

Titus 1: A Truthful Word from the God who Never Lies

June 7, 2026 - Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church

Sermon Text Titus 1 (CSB)

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness, ² in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began. ³ In his own time he has revealed his word in the preaching with which I was entrusted by the command of God our Savior:

⁴ To Titus, my true son in our common faith. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. ⁵ The reason I left you in Crete was to set right what was left undone and, as I directed you, to appoint elders in every town. ⁶ An elder must be blameless, the husband of one wife, with faithful children who are not accused of wildness or rebellion. ⁷ As an overseer of God's household, he must be blameless, not arrogant, not hot-tempered, not an excessive drinker, not a bully, not greedy for money, ⁸ but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, righteous, holy, self-controlled, ⁹ holding to the faithful message as taught, so that he will be able both to encourage with sound teaching and to refute those who contradict it. ¹⁰ For there are many rebellious people, full of empty talk and deception, especially those from the circumcision party. ¹¹ It is necessary to silence them; they are ruining entire households by teaching what they shouldn't in order to get money dishonestly. ¹² One of their very own prophets said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." ¹³ This testimony is true. For this reason, rebuke them sharply, so that they may be sound in the faith ¹⁴ and may not pay attention to Jewish myths and the commands of people who reject the truth. ¹⁵ To the pure, everything is pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; in fact, both their mind and conscience are defiled. ¹⁶ They claim to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, and unfit for any good work.

1. Read the text of Titus 1 as a group. Consider first reading silently alone. out loud as group with a designated reader. Consider praying through this passage of God's Word (i.e. Pray the Bible thanking God He has spoken to us so clearly, truthfully and sufficiently)
2. How would you respond: *At a block party your neighbor Mary who professes faith in Jesus confidently states: "No church needs elders. They are not necessary for a local church at all. Plus Jesus does not call us to judge anyone's faith or lifestyle. We are all the same before Jesus so why would there be elders who self-righteously judge everyone?"* You now this clearly dishonors God and goes against the truth of God's Word but how would you respond in a way that would honor God and be full of love and grace, truth and wisdom? What questions would you ask her? What verses from Titus 1 might you draw attention to?
3. Who is the ultimate author of the book of Titus? Who is the human author of Titus and how does he describe himself in relation to the Lord? How does he describe his relationship to Titus? What would be lost if these truths were not included?
4. Look over the greeting in vs. 1-4. What do we learn about the Lord in this greeting?
5. What does God through the Apostle Paul tell us about how His chosen/elect people grow in godliness? Why does this matter? How is grace not opposed to but helps us grow in godliness?
6. How is God described in Titus 1:2? Read Numbers 23:19 and 1 Samuel 15:29. How does Titus 1:2 compare with these verses and why does this matter?

7. How do people in the world typically describe leaders? What are some attributes that the world looks for in leaders? Now read Titus 1:5-9. Where are there similarities and where are there differences between the Word (in Titus 1:5-9) and the ideas of the world on leadership? Why is it so vital Christ's church have biblical qualifications not worldly?
8. How does the Apostle Paul describe the reason he left Titus in Crete in vs. 5? How should this affect the way we think about pastor-elders (note: vs. 5 "Elder" and vs. 7 "Overseer" are clearly the same office. Also see Acts 20:17-38; 1 Tim. 5:17; 1 Pet. 5:1-2 for more verses on terms like "pastor" and "elder" are used interchangeably in the New Testament)
9. What biblical qualifications for the officer of pastor-elder stand out to or do you have question about? What must these pastor-elders do according to Titus 1:9? Why?
10. Read Titus 1:10-16. What was the nature of the sinful errors that many in Crete were caught up in that they needed to be rebuked for? How are those errors similar to and also different from our context for gospel ministry? What are the leading errors in our day in the United States that need to be refuted from the Word of God by pastor-elders? What does Christ church (especially pastor-elders) need to faithfully and courageously rebuke?

Spend some time praising God for faithful pastor-elders God has supplied His church across the nations with. Pray for brother pastor-elders in persecuted countries where they need extra courage. And spend intentional time praying for the brothers in Christ God has called through your church family to serve as pastor-elders. Thank God for each of them and pray the Lord would bless and protect them and their families. Pray the Lord would strengthen these men to carry out all He has called them to faithfully to God's glory and that God would raise up more faithful men across our nation and the nations to serve faithfully as pastor-elders in Christ's church. May Christ be praised and the true church of the risen Lord Jesus Christ our Savior blessed with faithful under-shepherds who imitate our Lord and Savior and walk faithfully under His Lordship! Soli Deo Gloria!