

Getting Your House in Order

“Getting Your Church House in Order” – Titus 1:5-16

November 10, 2024

Titus Sermon Series

GETTING YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER		
A 5-Week Sermon Series on the Book of Titus		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Nov 3	Getting Your House in Order	Titus 1:1-5
Nov 10	Getting Your Church House in Order	Titus 1:5-16
Nov 17	Getting Your Relationship House in Order	Titus 2:1-10
Nov 24	Getting Your Behavior House in Order	Titus 2:11-15
Dec 1	Getting Your Good Works House in Order	Titus 3:1-15

Summary of the Book of Titus – The Book of Titus is a letter from the Apostle Paul to his spiritual son Titus tasking him with putting things in order in the churches in Crete:

- **Task #1** (Chapter 1): Titus is to appoint godly elders in the churches (in contrast to some in Crete who are deceiving people with their controversial teaching and living).
- **Task #2** (Chapters 2-3): Titus is to teach and model for the Cretans sound doctrine, godliness, and good works that flow from their salvation through Jesus Christ.
- **What is godliness?** Godliness is _____ (devotion to God) and _____ (Christ-like behaviors) that flow out of a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Key Verses** (2:11-14): *For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness... and to live godly lives... zealous for good works.*

Today's Big Application (Titus 1:5-16)

The local church is _____ for helping you grow spiritually and relationally in godliness as we impact our community for Christ together. Get your church house in order by fully plugging into the

life of a local church through membership, serving, belonging in a group, praying, giving, and voting.

Outline of Titus 1:5-16 – In order to put things in order...

1. Appoint godly leaders (1:5-9)
2. Rebuke ungodliness (1:9-16)

How a Community of People Can Grow in Godliness (Titus 1)

1. Godliness increases when the local church _____ from whom godliness cascades to us all (1:5-9)

- Simon Sinek: “As goes the leader, so goes the team.”
- In order to bring order to the churches in Crete, Paul exhorts Titus to appoint godly leaders in the churches in Crete. The two terms that Paul uses for leaders are...
 - o Verse 5: *presbuteros* = elder (origin of Presbyterian)
 - o Verse 7: *episcopos* = overseer or bishop (origin of Episcopal)
- Different forms of church government in different churches

Bishop Led	Elder Led	Congregation Led	Pastor Led
Catholic Orthodox Episcopal Lutheran Methodist	Presbyterian Reformed Bible Churches	Congregational Baptist Mennonite Evangelical Free	Independent
Acts 6:6; 14:21-23; Gal. 2:9; Titus 1:7	Acts 20:17; 1 Tim 5:17; Titus 1:5	Acts 15:12,22-25; 1 Peter 2:9	Ephesians 4:11; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:2-4

- Grace Fellowship's official persuasion statement on church government: “We believe that several different church government configurations can fulfill the Bible's description of church government. Grace Fellowship has chosen to adopt a form of church government that is staff-led, elder Board-governed, congregational-approved with denominational oversight.”

- o **Staff-led** means that the week-to-week ministries of the church are led by the staff under the leadership of the Executive Pastor and the Senior Pastor.
- o **Board-governed** means the elder Board of Directors gives governing counsel, approval, and accountability to the staff through the Executive Pastor and Senior Pastor. The Board is divided into four sub-teams giving governance to finances, facilities, personnel, and shepherding.
- o **Congregational approved** means that the membership of the church votes to approve the annual budget, to elect the elder Board, and to approve any land or building purchases.
- o **Denominational oversight** comes in the form of an overseer (bishop) of the Free Methodist Church who primarily provides shepherding and accountability to Grace Fellowship's Sr Pastor.
- How are the members of Grace Fellowship's Elder Board appointed? A Nominating Team meets in January thru March to prayerfully consider and nominate candidates for our Elder Board of Directors. They use the descriptors in Titus 1 and 1 Timothy 3 as their Scriptural vetting guide. These names are then brought before the congregation for a vote at the Annual Society Meeting.
- Application #1a – The following is a summary of the qualities that we should expect in our church leaders and should seek in our own lives. These are qualities that we want to cascade throughout the entire church body called Grace Fellowship. What are 2 or 3 of these qualities that you want to ask God's Spirit to empower you to grow in?
 - ☐ **Above reproach** (1:6,7) – unimpeachable; full of integrity; absence of charges against you
 - ☐ **Healthy family life** (1:6) – healthy marriage; faithful in marriage; celibate in singleness; lead your children well
 - ☐ **Humble** (1:7) – not arrogant; not proudly self-interested
 - ☐ **Peaceful** (1:7,8) – not quick-tempered; not violent; gentle; uncontentious; peaceful; not-overbearing
 - ☐ **Healthy relationship with alcohol** (1:7) – not a drunkard; not addicted to alcohol or other controlling substances; has self-control with alcohol+

- ☐ **Healthy relationship with money** (1:7) – not greedy for gain; does not seek wealth and financial prosperity at any cost without regard to honesty or integrity; not using church for financial gain
- ☐ **Hospitable** (1:8) – gives practical help to those in need whether friend or stranger
- ☐ **Lover of good** (1:8) – having strong affection for that which is intrinsically good; a friend of virtues
- ☐ **Upright and holy** (1:8) – sensible; sober-minded; cool-headed; prudent; just; proper; fitting; fair; devout; obedient to God's will
- ☐ **Disciplined** (1:8) – self-controlled; submits to the Holy Spirit's control on the inside; accountable
- ☐ **Person of the Word** (1:9) – knows God's Word; holds fast to God's Word; devoted to the Gospel; shares God's Word with others; lovingly confronts others who are straying from God's Word
- Application #1b – In order to vote on our leaders or to be a leader, you must be an official member of Grace Fellowship. You become a member by taking our two Connecting at Grace classes (Sunday lunch). Our next two classes are Jan. 12 & 19. More info and sign up at <https://www.whatisgrace.org/getconnected>

2. Godliness increases when _____ is confronted (1:9-16)

- Twice in this passage (vv.9,13), we are commanded to rebuke those who contradict godliness and contradict God's Word in essential areas.
- "rebuke" = *elegtho* = to convict, to reprove
- **2 Timothy 4:2-4** – *Preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passion, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*
- There were people in the churches in Crete that needed to be confronted for their insubordination, empty talk, deception,

devotion to myths, and disobedience. The primary example used by Paul was a group called the circumcision party.

- Tim Chester: “The circumcision party said: You become a Christian by faith in Christ, but to stay a Christian, or to grow as a Christian, or to be a good Christian or a proper Christian, you need to be circumcised. They wanted to make Gentile Christians subject to the Jewish law or some kind of human code of conduct.”
- The purpose of rebuking these people is so “that they may be sound in the faith” (v.13). The purpose is not to win an argument but to help them live in the truth.
- **John 8:32** – *You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*
- **Matthew 7:5** – *First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.*
- Application #2a – Is there any untruth or disobedience to God’s Word in my life that I need to turn away from and turn to God’s truth?
- Application #2b – Is there any untruth or disobedience in someone else’s life (that I have significant relationship with) that God is calling me to lovingly point out so that they can walk in the freedom of God’s truth?
- We are not a movie house designed to entertain. We are a church house of prayer for all nations designed to rescue and save people from sin and to make Christ-centered and Christ-like disciples for the glory of God!!!

Center to exercise my local church membership privilege of electing godly leaders and adopting a godly budget.

My Application Today – In order to get my church house in order, my personal application today is to...

- ☐ Receive Jesus Christ into my life today for the forgiveness of my sins, for eternal life, and for new life today.
- ☐ Ask God’s Spirit to empower me to grow in two areas of godliness listed in Application #1.
- ☐ Join a local church: <https://www.whatisgrace.org/getconnected>
- ☐ Serve in my church: <https://www.whatisgrace.org/sayyes>
- ☐ Belong in a group in my church: <https://www.whatisgrace.org/sayyes>
- ☐ Give to my church: <https://www.whatisgrace.org/giving>
- ☐ Come to our annual congregational business meeting (Annual Society Meeting) on Sunday, June 22, 2025 at 3pm in the Cinco Worship