

PASTORAL EPISTLES

TEXT

TITUS 1:10-16

10 For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party.

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

12 One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."

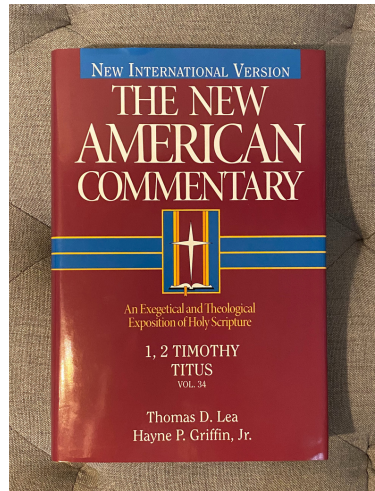
13 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith,

14 not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth.

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.

16 They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

RESOURCE



We find ourselves at the end of our book study and discussion, and are now transitioning back to following the passage that is preached on Sunday. If you and your group have not finished the *Why Elders?* book and discussion, please do so before proceeding. The remainder of the Pastoral Epistles series will utilize *The New American Commentary* for 1 and 2 Timothy, as well as Titus. This commentary, when used will provide helpful ways to approach both understanding and asking questions for our groups.



OPENING

- Consider a time when you disagreed with someone in person. What did you feel as you discussed your differences? Were you able to talk civilly with one another or was there a blow up of emotions and words? Why do you think you or that person reacted that way?
- Now consider a time when someone was spreading lies and falsehood about someone or something. How did you feel about the lies? Is there anything that you did about it? If so, what did you do?
- Have you ever knowingly spread lies? Why did you do that? Were you ever found out? If you were caught, how did you feel as a result of being confronted? If you were not caught, how do you now feel about it?

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DISCUSSION

TITUS 1:10-16

As a group, utilize the following set of questions to discuss the passage for this week. Basic Bible study skills of Observation, Interpretation, Application will be beneficial for all members of the group. This content is not meant to be exhaustive but instead give groups a starting place for discussion and discipleship.

As an additional note, when it comes to Interpretation, remember that Content, Context, and Culture are all important aspects for reading and interpreting the Bible. If you or someone in your group desires a greater understanding of and growth in the ability to study the Bible, please reach out to Pastor Justin as he is happy and able to equip people wanting to grow in Bible study methods.

- Who is the circumcision party that Paul refers to in verse 10? Where have we seen this group of people before in the New Testament?

- What does it mean to be insubordinate? In what ways do people find to be insubordinate in different areas of their lives? When it comes to church life, how are people insubordinate? Was there a time where you were insubordinate and you were corrected by a leader or fellow Christian?

- Why must these false teachers be silenced? Paul says that they are upsetting whole families. How might their false teaching upset whole families?

- Based on context and what you may already know about this section of Scripture, what were these false teachers teaching?

- What are some of the false gospels we hear preached in our culture today? Why are these dangerous?

- In what ways are you susceptible to believing these false gospels? Have you been taken in by false teaching before? Explain.

- Titus is told to rebuke the false teachers sharply. What does it mean to rebuke someone?

- Paul says that the rebuke should lead the false teachers to be sound in faith (v. 13). Why is it important that Titus rebuke these false teachers? And how will the rebuke cause them to be sound in faith?

- Have you been rebuked before? Did you change your behavior or words as a result? Or did you keep going in the direction that you had been? Have you rebuked someone before? Would you have done anything differently?

- In verse 15 Paul says "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." What does Paul mean by this statement? Can you give a practical example from your life that would highlight the meaning of this verse?

- Paul concludes this section by claiming that these false teachers do not have a life that matches with the words they speak. Why is it important to have a life that matches the words we are proclaiming? Where have you seen that done poorly? How has that negatively impacted your faith? Where have you seen it done well?

- What can you do specifically in the next week to seek to proclaim truth and live it out correctly? How can this group help you in that effort?

- Is there anything else from this passage that stands out to you and that you want to discuss?

CLOSING

As the group closes, prayerfully consider where you hear lies about God and ask for the wisdom, empowerment, and courage to step up and correct those lies.

Then seek to check in with members of the group over the next week to offer prayer and encouragement as everyone seeks to proclaim the truth and live it out.