

Why Do We Need Pastors Anyway?

Titus 1:5-11

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Text: Titus 1:5-9

Proposition: The instructions that Paul gave Titus will help us to understand the vital role a pastor plays in our lives.

Introduction: As we have already discussed this book is about living the Gospel in a difficult culture, in a difficult place. Paul knew that in order for these young believers to be able to do that they would need the help and support of strong spiritual leaders. So Paul left Titus in Crete to find men who would pastor these churches, men who could shepherd these people.

The fact is, we don't really know when or how long Paul was on the island. He was there long enough to see a number of converts and to organize groups of believers in different cities. These groups did not have pastors and this needed to be remedied. Paul understood the importance of finding pastors for these churches and commissioned Titus to fix the problem. Titus was given the task of finding pastors for these new believers and these new ministries.

Apparently, Paul considers the ministry of the pastor to be vital to the spiritual health of a church and to individual Christians. Paul gives Titus some very specific instructions in the kind of men to look for as well as their duties in leading their congregations.

This passage, like 1 Timothy 3 gives us some very clear expectations for men who serve in the Gospel ministry. As a pastor, I can assure you that this is some frightening stuff. I cannot live like this without grace, but isn't that what this book is all about. In today's message I am not going to focus on the character of the man as much as his responsibilities. What does a pastor do that is so important? Why is he vital to our spiritual lives? The instructions that Paul gave Titus will help us to understand the vital role a pastor plays in our lives.

I. Continuation - v. 5 = appoint elders

A. Continue in Jesus' teaching

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Explanation = "the apostles' doctrine - the teaching of Jesus

1. Ministry of Grace - demonstrated in vs. 1-4
2. Ministry of the Gospel

Explanation: The first 4 books of the NT are called Gospels

- they teach us about the work of Jesus - miracles
- they teach us the words of Jesus - messages
- they teach us the way of Jesus - manner of life

B. Continue in training

2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

II. Correction - v. 5 = “set in order”

Explanation - order = to set a broken bone, “course correction”

- A. Painful - 2:11
- B. Possible - 2:11

III. Caution - v. 9 (against the kind of people and teaching we see in vs. 10-16)

- A. Intervenes = hold fast - hold one against another, keep one’s self directionally opposite to one another so as to sustain the other

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will **hold** to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will **hold** to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, **support** the weak, be patient toward all men.

- B. Intercedes - exhort = to call near, intreat

Explanation: A faithful pastor will call us near, then he will take the Scriptures and help us to see our actions as opposed to the Scriptures.

IV. Convicts - v. 9

- A. Confrontation - gainsayers = those who resist or oppose
- B. Compassion - this is an act of grace