

Transformed—2 Setting Things in Order

Healthy Churches Need Godly Leadership

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. 6 An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe[b] and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. 7 Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. 8 Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. 9 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. Titus 1:5-9 NIV

The focus is not perfection but consistency.

- **Hold firmly to God's Word**
- **Encourage believers with sound doctrine**
- **Refute those who oppose the truth**

Healthy Churches Must Guard Against False Teaching

For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. 11 They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. 12 One of Crete's own prophets has said it: "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." [c] 13 This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith 14 and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth. Titus 1:10-14 NIV

The greatest threat to the church often comes from within, not outside.

Healthy Churches Pursue Genuine Godliness

To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. 16 They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good. Titus 1:15-16 NIV

The greatest evidence of faith is not what we say but how we live.

TALK IT OVER

Brief Recap

In Titus 1:5–16, Paul reminds Titus that healthy churches do not happen by accident. They are built on godly leadership, sound doctrine, and lives that reflect the truth of the Gospel. Church leaders are called to faithfully model Christlike character, protect the church from false teaching, and help others grow in their faith. Ultimately, genuine faith is demonstrated not just by what we believe or say, but by how we live each day.

Conversation Starters

1. What character quality listed for church leaders stands out to you most, and why?
2. Why is it important for church leaders to be both grounded in God's Word and examples of godly living?

3. Paul's warning about false teaching focused on ideas that sounded convincing but were not true. What are some messages or influences today that Christians need to evaluate carefully?
4. The sermon noted that "the greatest threat to the church often comes from within, not outside." What do you think that means, and how can believers help protect the health of the church?
5. Titus 1:16 says some people claim to know God, but their actions tell a different story. What are some practical ways our daily lives can reflect the faith we profess?