

**Series: Order in the Church**

**Title: Raising the Bar**

**Text: Titus 1:7-9**

Paul's epistle to Titus is the third of the pastoral epistles.  
Written same time as I Timothy, from Nicopolis in Macedonia  
Written between Paul's 1st & 2nd imprisonment.

**I. Titus was a Leading Evangelist**

**A. Titus was a young pastor, a Greek.**

Some have suggested Titus was Luke's brother.

**B. Loved and trusted by Paul.**

1. Led to Christ and Discipled by Paul.

**C. Proved himself worthy of Paul's confidence.**

**D. Continually confronted Judiazers.**

Those that mixed law and grace.

**II. Titus was a Liaison for Paul to Corinth**

**A.** Paul had sent him to Corinth to set in order things  
which were needy there. (2 Cor 7:6,13-14)

1. He succeeded in these matters.

2. He possessed great tact, courage, & strength.

**B.** Titus carried the Letter of 2 Cor to the church there.

**C.** Titus accompanied Paul & Barnabas to the  
Conference in Jerusalem. (Acts 15, Gal 2:1-4)

**III. The Culture in Crete**

If we Travel the Greek Island of Crete,  
We would find the Ruins of where they worshiped the Greek  
God of Dionysius, the mythiological son of Zeus.

They worshipped him though ecstasy, emotionalism,  
drunkenness, and Sexual immorality.

Wine was a big part of their worship, and Dionysius was call  
the "God of Wine"

When the Romans conquered the world, they renamed him  
Bacchus.

When they excavated the temples, they found a well in the  
middle of the floor, with ornately painted tiles depicting  
scenes of feasting.

They would Bing and purge repeatedly through the feast.

The vomiting was considered an offering to Bacchus.

In the 4th decade of the first century, Jews residing on Crete  
traveled back to Jerusalem to observe the feast of Pentecost.

They heard a message from a converted Fisherman, Peter.

They were born again.

With great passion, they returned to Crete to spread the  
Gospel.

30 years later, the Apostle Paul visit Crete, along with Titus,  
to check on their progress. (After the 1st Imprisonment)

Not sure how long Paul stayed there.

Can you imagine the mission field?

The Wine industry was famous.

Drunkenness was an epidemic.

Cretians were reported to be deceitful & untrustworthy.

You might think, The Drunken religion of sex and excess  
would be more attractive to the Cretians than the Gospel of  
Repentance, Self Restraint, and holy living.

In all this, the gospel had taken root.  
The Holy Spirit had transformed lives.  
Churches had begun to spring up.

Where God is working, the devil is not far behind.  
False teachers had begun to sow their false doctrine.  
leaderless congregations were easy targets.

### **Titus was Left in charge at Crete.**

Paul visited Crete briefly on his trip to Rome. (Acts 27:7-9)  
Titus had co-labored on Crete with Paul when He returned to  
establish churches.  
Paul had left him on Crete to set in order the churches there,  
He was to remain there until relieved by Artemas or Tychicus.  
Then to Meet Paul in Nicopolis (Ch 3:12)

### **Chapter 1. Right Leadership in the Church**

#### ***Positions Available, Apply Now!***

We have all seen signs for “*Hiring Now, apply within*”  
The Churches of Crete were in desperate need of pastors.

These churches needed godly men, led of the Spirit of God.  
Not looking for Perfection, but character!  
Men Committed to the Word of God.  
Men of uncompromising Character.  
And those leaders needed a mentor.

We have the same need today.  
Men who will step up to the plate of duty,  
Swing the bat of Integrity  
and Run the bases of responsibility

Titus is being sent on a search for men.

I received a newsletter of 95 church seeking a pastor.  
200 pastors seeking a church, why is this?

**Because Right Leadership in the church** is important to the  
task of preserving Right Doctrine

394 AD, Jerome wrote: “*Many build churches with marbles  
pillars, and Altars studded with Jewels, yet to the choice of  
Christ’s ministers in the churches, no heed is given.*”

Shepherds who lead God’s church are literally guiding the  
Bride of Christ to the Marriage Feast.

So picking leaders in the church is a serious thing, not to be  
rushed or done haphazardly.

Titus was going to be appointing leaders for these churches.

In this first chapter, Paul sets forth New Testament  
qualifications for the office of the elder/bishop/pastor.

The Catholic church has defines these terms as separate  
positions in the clergy food chain or pecking order.

The Apostle Peter uses these terms interchangeably by  
referring in the same text to the same man, in the same office.

**Vs 6** *If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having  
faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.*

*If any be blameless, - Above Reproach  
the husband of one wife, -  
having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.*

Again, not looking for perfection, but Pattern of Commitment, singleminded devotion.

*Loving you family is not loving them as a SAINT, but loving them as a SINNER, just as Jesus did. (Eph 5:25-28)*

Illus:

*Years Ago, in the midwest.*

*A farmer & his wife were lying in bed.*

*Suddenly a Tornado lifted the roof off their house, and picked them up, bed and all...*

*As they floated around in a circle, She started to cry,*

*The Farmer called out to her, This is No time to cry...*

*She called back, I can't help it, I am so happy...*

*Its the first time in years we've gone out together.*

His devotion to His family and these principles of (Titus 1:6-8) is to be an example worth imitating by their followers.

**(Titus 1:7)** *For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;*

***Blameless: Not Perfection, but Above Reproach***

While he isn't flawless, then no one would qualify; He must be faithful in hi ***Private life*** of his marriage and children, he must also be worthy of imitation in his ***Public life*** and character.

Illus: *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, a medical student, and create to the Sherlock Holmes character, played a practical joke on some of his friends.*

*He wrote an anonymous Telegram to a dozen of his close friends and Business associates.*

*"All is Discovered"*

*It created quite a scandal. within 48 hours of the telegram, half those who received it mysteriously left the country without a word.*

*Evidently they had some things they needed to get right.*

It used to be that lost people questioned the Gospel because it sounded foolishly simple.

Today, people are not questioning the message, they are first questioning the messenger!

**The NOTS of qualifications**

**(Titus 1:7)** *For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;*

Illus: *Ever heard... Who's minding the store?*

***The Steward of God*** ~ Arranger, keeper of the house

Illus: *Joseph is an excellent example of stewardship.*

To manage the resources for the owner's benefit.

**The Steward of God is NOT to be *Not Selfwilled* - the Opposite of the attitude of a steward.**

***Self Willed*** - Arrogant, self-serving attitude of entitlement.

*Illus: you hire a babysitter, she gets rid of the dog, paints the living room lime green, and takes your clothes to Goodwill.*  
It wasn't her place to do that, they weren't her things to dispose of.

As if the Baby sitter, disposed of your stuff, changed the locks, and the name on the mail box.

***This is what caused the downfall of Satan:***

(Is 14:13-14)

*For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*

Titus was to make sure and give the authority to those who are not in love with power, or infatuated with themselves.

**The Steward of God is NOT to be soon angry**

Every body can lose their cool from time to time.  
Like hay thrown in a fire, it blazes up quickly.

This reference to Anger is speaking of a a way of life, a persistent habit of childish response to irritation.

**The Steward of God is NOT Given to Wine**

*“Given” - here is one of the verses where people use for justification to drink.*

Access to pure water was scarce.  
Water borne disease and Illness was common.

At the time, they would put 1 part wine to 8 parts water to combat the contamination in water.

The fermented alcohol were act as an antiseptic.

(Luke 10:34) The good samaritan poured in Wine & Oil.  
Timothy, desiring to *abstain from the appearance of evil*, suffered from Stomach Illnesses.

(1 Tim 5:23) *Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.*

They fermented wine was used to purify their drinking water.

This was nothing like the wine, or fermented drinks were have at our grocery stores.

**The Steward of God is NOT to be *No Striker*** - Abusive, always chooses to fight.

**The Steward of God is NOT to be Given to Filthy Lucre**

Driven by gain - especially Ill-Gotten Gain.

Gain where someone else has lost.

Cretians were known for their greed.

Titus was to make sure this lust was purged.

*Illus: Wealth is not sin. The Love of Wealth IS Sin.*

(1 Tim 6:10) *For the love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

**Without The NOTS** one is ready to serve.

*For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;*

This man is not disqualified and may apply for the job of shepherd.

But to really serve well as an under shepherd of Christ, we must reflect His Characteristics

When we apply for a job in the secular work.

To get your resume read, you have to avoid the NOTS, but also have the characteristics they are looking for.

Talents, Abilities, experience.

In many churches, they will make the mistake to pick trustees, elders, pastors, deacons, etc. because of their business success.

The need was so great on Crete that Paul knew that it would be tempting to overlook character and default to talent.

Those with Charm, charisma, Intellect, and good taste in togas.

Paul gives Titus a list of Resume qualifications to be looking for.

There are always plenty of Candidates who can't wait to be in charge.

As we look at the Resume qualification, we don't see Paul mentioning what a man has *DONE*, but what a man *IS*.

Paul is clear, what is Normal on Crete, can't be the Normal for the church.

### **They needed a New Normal: (Titus 1:8)**

*Illus: Can you a job interview question set of..*

*Are you a good person?*

*Do you have common sense?*

*Are you fair?*

*Are you personally devout?*

*Are you an example of Self Control?*

*"That's none of your business"*

This isn't business, this is the Church of Jesus Christ!

***8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;***

These are not the Norm on Society!

Each one of these is encouraged throughout the NT.

Many in (Gal 5:22-23)

These are not just for the Pastor, but all members.

Pastors are just men who are progressing under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

As I Progress in my walk with God, I shepherd the flock and try to supply a pattern to imitate.

The Pastor is to be the example of the New Normal for all.

Every Christian is pursue this New Normal as we are led by the Holy Spirit.

The Christian is to be progressing in these characteristics, but pastors are to be progressing in these Qualities.

There is a Difference.  
Character is made daily through choices that are Spirit led,  
and Flesh Denying.

In time these Daily choices become YOUR NEW NORMAL,  
thus qualities.

***But a lover of hospitality***, Open Hearts and Homes  
*Personal concern for those in Need:*  
Without expectation of reward or reciprocation (1 Pet 4:9)

***a lover of good men***, Not a Love for their Personality,  
Performance, or Purposes

A Preference to those that embody Christ's Character.

***sober***, Serious Minded about the Things of God.  
*Letting the Bible be our authority.*  
They not only have a bible belief, those beliefs are personal  
convictions.

***just***, Honest, Open and Above Board at all times.  
Whether the people around you are aware of your faith or not.  
Without Inconsistency between you lifestyle & your faith.  
*Illus: American Heart Association annual convention.*  
*30K Drs & RNS Attended.*  
*The focus was on the Fast Food industry.*  
*1 Cardiologist was interviewed as he ate a burger &*  
*fries Asked if he was being inconsistent.*  
*No, I removed my name tag before I went into the restaurant.*

***Paul is saying, We don't get to remove our name tag.***

*Illus: Working with Lost People.*

***We should Not afraid of Accountability.***

***holy***, Upright, Pure, Genuine

***temperate***; Self Control, Mastery of Self.  
Temperate in Word -  
Temperate in Deed -  
Temperate in Thought -

**Our New Normal cannot be the twin of the Old Normal**  
If you love what is Good, Sober (Sensible), Just, and Holy,  
we will behave ourself in a manner where there is no doubt  
about our standing in Christ!

The name Christian means "*Christ - Like*".

**Our New Normal needs to resemble Christ-like-ness**