bible doctrine.

At the time that Titus landed on Crete, there was a spiritual revolution. There are certain principles of doctrine that belong to the establishment — the **divine institutions**, the concept of **grace**. These things are under attack, according to verse 10. This is an unruly population. The island of Crete is filled

with many thousands of believers and they are unruly and in the midst of a spiritual revolution. These believers as like sheep without a human shepherd and they cannot function under the plan of God as such. Titus, as a trouble-shooter has the fantastic responsibility of bringing order out of chaos. (Sounds like the Big Bang theory) Have you ever experienced an explosion that occurred that left order behind without chaos?

"For" is the word "Gar" in Greek, and whenever you start with the word "Gar" in the Greek it means there is always trouble. "Gar" is a word which introduces problems, a word which introduces the necessity for getting order and authority.

"There are" — This condition had been going on for some time and was still out of control.

"many" refers to a large number of believers living in a state of spiritual anarchy. These believers are insubordinate to any type of authority, including that of the pastor-teacher.

This passage is not without some application to us today. During any phase of the Church Age when

believers begin to reject Bible doctrine they become floaters, they have no roots, and they hop from one church to another, they go from one place to another looking for entertainment, for something to stimulate for some human viewpoint psychological thing that will somehow give them a few moments peace, a few moments of happiness.

R.B. Theime, jr. - notes

Titus 1:11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.

(Gnosticism ppt.)