



ADVANCING
THE
GOSPEL

Titus 1

Introduction

- This letter is one of the pastoral epistles.
- 1 Timothy and Titus were written around the same time,
- Titus seems as though it is just a shorter version of the same letter written to Timothy.
- It addresses similar issues, particularly the importance of choosing sound leaders who both live in way that is above reproach.

Introduction

- What is the difference between the two?
- Timothy was in Ephesus, where the church had been in existence for 12 years, and false teachers had cropped up and had been leading the people astray from the truth.
- Titus was in Crete, where he was organizing new churches out of the believers there. There were already some false teachers in Crete, even before they had officially established their churches.

Introduction

- Titus was a Gentile believer who became a companion of Paul, journeying with him and Barnabas to Jerusalem (Galatians 2:1–3).
- He was then sent to Corinth, where he successfully reconciled the Christian community there with Paul, who had founded it.
- Paul left Titus on the island of Crete to help organize the church there, which is what this letter is about.

Titus 1:1-4

Servant and apostle

- In the letter to Titus, Paul described himself as both a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ.
 - In Philippians, he had only used the word “servant.”
 - In Colossians, he had only used the word “apostle.”
 - In Philemon, he had only used the word “prisoner.”
- Paul chose a different self-description to open his letters, depending on the content of the letter that was to follow.

Servant and apostle

- In Titus, he paired servant and apostle for a specific reason.
- The term “apostle” gave Paul the authority to correct issues in the church at Crete.
- But he used the term “servant” first to show that even though he is an apostle, he is really a servant of Jesus.
- He is not there to lord his authority over them; he is there to encourage them, spur them on as a fellow servant of Christ.

Servant and apostle

- Paul will spend much of this letter trying to encourage ordinary believers from all walks of life to consider every facet of their lives as an expression of the will of God.
- That Paul calls himself both servant and apostle reflects both of the challenges he will give to the church at Crete:
 - servant – submissive to God's will in all things
 - apostle – one who is sent with a mission

My True Son

- Titus was Paul's disciple who had been left in Crete to organize and establish the church there.
- Timothy and Titus were the only two people Paul called his "true son" in the faith.
- Paul uses the term "son in the faith" to describe those whom he had led to Christ, of whom he was a "spiritual father," like Onesimus in Philemon.
- But with Timothy and Titus, he added "true" in front of "son in the faith."

My True Son

- He is describing the deeper relationship he had with these men.
- They represented and carried on his mission in the same way a biological son would carry on the family business.
- They had been his companions, had worked alongside him in his ministry, and he had even left them in charge of certain churches.
- These letters were not only written to Timothy and Titus personally, they were written to give Paul's apostolic authority to Timothy and Titus as his "true sons."

God's Elect

- This letter was to establish the truth of the Gospel as opposed to Greek philosophy such as stoicism and Greek mythology.
 - The truth of God's Word: "knowledge of the truth" (verse 1) and "God who never lies" (verse 2)
 - That God's Word has been true forever – "promised before the ages began" (verse 2)
 - That Paul has been entrusted with the preaching of it, and now they would be (verse 3)

Titus 1:5-9

Elders in Every Town

- They needed local church leadership in each town on the island of Crete.
- In our world today, we have multiple churches in each city.
- In big cities, perhaps hundreds of churches, each with their own elders.
- But this is the very beginning of the church in Crete.
- Titus was to establish one church in each town, with a strong leadership team in each church.

Requirements for Elders

- Above reproach - means that an elder must be so righteous that no one can say anything negative about him.
- In 1 Timothy, Paul told Timothy that an elder must have a good reputation with the outside world, too, not only those inside the church (1 Timothy 3:7).
- We represent our church and Jesus Himself to the outside world. The way we live can either bring glory or shame to Jesus' name.
- We welcome all sinners to come and meet Jesus! But those who desire, and are called to leadership must live a life above reproach.

Requirements for Elders

- Regarding his family - Paul moves to the blamelessness of the home life of a perspective elder, specifically his marriage and his children.
- The elder is to be the husband of one wife, literally a “one woman’s man.”
- Children are to be believers who are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.
- It seems that the father’s influence should not simply be reflected in his children’s behavior, but also their spiritual commitment.

Requirements for Elders

- God's steward - Jesus described in His parables (Luke 16:1–13; Matthew 25:14–30), what it means to be a steward.
- That includes our money, our families, our lives and our churches.
- They must run the church as God Himself would have run it. It is not their church. It is God's church, so leaders must reflect God's character.
- This list is similar to the list of the characteristics of love in 1 Corinthians 13.

The Negatives

- Not Arrogant– humble like Jesus (Philippians 2:5–8)
- Not Quick-Tempered – slow to anger, like God (Psalm 103:8)
- Not a Drunkard – filled with the Spirit, like Jesus (Ephesians 5:18; Luke 4:1)
- Not Violent – peaceable like Jesus (Isaiah 9:6; Acts 8:32)
- Not Greedy – generous and not loving wealth like Jesus (Acts 20:35; Matthew 19:24).

The Positives

- Hospitable – as shows His love for the foreigner (Deuteronomy 10:17–20)
- Lover of good – as God is good and loves good (Exodus 33:19)
- Self-controlled – like Jesus, who did not sin (Hebrews 4:15)
- Upright – like the righteousness of Christ (Romans 3:22)
- Holy – as God is holy (Leviticus 11:44; 1 Peter 1:16)
- Disciplined – like Jesus, who said, “Not my will, but your will” (Luke 22:42)

Requirements for Elders

- They are to be theologically sound:
 - Hold firm to the truth they have been taught (verse 9)
 - Be able to give instruction in sound doctrine (verse 9)
 - Rebuke those who contradict sound doctrine (verse 9)
- Know how to recognize false teaching (e.g., Secret Service).

Titus 1:10-16

False Teaching

- Paul described the false teachers in Crete: insubordinate, empty talkers, and deceivers (verse 10).
- People who wouldn't submit to the authority of the apostles.
- People who were going around stirring up dissension and deceiving people for personal gain (verse 11).
- People who are intentionally trying to lead people astray.

False Teaching

- Empty talk - described many pseudointellectuals in the ancient world. One of the great pastimes of Greek culture was waxing philosophical about anything and everything under the sun in public forums.
- This would have been a sect of Jewish believers living in Crete though, because they were focusing on Jewish myths (verse 14) .
- They were teaching that Gentiles believers must be circumcised, which the church leadership had already dealt with in the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)

False Teaching

- Paul quotes the Greek philosophers of Crete, “that all Cretans were liars.”
- The saying became so ubiquitous that “to cretize” became slang for “to lie.”
- This seems like a harsh statement by Paul, but he is not saying that all of the believers in Crete are like this.
- He is simply using this broad brush characterization of a “typical Cretan” to call out the behavior of the false teachers.

False Teaching

- To the pure, all things are pure - Paul referred to the words of both the Jerusalem Council and Jesus Himself to rebuke these false teachers.
- The pure in heart will reflect purity in their lives (verse 15).
- The defiled in heart may profess to know God, but will deny Him by their works (verse 16).
- Paul revealed the hypocrisy of their hearts as compared to the false religion they try to practice and teach:

False Teaching

- They are detestable, though they strive to avoid detestable things
- They are disobedient to the spirit of the law, though they try to obey the letter
- They are unfit for any good work, though they claim to know God
- This describes a person who, like many religious leaders throughout biblical history, focused so much on being perfect on the outside.
- They completely missed letting God change them from the inside.

False Teaching

- Paul did not take this false teaching lightly.
- He commanded Titus to rebuke them sharply (verse 13).
- At the end of Philippians, Paul had told two leaders in the church at Philippi that they needed to be unified. He didn't correct one of them or even say what the disagreement was. He just told them to agree in the Lord (Philippians 4:2).
- When it comes to false teaching, Paul doesn't tell them to just get along, to just agree in the Lord.

False Teaching

- He calls out false teaching.
- He rebukes it, because he knows if it is allowed to stay, it will infect the church just as one rotten apple spoils the whole bunch.
- As God said in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 17:7) and Paul told the Corinthians, you must purge the evil from among you (1 Corinthians 5:13). Rebuke the false teaching.
- If false teachers repent and return to sound teaching, great. But if they refuse, they must be expelled from the community.

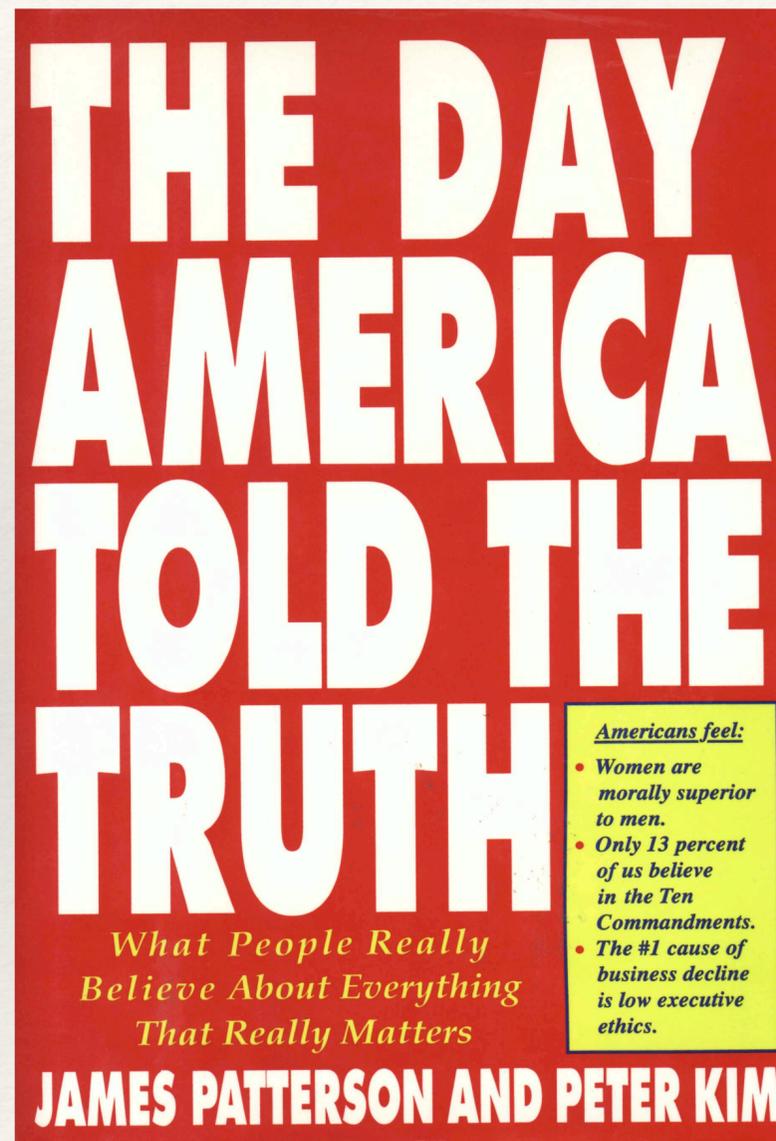
Application

Outline

Titus 1	Integrity
Titus 2	Mentoring
Titus 3	Civility

The Need for Integrity

Wake Up Call



Survey - Laws

- Americans are making up their own rules, their own laws.
- Only 13 percent of us believe in all Ten Commandments.
- Only 40 percent believe in five of the Ten Commandments.

Survey - Lies

- Lying has become an integral part of the American culture, a trait of the American character.
- We lie and don't even think about it. We lie for no reason.
- 91 percent of us lie regularly.

Survey - Marriage

- While we still marry, we have lost faith in the institution of marriage.
- A third of married men and women had at least one affair.
- 30 percent aren't really sure they still love their spouse.

Survey - Work

- Workers admit they spend more than 20 percent of their time goofing off.
- That amounts to a four-day work week across the nation.
- Almost half of us admit to chronic malingering, calling in sick when we are not sick, and doing it regularly.

Conclusion

“Americans are making up their own rules, their own laws. . . . We choose which laws of God we believe in. There is absolutely no moral consensus in this country as there was in the 1950s, when all our institutions commanded more respect.”

The Definition of Integrity

1 Peter 1:5-7

“Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith, supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, Christian love.”

Integrity of David

- Psalm 7:8 - The Lord judges me “according to . . . my integrity that is in me.”
- Integrity - integrated person, who you are when nobody’s looking.

Integrity of David

- Psalm 78:70-72 - “David shepherded them with integrity of heart, with skillful hands.
- Integrity involves your head, your heart, and your hands.

Integrity of David

- 1 Chronicles 29:17 - “I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity.”
- Often we want just a bit of integrity, just enough to get by.

Principles - Proverbs

- Proverbs 10:9 - “He who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will be found out.”
- Walk in integrity = walk securely.

Principles - Proverbs

- Proverbs 11:3 - “The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the falseness of the treacherous will destroy them.”
- Integrity - you will know what to do.

Principles - Proverbs

- Proverbs 20:7 - “A righteous man who walks in his integrity, how blessed are his sons after him.”
- Your integrity can leave a legacy.

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Kerby Anderson helps us understand the true meaning and importance of the Christian virtue of integrity. From a biblical worldview perspective, integrity is a critical element of a Christ centered life. Understanding integrity will help us incorporate it in our daily walk with Jesus Christ.

Integrity and the Bible

The subject of this article is the concept of integrity—a character quality that we often talk about but don’t see quite as regularly in the lives of public officials or even in the lives of the people we live and work with.

The word *integrity* comes from the same Latin root as *integer* and implies a wholeness of person. Just as we would talk about a whole number, so also we can talk about a whole person who is undivided. A person of integrity is living rightly, not divided, nor being a different person in different circumstances. A person of integrity is the same person in private that he or she is in public.