

Titus: The Ministry of Church Leaders

Every local church needs _____. Many churches lack health, unity, vision, and influence because of inadequate and ineffective leadership. Paul invested his life into Gospel preaching, personal evangelism, church planting, and _____. Great churches understand the spiritual magnitude of leadership development. Who picks up the leadership mantle after we're gone?

Paul wanted God's people to know several important truths about his life, ministry, and convictions.

- Paul possessed a heart to _____ (1:1).
- Paul served as an _____ of Jesus Christ (1:1).
- Paul knew God in an _____ way (1:2).
- Paul understood the value of _____ (1:3).
- Paul invested in his spiritual _____ (1:4).
- Paul testified to the value of _____ and _____ (1:4).

What do we know about Titus?

- He was a _____ believer (Gal. 2:3).
- He was taught and nurtured (mentored) by _____.
- He stood before the church in _____ (Gal. 2:1).
- He traveled with Paul and was one his closest _____.
- He served as the _____ of the churches on Crete.
- He was a mature _____ and a responsible _____.

What was Titus' role in ministry? Paul said, "*This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you*" (1:5). Titus had the responsibility of leadership development. Titus' role was critical for the church's health and for the advancement of the Gospel. Paul and Titus were actively involved in the disciple-making process. Paul gave Titus insights on how to accomplish the task. Paul outlined the biblical qualifications of elders (pastors). God's servant "**must be above reproach.**" What does it mean to be "*above reproach?*"

What do we know about Crete and the Cretans?

- Crete is the largest _____ in Greece.
- "*Cretans are always _____, evil beasts, and lazy gluttons*" (1:12).
- Cretans needed to hear the truth of _____ (1:13).
- Cretans' beliefs and behavior didn't _____ (1:16).
- Paul said Cretans are detestable, disobedient, and _____ for any good work (1:16).

Paul challenged Titus to “*teach what accords with sound doctrine*” (2:1). Titus was to instruct different generations to do life together and to learn from each other. That mandate continues to be relevant for today’s church. How are you _____ the younger generation? How are you _____ from the younger generation? It’s a tragedy when different generations are divided in the culture and in the church.

Is God’s _____ still amazing? God’s grace saves, equips, and sustains you and me. What did Paul say about grace? Paul reminded Titus that he’d need a tender heart and tough skin to preach God’s truth (2:15).

- Grace has _____ in the person of Jesus Christ (2:11).
- Grace is for _____ people (2:11).
- Grace equips us to live _____ (2:12).
- Grace leads to _____ (2:14).

You and I already possess incredible biblical _____. We know truths about salvation, stewardship, discipleship, missions, marriage, worship, and the church. Paul asked Titus to “*remind them*” (3:1). Much of preaching and teaching is about reminding us to practice what we already know.

As the Holy Spirit led, Paul proclaimed the beauty of the Gospel again.

- The Gospel _____ lives (3:3).
- The Gospel is about _____ (3:4).
- The Gospel _____ us (3:5).
- The Gospel is about _____ sinless life, His sacrificial death, and His glorious resurrection (3:5-7).
- The Gospel _____ eternal life (3:7).
- The Gospel results in _____ (3:8).

Paul finished his letter to Titus by disclosing one of the enemy’s tools to divide, distract, and destroy the Lord’s church. It’s possible for certain _____ to disrupt the church’s mission and cause division in the church’s fellowship. Paul equipped God’s servant on how to handle such people. Confronting conflict isn’t easy. However, it’s necessary. Tough conversations in ministry are mandatory. Many churches have closed their doors because leaders avoided awkward conversations.

I feel for pastors who feel like they’re alone in ministry. The enemy loves to isolate God’s servants. What’s the truth about pastors?

- _____ do not have someone they consider a close friend.
- _____ of pastors’ wives wish their spouse would choose another profession.
- _____ of pastors regularly fight depression.

A wise pastor (and Paul is a model) refuses to do life and ministry **alone!**

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Every local church needs **godly leaders**. Many churches lack health, unity, vision, and influence because of inadequate and ineffective leadership. Paul invested his life into Gospel preaching, personal evangelism, church planting, and **leadership development**. Great churches understand the spiritual magnitude of leadership development. Who picks up the leadership mantle after we're gone?

Paul wanted God's people to know several important truths about his life, ministry, and convictions.

- Paul possessed a heart to **serve** (1:1).
- Paul served as an **apostle** of Jesus Christ (1:1).
- Paul knew God in an **intimate** way (1:2).
- Paul understood the value of **preaching** (1:3).
- Paul invested in his spiritual **children** (1:4).
- Paul testified to the value of **grace** and **peace** (1:4).

What do we know about Titus?

- He was a **Greek** believer (Gal. 2:3).
- He was taught and nurtured (mentored) by **Paul**.
- He stood before the church in **Jerusalem** (Gal. 2:1).
- He traveled with Paul and was one his closest **friends**.
- He served as the **overseer** of the churches on Crete.
- He was a mature **disciple** and a responsible **leader**.

What was Titus' role in ministry? Paul said, "*This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you*" (1:5). Titus had the responsibility of leadership development. Titus' role was critical for the church's health and for the advancement of the Gospel. Paul and Titus were actively involved in the disciple-making process. Paul gave Titus insights on how to accomplish the task. Paul outlined the biblical qualifications of elders (pastors). God's servant "**must be above reproach**." What does it mean to be "*above reproach*?"

What do we know about Crete and the Cretans?

- Crete is the largest **island** in Greece.
- "*Cretans are always **liars**, evil beasts, and lazy gluttons*" (1:12).
- Cretans needed to hear the truth of **God's Word** (1:13).
- Cretans' beliefs and behavior didn't **match** (1:16).
- Paul said Cretans are detestable, disobedient, and **unfit** for any good work (1:16).

Paul challenged Titus to “*teach what accords with sound doctrine*” (2:1). Titus was to instruct different generations to do life together and to learn from each other. That mandate continues to be relevant for today’s church. How are you **teaching** the younger generation? How are you **learning** from the younger generation? It’s a tragedy when different generations are divided in the culture and in the church.

Is God’s **grace** still amazing? God’s grace saves, equips, and sustains you and me. What did Paul say about grace? Paul reminded Titus that he’d need a tender heart and tough skin to preach God’s truth (2:15).

- Grace has **appeared** in the person of Jesus Christ (2:11).
- Grace is for **all** people (2:11).
- Grace equips us to live **godly** (2:12).
- Grace leads to **good works** (2:14).

You and I already possess incredible biblical **knowledge**. We know truths about salvation, stewardship, discipleship, missions, marriage, worship, and the church. Paul asked Titus to “*remind them*” (3:1). Much of preaching and teaching is about reminding us to practice what we already know.

As the Holy Spirit led, Paul proclaimed the beauty of the Gospel again.

- The Gospel **changes** lives (3:3).
- The Gospel is about **incarnation** (3:4).
- The Gospel **redeems** us (3:5).
- The Gospel is about **Jesus’** sinless life, His sacrificial death, and His glorious resurrection (3:5-7).
- The Gospel **guarantees** eternal life (3:7).
- The Gospel results in **good works** (3:8).

Paul finished his letter to Titus by disclosing one of the enemy’s tools to divide, distract, and destroy the Lord’s church. It’s possible for certain **people** to disrupt the church’s mission and cause division in the church’s fellowship. Paul equipped God’s servant on how to handle such people. Confronting conflict isn’t easy. However, it’s necessary. Tough conversations in ministry are mandatory. Many churches have closed their doors because leaders avoided awkward conversations.

I hurt for pastors who feel like they’re alone in ministry. The enemy loves to isolate God’s servants. What’s the truth about pastors?

- **70%** do not have someone they consider a close friend.
- **80%** of pastors’ wives wish their spouse would choose another profession.
- **70%** of pastors regularly fight depression.

A wise pastor (and Paul is a model) refuses to do life and ministry **alone!**