

Lesson 7 – Titus 1:10-16
Valley Bible Church Adult Sunday School
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Review

Paul was a perfect Hebrew (Phil 3:4-6) and a persecutor of the Church (Acts 7:54-8:3). He was dramatically converted (Acts 9:1-6; 9:19-22) then wholeheartedly served God. He was committed to 1) God's mastery, 2) God's mission, 3) God's character, 4) God's word, and 5) biblical ministry. After being released from prison in Rome, he traveled to visit churches where he had ministered. He left Titus on Crete where he exhorts Titus to "set in order what remains". Titus was Paul's true son in a common faith. He was a trustworthy, efficient, and valued co-worker. Titus' first task was to appoint elders in every city. Those that would be appointed elders had to exhibit a level of maturity as exhibited in the character qualities found in Titus 1:6-9 and 1 Tim 3:1-7.

Paul first gave Titus the overarching character quality of elders of "being above reproach" which deals with the elder's public reputation. "Above reproach" was expanded on by looking at an elder's sexual purity and family life. The qualification of being "above reproach" was again reiterated and specified by adding "as God's steward". Paul continued to expand on "above reproach" by describing five negative character qualities to avoid (not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, and not fond of sordid gain), then six positive character qualities to pursue (hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, and self-controlled). Paul finished this list by showing that the elder must have an unwavering commitment to the word of God and be able to encourage believers and refute scoffers with it. These are the character qualifications of elders, but are also character qualities that we all should be avoiding/pursuing as those who desire to glorify God by progressing in sanctification.

Introduction

Q: Do you (or should you) respond to all people in the same way?

¹⁴We urge you, brethren, **admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak**, be patient with everyone. 1 Thess 5:14

"Unruly" describes people who are in rebellion against God. "Admonish" [noutheteo] describes alerting someone of the serious consequences of their actions; to counsel about avoidance or cessation of an improper course of conduct.

"Fainthearted" describes people who feel their resources are too small for a given situation and therefore are despondent or discouraged. "Encourage" describes to relate near, encourage, console (to serve as a source of comfort in disappointment, loss, sadness, trouble), comfort. The idea is to speak kindly, soothingly, to comfort or pacify.

"Weak" describes people who have a hard time overcoming sin. "Help" describes laying hold of the weak with the idea of supporting them.

So, we are called to respond to people who are acting differently in different ways.

Remember Titus, 1:9 ended with the elder being able to "exhort in sound doctrine and refute those that contradict." "Contradict" [antilego] means to assert the contrary of, take issue with, implying open or flat denial; to speak in opposition to or to oppose; to gainsay (declare to be untrue or invalid and implies disputing the truth of what another has said); to deny; or to refute (to deny the truth or accuracy of). Verse 9 serves as a transition verse from the character qualifications of elders to the character of those that "contradict".

⁹holding 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**. Titus 1:9

Description of those who contradict (1:10-13a)

¹⁰**For** there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, ¹¹who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not *teach* for the sake of sordid gain. ¹²One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” ^{13a}This testimony is true. Tit 1:10-13a

Paul provides a description of those that contradict. This specific description of these contradictors is of false teachers. But do we see any of these traits in ourselves?

First, we should note that there are “many”. In the Cretan church there are many who contradict (many false teachers). Not just at Crete, but in general there are many who contradict. Why?

⁶For some men, **straying from these things**, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, ⁷**wanting** to be teachers of the Law, even though **they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions**. 1 Tim 1:6-7

²preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. ³For **the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires**, ⁴and **will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths**. 2 Tim 4:2-4

¹But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will **secretly introduce destructive heresies**, even **denying the Master who bought them**, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. ²**Many will follow their sensuality**, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; ³and **in their greed they will exploit you with false words**; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. 2 Pet 2:1-3

³Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. ⁴For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, **ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ**. Jude 3-4

Second, these men are “rebellious”. They are unwilling to submit to authority (neither God’s word nor His under-shepherds).

⁸Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and **reject authority**, and revile angelic majesties. Jude 8

Third, these men are “empty talkers”. Their speech is eloquent, but lacks substance. They couch their ideas in biblical language, but it is decidedly non-biblical (e.g. “Christian” psychology, emergent church, prosperity teaching). Their words are only human opinion rather than God’s word cut straight.

Fourth, these men are “deceivers”. Their listeners expected that what they were teaching was the truth, but it was not. They lead the immature away from purity of devotion to Christ.

¹⁷Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. ¹⁸For **such men are slaves**, not of our Lord Christ but **of their own appetites**; and **by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting**. ¹⁹For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be **wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil**. Rom 16:17-19

³But I am afraid that, **as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ**. 2 Cor 11:3

Fifth, these men are Judaizer-like. They take the truth and mix it with error. They add to the purity of devotion to Christ (in salvation and/or sanctification).

Sixth, these men “must be silenced”. “Must” has the connotation of a moral imperative. “Silenced” means to close the mouth by muzzle or gag. Often times we see these rebellious, empty talkers influencing individual families or small groups of believers who are at risk (2 Tim 3:6). Silence is NOT golden – these individuals must be addressed. The way they are silenced is verse 9.

²For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. ⁶For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, ⁷always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 2 Tim 3:1-7

Seventh, these men are motivated by greed. They desire to anxiously get wealthy at the expense of destroying others. Not so with true shepherds (1 Pet 5:2).

²**shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;** 1 Pet 5:2

Eighth, these men are typified by Cretan stereotypes. Paul quotes Epimenides (c600 BC). Cretans are liars and deceivers; rude, cruel, and brutal; and idle sensualists, lazily gobbling up fleshly desires. This evaluation of one of their own was observed and found to be true by Paul.

Epimenides was a very revered Cretan. One of the most famous Cretans of all history. He was a poet. He was a teacher. He was a writer. He was obviously a pagan. He was in the sixth century and born in the city of Cnossus on the island of Crete. He was ranked as one of the seven wise men of Greece, a profound intellect, apparently, a very gifted orator and poet. He was a hero. And the poet originally characterized his people in a familiar hexameter, it's a form of poetry and it goes like this, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." The Cretans, he said, are basically chronic liars. They had given testimony to the world about their ability to lie in a lot of ways. One of the most famous ones was that they prided themselves on having on the island of Crete the tomb of Zeus. MacArthur sermon “Men Who Must Be Silenced, Part 2”

Response to those who contradict (1:13b-14)

^{13b}For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth. Tit 1:13b-14

1. “Reprove them severely” [elegcho] is the same word as “refute” in 1:9 and carries the idea of convict – to show error in teaching and practice and summon them to repent. Severely means sternly, seriously, vigorously, sharply, curtly, pungently, incisively. The picture is a surgeon expertly and precisely cutting out a cancer. The temptation is to err with love, but this puts the false teachers and the victims at continued risk.

²⁴The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, ²⁵with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, ²⁶and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will. 2 Tim 2:24-26

“That they may be sound in faith” – The result of the reproof in the life of those who contradict, but also in the life of the church. “Sound” carries the idea of healthy in the faith.

2. The result of doctrinal health is the ability to avoid and not pay attention to false teaching. What do we pay attention to?

The mature believer compared to those who contradict (1:15-16)

¹⁵To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. ¹⁶They profess to know God, but by *their* deeds they deny *Him*, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed. Tit 1:15-16

1. Inside – The Judaizers believed that certain foods could make a person impure. The truth is that the heart is what makes a person pure or impure (Matt 15:17-20).

¹⁷"Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated? ¹⁸"But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. ¹⁹"For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. ²⁰"These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man." Matt 15:17-20

These false teachers are defiled and unbelieving.

2. Outside – Our behavior testifies to our faith. These who contradict are:

- 1) detestable – loathsome because of hypocrisy
- 2) disobedient – insubordinate to God's word
- 3) worthless – disqualified because of impurity.

¹⁵"Beware of the false prophets, who **come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.** ¹⁶**You will know them by their fruits.** Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? ¹⁷"So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸"A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. ¹⁹"Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰"So then, you will know them by their fruits. ²¹"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. ²²"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' ²³"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.' Matt 7:15-23

Those who contradict can in no way glorify God.

Summary

Mature believers are prepared to reprove those who contradict in order to protect the body.