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| 1  Titus 1:5-16 Sermon Outline  06/07/24  “Clean and Unclean Leaders”  **INTRO:**  Live in time – hard pressed find true leader look up to  -Donald Trump = recent criminal tax fraud  -wicked corruption in democratic party  -When culture’s morality decays/declines = so does its leaders  -Corruption, deception, lies = everywhere from common folk on street even to highest levels of leadership like presidency  -But surpassing presidency = elder/overseer  -Sadly, many in that office = disqualified today  -Titus’ situation not too far off | 2  -We live in era that has shortage of godly men  -Leaders so crucial in the church because that’s how God reaches and sanctifies His people  -God uses holy vessels for His glory  -But if vessel is unclean and unholy = how is it going to be useful?  **MAIN POINT:**  -If you are aspiring to be a leader in the church or you are wondering about what a leader should look like in the church, Paul is going to show you in this passage  **REVIEW:**  Last week = looked at intro to Titus  -Packed lots of theology = just 4 verses  -Anchored us in the hope of eternal life in the God “who cannot lie” |
| 3  **BODY:**  We get into the main body of the letter  Verse 5 in fact the purpose:  “*For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you*.”  Life in Crete = out of order  -cesspool of sin  set in order = *epidiorthoo* = dentist setting teeth straight  ancient times = setting broken bones/straightening bent limbs  Need for godly elders more urgent in Titus than Timothy  Qualifications of elder in beginning of Titus  vs.  Qualifications of elder in middle of Timothy | 4  Already went over qualifications of elder Timothy, so won’t spend as much time here  “*if any man is beyond reproach, the husband of one wife, having faithful children, who are not accused of dissipation, or rebellious.*  Elder must be above reproach = nothing sticks  For a vessel to be clean and useful to the Lord, above all = needs to be above reproach  Paul starts with most significant and obvious disqualifying factor = family  Is he the “*husband of one-wife*?”  Lit. = “*one-woman man*?”  Is he “faithful and devoted” to his wife?  Other area of family = children |
| 5  “*having faithful children, who are not accused of dissipation or rebellious*.”  Now “faithful” might say “believing” = NASB  I disagree with “believing”  1) pistis = could be either “faithful” or “believing”  2) “Faithful” more consistent with 1 Tim 3 “*have his children in submission with all dignity*”  3) If children have to be saved, then when can an elder be an elder?  But having said that…  If child is not believer because of father’s hypocrisy = then that could be grounds for disqualification from pastor/elder  But if elder is being faithful in stewarding his home = then child not accused of dissipation/rebelliousness | 6  “rebellion” = wildness  Idea = children out of control  Rebelling against parent’s authority/living debauched lifestyle  V. 7 “*For the overseer (or another word for elder) must be beyond reproach as God’s steward*.”  Interesting Paul repeats twice = above reproach  Paul gives 5 negative moral examples = elder should not be followed by 6 positive  Starting w/ negative:  1) Self-willed  In ministry not for himself but for Christ and others  There to serve and equip the church for the work of ministry as Ephesians says |
| 7  He is to be marked by humility  Being good listener/considering others more important than himself  2) Elder not to be quick-tempered  Going along with not being self-willed, those who are quick-tempered are self-willed  Self-willed = easily gets angry when expectations, demands, desires not met  You won’t find selfless people getting angry all the time  Two go hand in hand  3) Going along with previous two = not to be addicted to wine  Drunkenness is sin = be filled with the spirit | 8  4) Elder not to be pugnacious lit. one who strikes blows to another  Does he prefer to settle disputes peacefully or with his fists?  5) Not to be fond of “dishonest gain”  “Dishonest gain” = negative nod to Cretan culture  culture = dishonest, corrupt, deception, lying  Trump and other corrupt politicians gained millions upon millions through dishonest gain  Elders in Crete must not be specifically bent towards gaining money through deception and lying, especially since being an elder or pastor is not a lucrative position  Temptation there  6 Positive Moral Qualifications: |
| 9  1) Hospitable  -Particular heart of welcoming other people into life, serving them, meeting their needs  2) Loving what is good  -Loving what glorifies and honors the Lord  Phil. 4:8  *“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is dignified, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, consider these things.”*  3) Sensible  -Self-controlled in outward relations  Not erratic, but acts out of wisdom  Gives thought of what is he about to do before he does them | 10  Prov. 13:16  *“Every prudent man acts with knowledge, But a fool spreads out folly”*  4) Righteous  To align yourself with God’s standards of righteousness  = turn away from your sin and natural fleshly desires and pursuing the perfect standard of Christ  = constant repented attitude away from sin  5) Holy  Must be set-apart and be pure  How does you pursue holiness?  Ps. 119:9  *“How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word”* |
| 11  6) Self-controlled = mastery of inner desires  Disciplined in thought-life and desires  Prov. 25:28  *“Like* a city that is broken into *and* without a wall Is a man without restraint over his spirit”  One of the qualities that sets adults apart from children is self-control.  The more you lack self-control, the more child-like you will become  V. 9  All these moral qualities will come if elder:  “*holds fast the faithful word which is in according with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to reprove those who contradict*.” | 12  Why does holding fast the faithful word enable a man to be what he needs to be?  A: The Word of God is alive and active  It is the living breathing Word of God  2 Tim. 3:16  “*Scriptures are God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness so that the man of God may be equipped, having been thoroughly equipped for every good work*.”  ILLUST:  Try to be an elder without knowing God’s Word =  Going to warzone w/ squirt gun  Won’t do any damage and be made fun at  No, elder needs to go to battlefield with cannon |
| 13  Needs to be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict  Needs to be a man who does both  But why?  V. 10  **“***For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of dishonest gain*.”  There are many unclean vessels that are rejected by God that are standing in the pulpit  Specifically unclean Jewish vessels  Acts 2 = we know there were Jewish Cretans present at Pentecost | 14  But they are rebellious men, empty talkers and “deceivers” = going to that aspect of lying again  They were in it for money as all false teachers usually are  Causing disunity and hurting witness of church to the world  So bad Paul calls for them to be “silenced” lit. muzzled  Paul even brings Epimenides, their own poet from the 6th century BC to witness against their depraved culture:  *“Cretans who are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”*  “Los Angeles is always lawless, dirty, and full of degenerate liberals”  Why does Paul use uninspired quotes from pagans? |
| 15  He quotes pagans like Aratus in Acts 17, Menander in 1 Corinthians 15  Not that they are inspired like Paul, but in the inspiration of God working through Paul, Paul saw a true quote that he uses to make a point of truth  Paul says: “This testimony is true”  lazy gluttons = idle stomachs  Culture like colorful image of Proverbs 26:15  “*The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; He is too weary to return it to his mouth*.”  Cicero wrote that Cretans were known to regard highway robberies as honorable  Absolutely twisted in their morality  Because severity of situation, calls for severe response | 16  V. 13  *“For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith,**not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth*.”  False teachers = teaching Jewish myths and commandments of men just like Pharisees  Jesus rebukes Pharisees in Mark 7:8  “*Leaving the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men*”  Certain Jewish myths that would elevate patriarchs like Abraham to the status of a god, all sorts of inaccurate details  Then V. 15 Paul concludes  “*To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.* |
| 17  *They profess to know God, but by their works they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and unfit for any good work*.”  What is Paul talking about?  Actions reflect who you are  If you are defiled and unbelieving, nothing you will do will be pure in the eyes of God because mind and conscience defiled by sin  Romans 8:7  “*the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God, for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so”*  “Know” = not experiential but more head knowledge  Their works betray their confession  They are “liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons” | 18  Detestable in eyes of God, disobedient  Unfit in eyes of God to be useful for anything of His service  “Unfit” is idea something did not stand test of time  Now useless to its master  Like piece of pottery over time cracks and leaks water, vessel no longer useful to its master  But if you are pure…meaning you have been washed by the blood of Christ, then all things are pure to you  For a Jew to be saved by the blood of Christ, that means he has been set free from the Mosaic Law to eat anything, including what Gentiles eat because that stuff doesn’t matter anymore because God called all of it clean  But maybe you started off clean when you first came to Christ but over time you have gotten some dirty stains due to sin and are not being as useful to the Lord anymore |
| 19  How do you go back to and stay clean?  By looking to Christ and following in His footsteps  Christ perfect embodiment of that qualifications  -Beyond reproach as God’s ultimate steward  Not self-willed but rather gave His life for others  Not quick-tempered = did not strike back or revile back Isaiah 53  Not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but was characterized as being full and filled with the Holy Spirit, having a spirit of meekness like no other  Show ultimate hospitality when he came down to level of slave and starting cleaning Peter’s feet  He loved what is good because He was God Himself, inseparably united to the Father, who is goodness itself | 20  Never acted out of self-control but always out of mastery of his own desires because He was perfect and sinless  Dear Christian, you won’t be able to perfectly follow these high standards because you aren’t perfect and you are sinful  But that’s why you need to keep abiding in Christ so that as a branch clings to its root, you will bear much righteous fruit  If you have not believed in Jesus Christ alone as your only hope in life and death,  then you are still an unclean vessel destined only for wrath  As an unclean vessel, all you can offer to God is your filthy rags, you have nothing clean to offer to God  You are defiled because your heart is only producing what Jesus says as evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false witnesses, and slanders = and that is defiling you |
| 21  But there is only person who can cleanse you from all your defilements and sins  His name is Jesus Christ, the Lord of heaven and earth  The Savior of the world  Acts 4:12  “*And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved*.”  Buddah can’t cleanse you  Mohammed can’t cleanse you  Joseph Smith can’t cleanse you  The Pope can’t cleanse you  Ellen G. White can’t cleanse you  You can’t cleanse you | 22  I the pastor can’t cleanse you  Only Jesus Christ can cleanse your soul from sin  Only He can take away your sins and give you His righteousness so that you can be a clean vessel, fit for the master’s use  Let’s pray |