

The Example of a Grace Filled Spiritual Leader

Titus 1:6-8

Pastor Cary Grant

Text: Titus 1:6-9

Proposition: God requires that spiritual leaders be godly in their conduct in order to show that living the Gospel by Grace is real, powerful and able to make a difference in the life of a sinner.

Introduction: Paul begins this letter by explaining to us and illustrating for us the power that grace and the Gospel has made in his life. He has shown us that grace and the Gospel has the power to change a man who persecuted Christians into a man that preached Christ. We have seen that grace and the Gospel can transform enemies into brothers in Christ. Paul has also explained his reasoning for leaving Titus on the island of Crete. Titus is there to help these newly formed churches to find pastors. The message today is designed to help us see the kind of man for which Titus was to appoint.

Have you ever asked yourself why God included some of the things in the Bible that He did? Why are there genealogies? Why is there a book of Leviticus? Why do we have this long list of qualifications for pastors in the book of Titus. Actually, asking why a particular text of Scripture is included in the inspired writing is a key that will help unlock our understanding of the message God is trying to convey through His Word. So let's try and determine the true purpose behind this text.

We know that the theme of the book is "Living the Gospel." We know that the culture on Crete is overtly and openly sinful. We know that Titus is going to encourage these young believers to live for Jesus and live like Jesus in very difficult circumstances. They would need help, encouragement, teaching and accountability. They would need pastors. It is vital that the lives of these pastors demonstrate the difference that grace and the Gospel can make in lives. After all, the Gospel message will not mean much to a world who does not see its dynamic, life changing power demonstrated in the lives of spiritual leaders. Seeing the effects of Gospel power in the lives of pastors should give hope to us all because godly leadership proves that freedom from the slavery of sin and selfishness is possible. So that means that the message today is about more than just a list of qualifications. The message is about the power of the Gospel to change sinners.

God requires that spiritual leaders be godly in their conduct in order to show that living the Gospel by grace is real, powerful and able to make a difference in the life of a sinner.

Key Term = Above Reproach

Example: "not chargeable with some offense" Because his life should serve as an example to others, an elder should seek to live so as to avoid other's concerns that he is guilty of Biblical offense or neglect.

I. At home

A. Marital = an example of devotion to his spouse, first line of ministry

1. in his mind
2. in his manner of life

B. Parental

Explanation: Some thoughts

- “tekna” = children in the home, under parent’s authority
 - the term is plural indicating a pattern of neglect rather than just one child’s behavior
1. believers
 2. not riotous = profligacy (excess - Ephesians 5:18), pleasure seeking
 3. not rebellious = unwilling to be under authority

Transition: The fact that this is the first realm of example dealt with might indicate to us the fact that this is the realm where the spiritual leader’s example is most important. “A person is not ready for responsibilities of other’s spiritual welfare if he is not willing and able to take responsibility for those in his own household.” If a spiritual leader loses his family he has no ministry.

Explanation: Bishop and Elder

- Elder (v.5) = “bearded one”, mature, wise
- Bishop = “episkapos,” manager, administrator

II. In Conduct

A. 5 negative

1. not self-willed = not about “pleasing self,” not overbearing or obstinate, not arrogant
2. not soon angry = does not have a quick, flaring temper

James 1:20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

3. not given to wine = given to drunkenness, idiomatic phrase referring to behavior that is outrageous or overboard
4. no striker = not violent, doesn’t strike out in words or actions
5. not given to filthy lucre = he is careful about his integrity with money, he will not take advantage of people or situations for the sake of money

B. 6 positive

1. lover of hospitality = willing to open his heart and home to others (this is the opposite of being self-willed)
2. lover of good men = loves what promotes good for others
3. sober = self controlled, restraint in indulging desires
4. just = upright, obedient
5. holy = devout, separated unto God and from sin
6. temperate = self disciplined, the rigorous training of an athlete

Conclusion:

- no spiritual leader is perfect
 - we all sin
 - we will fail God
 - we will fail you
 - we all need grace
- we all lead someone spiritually - the men Titus trained were members of the churches on Crete
- all the qualifications in vs. 7,8 are given to us all in other texts
 - self-willed - 1 Corinthians 13:4, James 4:1
 - not soon angry - James 1:20
 - not given to wine - Ephesians 5:18
 - no striker - James 1:20
 - filthy lucre - Luke 16:13, 1 Timothy 6:10
 - hospitality - Romans 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9
 - lover of good - Galatians 5:22
 - sober - 1 Corinthians 9:27, Titus 2:2, 4, 6
 - just - used 81 times in NT
 - holy - 1 Peter 1:15
 - temperate - 1 Corinthians 9:27