



'Commit to the Bride!' Sermon Series

Sermon #3:

'Committed to Confrontation!'

Titus 1:10-16

Sunday, January 28th, 2024

Last week in Titus:

- ***Last week we looked at a tough, yet important text concerning the Qualifications for those who can serve in the local NT Church.***
 - When looking at Titus 1:5-9 last Sunday, we listed 4 things from the text that the Apostle Paul was telling to Titus that the qualifications were for someone to be able to serve as an Elder in the Church.
- **Point 1: *Properly Dedicated to his Family. (V. 6)***
- **Point 2: *Purposefully Distant from the Flesh. (V. 7)***
- **Point 3: *Positively Demonstrate Fruit. (V. 8)***

- **Point 4: *Provide Doctrine that is Found in the Bible. (V. 9)***
 - Based on last week's text, we know that there are qualifications that should be met in order for a man to serve Biblically, in the role as Pastor of a NT Church.
- This morning, we jump in to some of the reasons that has caused Paul to tell Titus that he has a job to put some order into the Church.

Sermon in a Sentence:

In the local Church we need to Commit to Confrontation in a loving way when we are made aware of Defiance, Deception, Deterioration, Defilement, and Disobedience in the flock of God.

Intro:

- ***So far in Titus, everything has been pretty positive.***
 - The greeting Paul gave for example was positive and uplifting, and then we see that Paul informs Titus in verse 5 that he is going to have to place elders/pastors in the Churches.
 - ***But with what we are about to read in the text this morning, we are going to find out WHY Paul feels these qualifications are what God desires for the leaders of the Church.***
 - These verses this morning are going to reveal to us that there were false teachers and false

teachings that were occurring in the Church that needed to be silenced and removed.

- *Churches that are focused on being healthy and glorifying God, should confront false teaching or false teachers whenever they present themselves.*
 - **Healthy Churches and Healthy Christians should be able to Spot and Confront False teachers/false teachings.**
- Robert W. Yarbrough described what was happening in Crete as *'negative local developments or conditions in the form of troublesome people.'*
- **Ever since the Gospel was presented to us, there have been those who oppose it and go directly against it.**
 - In should not surprise us that in the NT alone, Jesus, Paul, Peter, John and Jude all warn against false teachings.
 - **Jesus said:**
 - "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.' Matthew 7:15
 - **Paul said:**
 - 'I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; **30** and from among your own selves will arise men speaking

twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.' Acts 20:29-30

- **Peter said:**
 - 'But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.' 2nd Peter 2:1
- **John said:**
 - 'Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.**2** By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, **3** and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.' 1st John 4:1-4
- **While reconciliation is a big part of the ministry, so is rebuking. While comforting is a big part of ministry, so is confronting.**
 - Pastors, Church leaders, Deacons and members all have the responsibility of confronting false doctrine.
 - **The Call to Confrontation in the local Church is a serious one, and I believe the Apostle Paul**

shows us and Titus, **5** specific things that need to be confronted in the local Church.

- We cannot ignore false teaching or doctrine, it must be confronted.

Question to Ask:

What specific issues does the Apostle Paul tell Titus that he needs to confront and correct in the local Churches in Crete?

Point 1: **Defiance. (V. 10)**

- ‘For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party.’ Titus 1:10
 - ***Those who go against the Gospel of Christ, are defiant.***
 - In fact, even when we sin we are defiant against God. That’s why repentance is so important.
 - ***But for those who are false teachers, they are not repentant, they see no problem with their false doctrine.***
 - Based on verse 10, there are 3 things we need to point out concerning the defiance of false teachers.
- ***Their Number. (V. 10a)***
 - ‘For there are many’
 - The word ‘for’ here comes from the greek word ‘gar’ and it connects the previous passage to this one.
 - ***The previous passage showed us the proper qualifications of Pastors, and in***

verses 10-16, we see the consequences of when there are Pastors/teachers/leaders who do not meet these qualifications.

- ***Titus has the task of appointing Elders because of the amount of false teachers that were present on the island of Crete.***

○ ****Word Study****

- The word ‘many’ comes from the greek word **Polli** and in the greek text is attached with the article ‘hoi’.
 - ***In the greek this carries a disapproving and derogatory sense to the word.***
- There were many, numerous, false teachers on this island of Crete, just as there are many false teachers in our world today.
 - Dr. Daniel Aiken said ***‘There were ‘many,’ not a few, false teachers at Crete, who had apparently risen to some degree of prominence in the Churches.’***
- We see the ‘number’ of these defiant, but look at their nature.
- ***Their Nature. (V. 10b)***
 - ‘who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers,’

- *Here the apostle Paul gives us three characteristics of their Defiant nature, so that Titus (and us), know what to be on the lookout for:*

- **#1: Rebellious.**

- The ESV translates this greek word, to ‘insubordinate’, while some of your translations translate it to ‘rebellious’.
 - **Either way it means ‘not subjected, disorderly, and lawless.’**
 - Rebellion is part of who false teachers are, they rebel against what God has put into place and seek to disguise it to be something it is not.

- **#2: Empty Talkers.**

- Rebellion/insubordinate was their attitude, but this phrase ‘*empty talkers*’ describes their actions.
 - Dr. Daniel Aiken makes a good point ‘*These men were a law unto themselves, claiming a direct pipeline to God. They are not and would not be held accountable to anyone, a tell-tale sign of all false teachers.*’

- Sometimes false teachers are referred to as **Cotton Candy Preachers.**

- Lots of show, no substance.

- **#3: Deceivers.**

- This word can also be translated to ‘seducer’.
 - False teachers seek to smooth and seduce their listeners.

- **Their Niche. (V. 10c)**

- ‘especially those of the circumcision party.’
 - *Now, Paul identifies the niche of this group.*
 - Paul’s use of the phrase ‘**Circumcision party**’ is **a term to identify former jews who joined the Church with what we call a Gospel plus message.**
 - *This is not the only time that Paul uses this phrase, you can find it in Acts 10:45, Acts 11:2, Galatians 2:7-9 and Galatians 2:12.*
 - Their message was that you are saved by faith in the work of Christ but PLUS religious knowledge, diets, rites, or practices.
 - **As Bryan Chappel states ‘This unsound message has nothing to it. Rather, it exalts matters that are worthless to GOD, and it deceives people into thinking that their heavenly status is**

**determined by human
accomplishments.'**

- These 'Judaizers' mixed law and grace, which they were not supposed to do which made them guilty of being 'false teachers'.

Point 2: Deception. (V. 11)

- 'They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.' Titus 1:11

- *These false teachers are deceivers.*

■ ***False teachers will smooth and seduce their way with words until they get what they want.***

- Whether that be power, control, influence, popularity, or money, they will teach whatever necessary for their own shameful gain.
- ***The apostle Paul is clear here, the role of the Elders that Titus is going to place on the island of Crete will be to silence and remove these false teachers.***
 - ***To literally take their voice and their influence away from these families who are seeking to serve the Lord but are being bombarded by these false teachers.***

- Paul is not playing on the defensive side of the ball in regards to the ministry of confrontation here. He's not pulling punches because he is on the offense!

■ ***When it comes to being committed to confrontation in the local Church, we cannot sit back and play on the defense.***

- ***Meaning, we can't sit back and wait for someone to come to us and identify themselves as a false teacher.***

- That's not going to happen, instead when we see false teaching, it must be confronted. As Paul makes it clear here, they need to be silenced as soon as possible.

- ***I believe there are two important things we must look at concerning the Deception of these false teachers at Crete.***

● ***Methods. (V. 11a)***

- 'They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families'
- ***The fact that Paul mentions that they (false teachers) are upsetting whole families would indicate that these false teachers are not doing this during corporate worship services or Church meetings, but that their methods were that of going into people's homes.***

- A large group would more than likely have believers present who would be grounded in scripture and call them out.
 - *Often (not always), false teachers will plant seeds that are not of God in small groups to try and intimidate.*
 - This is why most of your cults start off from door-to-door or person-to-person contact.
 - *The methods of false teachers often vary, but it's usually not loud and proud in front of you, it usually starts behind the scenes.*
 - *Bryan Chappel* said 'Damaged Doctrine Damages People!'
 - *Their methods are smooth, sneaky, and seducing, but what we also see in verse 11 are their motives.*
- *Motives. (V. 11b)*
 - 'by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.'
 - *The motive for false teachers is not that they want to grow God's kingdom, but that they financially want to grow their own kingdom.*
 - I think it's important for believers to stay away from what we call 'Prosperity teaching!'

- For example *If you give me \$100, then God will give you \$10,000.*
 - *Preaching the Word is not going to bring you popularity.*
 - When you preach the Word, you are preaching the truth and most people don't want the truth.
 - *This is why many false teachers (that I will not name), have large followings, because they preach what people need to hear instead of what they want to hear.*
 - Motives in ministry certainly matter.
 - This does not mean we should muzzle the ox, Laborers are worth their pay, just not the shameful gain that is mentioned here.
 - *So far we've seen the defiance and deception of false teachers, now we see...*
- Point 3: *Deterioration. (V. 12-14)***
 - 'One of the Cretans,[b] a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth.' Titus 1:12-14
 - *The society of Crete had deteriorated over time.*
 - Verse 12 reveals that the Cretans were liars, evil, lazy, and gluttons.

- **Obviously the Cretans cared greatly about themselves.**
 - So why does Paul even mention this?
 - *To show that the false teachers coming from Crete were also selfish.*
- There are __ things we can see in this text about the Deterioration of false teachers.
- **A Reliable Source. (V. 12)**
 - ‘One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” Titus 1:12
 - It’s almost like verse 12 came out of a paper that Paul was writing.
 - **In Parenthetical fashion, Paul quotes a well known philosopher who lived in the sixth-century BC and was from Crete.**
 - *Epimenides said this about his own people ‘Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.’*
 - *I believe Paul is applying this quote in regards to the false teachers of Crete and not the general people of Crete.*
 - If Paul was talking about the general people of Crete, it would make sense for him to have given eyewitness account since he had been there.

- **But I believe Paul quotes Epimenides to show Titus what he would be up against in selecting and putting in place elders.**
- **A Ready Sword. (V. 13-14)**
 - ‘This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, 14 not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth.’ Titus 1:13-14
 - **Paul affirms that the Cretan philosopher was correct in his assessment.**
 - So now that we know this, Paul gives Timothy a way to combat this problem. A ready sword so to speak.
 - *Paul does not mince his words here, he says to ‘rebuke them sharply’.*
 - ***Word Study***
 - This word rebuke is the same one that we studied last week in verse 9.
 - *It is the greek word ‘Elencho’ which literally means to put to proof, test, convict and refute.*
 - While the task Titus has at Crete is not easy, Paul is wanting him to get the sword ready.
- **Point 4: Defilement. (V. 15)**
 - ‘To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled.’ Titus 1:15

- *The apostle Paul does something interesting to get his point across to young Titus in verse 15.*
 - *Paul is contrasting two social classes of people in order to highlight the problems of the trouble makers (false teachers), in Crete.*
 - There are those that are pure (believers) and those that are not pure (unbelieving).
 - *It seems here that Paul is remembering what Jesus had said in [Luke 11:37-41](#) when he was invited to dine with the Pharisee and Jesus did not wash His hands.*
 - *In this passage, Jesus explained that the pharisees were washing the outside but inside they were full of 'greed and wickedness.'*
 - In a similar way and tone, Jesus seems to communicate that with Titus concerning these false teachers. They were defiled.
 - *John McArthur said 'When a person is pure in heart and mind, his perspectives on all things are pure, and that inner purity always produces outer purity.'*
 - *These Judaizers 'circumcision party' were defiling themselves and the local Churches at Crete by making folks think that a person can receive God's reconciliation by their own power and works, instead of accepting the work of Jesus on the Cross.*
- The Jerusalem council of Acts 15 was to address this issue of Judaizers and Paul goes even more in depth in Galatians.
- When Paul wrote to the Romans in *Romans 10:3*, he was clear *'For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.'*
 - *False teachers do not care about polluting the Gospel, just profiting themselves.*
- *Here's the thing, these false teachers have defiled themselves.*
- *False teachers make their own decision! (subpoint)*
 - False teachers choose to take the Word of God, and twist it to their own profit and gain.
 - **Word Study**
 - Twice in verse 15 we see the english word 'defiled'.
 - In the greek, both of these words come from the greek word *'Miano'* which literally means to tinge, dy, stain, pollute and defile.
 - It only occurs here twice, in John 18:28, Hebrews 12:15, and Jude 8.
- *Just as one chooses to accept Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, one chooses to disobey Christ and seek to defile others.*

- The point Paul is making here *is that the perspectives and actions of these Judaizers (false teachers), is infected with their own inner defilement (sin).*
 - *When we don't deal with our sin, it can defile us and make us spiritually sick.*
 - Pastors are to be like physicians, to help diagnose and help a person get sin out of their life, so that they can be a vessel for God to use.
 - *Jesus said that in Matthew 15:11 'it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.'*
- *True Christians will be worried about the heart, while false teachers are concerned with their own gain.*

Point 5: *Disobedience. (V. 16)*

- 'They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.' Titus 1:16
- *At the end of the day, these false teachers are not fit for the work of the ministry because they are disobedient to God.*
 - In verse 16 I believe the apostle Paul is warning Titus (and us), to not allow such men to serve in the pulpit.
 - *Without naming names, I do feel it's important to make you aware that there are such men*

that are described in this passage preaching across pulpits in America.

- *Whether that be in Pulpits or on TV screens, social media feeds, or YouTube videos.*
 - *Everything you are taught from a preacher or Bible Teacher, you need to take it to the Word of God and make sure it aligns with His Holy Word.*
 - In order for us to be able to lovingly confront false teachings in the Church (big C Church), we have to know the truth.
 - We can't fight false teaching if you first don't know the truth.
 - *I believe there are two ways that we can see Disobedience is a sign of false teaching/teachers:*
- ***Disconnection. (V. 16a)***
 - 'They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works.' Titus 1:16
 - *Obviously, disobedience of any kind shows that there is a disconnection between receiving the truth and reciprocating the truth.*
 - Robert W. Yarborough made the point 'There is a disconnect between their confession and their behavior.'

- *I truly believe that if someone is a Christian, than we will know it by the actions that come out of their life.*
 - *Confessions mean nothing if there is not a change in the heart and life of that believer.*
- How you and I speak will reveal what we truly believe and think.
 - *These false teachers have lied to themselves, and ultimately to God.*
- *While we know we are saved by Faith alone, through Grace alone, in Christ alone.*
 - *If one is truly saved, then their actions will support their confession of faith and not deny it.*
- **Demotion. (V. 16b)**
 - ‘They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.’
 - *Those who are consistently and constantly disobedient to God’s Word in teaching and living, should be demoted, and are not fit for the work of the ministry.*
 - I believe if false teachers are not repentant and willing to obey the Lord, that they should be removed.
 - *Verse 16 ultimately reflects and summarizes the text that we’ve studied this morning.*

■ *False teachers are nothing to play around with, instead they are to be taken seriously and confronted.*

- As Jeremiah had said in Jeremiah 23:32, those who are lying against God, are not beneficial to His people:
 - ‘Behold, I am against those who prophesy lying dreams, declares the LORD, and who tell them and lead my people astray by their lies and their recklessness, when I did not send them or charge them. So they do not profit this people at all, declares the LORD.’
Jeremiah 23:32

Conclusion:

- *I know it’s tempted to leave here today and say ‘another boring message that doesn’t apply to me’ when in reality today’s sermon applies to all of us.*
 - One reason Doctrine has greatly Deteriorated in Churches across the US (and the world), is because the local Church wasn’t committed to confronting false teaching.
 - *Confrontation is certainly not comfortable, but when false teachings and false living intercede the Church, it has to be confronted.*
 - This morning we’ve seen the 5 things that Paul lists for Timothy to be aware of in the Churches on the Island of Crete.

- *Do we know the truth well enough to be able to confront it if it ever came in our own Church or Community?*
 - Pastors and Church leaders need to confront:
 - **Point 1: *Defiance.* (V. 10)**
 - **Point 2: *Deception.* (V. 11)**
 - **Point 3: *Deterioration.* (V. 12-14)**
 - **Point 4: *Defilement.* (V. 15)**
 - **Point 5: *Disobedience.* (V. 16)**
- During this time of invitation I want to invite and encourage you to commit to the Lord that we will confront false teachings and doctrines in our own lives, and wherever we may come in contact with it.