

Elders: Putting Things in Order

Titus

INTRODUCTION:

I. The Charge: Put things in order (1:1-5a)

A. The gospel-driven impetus (vv.1-3)

1. Love for the church (a desire to see the church increase in faith)
2. Hope for the church (a longing to be joined with Christ)
3. Aim in the church (a reckoning to serve the church while in this world)

B. The gospel in the local church (vv.4-5a)

1. From Christ
2. For Christ
3. **Colossians 1:18**

II. The Task: Establish elders in every church (1:5-9)

A. Acts 14:23

B. Men

1. Masculine use every single time (as opposed to “deacon”)
2. Plurality (though there is open debate at this point)
3. “Elder” - presebuteros (here)...also episkopos and poimen (Eph.4)

C. Qualified Men

1. Faithful teachers
2. Faithful husbands
3. Faithful fathers
4. Faithful churchmen
5. We will speak more on the subject of “qualified men” next week, Lord willing

III. The Job: Equip through teaching and training (1:10-3:2)

A. Good doctrine precedes good works (1:10-2:1)

1. Protection & Promotion
2. The pressing in of falsehood demands sound doctrine
3. The charge for Titus

B. Organize the body for good works (2:2-3:2)

1. Know the body
 - a) By families
 - b) By generations
 2. Equip every generation (2:2-10)
 - a) By household
 - b) In every relationship
 - c) The older train the younger
 - d) For the purpose
- (1) Adorning the doctrine of God our Savior

- (2) Each household, treasuring Christ above all things
- 3. In preparation (**2:11-3:2**)
 - a) Ministry of reminder (**2:11-15**)
 - (1) Of the gospel of grace
 - (2) Of citizenship
 - (3) Of future hope
 - (4) By declaration
 - b) In conduct (**3:1**)
 - c) In speech (**3:2**)

IV. The Purpose: The good of the gospel in the church (3:3-15)

A. Preaching the gospel to self (3:3-7)

- 1. Reminder of grace
- 2. Renewal of hope

B. Protecting the gospel in the church (3:8-11)

- 1. Promotion of good, gospel work
 - a) Trustworthy gospel
 - b) Careful administration (truth & practice)
- 2. Protection against unbelief
 - a) Firm expectations for the body
 - b) Faithful examination
 - c) Discipline
- 3. The gospel is the greatest good for the church

C. Promoting the gospel in the church (3:12-15)

- 1. The gospel works (**vv.12-14**)
 - a) Through people
 - b) In community
 - c) For fruitfulness
- 2. The gospel loves (**v.15**)
 - a) 1 John test
 - b) Particularity for the church
 - c) **Ephesians 4:15-16**
 - d) This is the aim of an elder's labor...
 - (1) Love for God
 - (2) Love for one another
 - (3) **1 Timothy 1:5**