

Titus

Lesson #6, Chapter 1:5-6

Seek the Lord's guidance as you study His Word. He is always ready to help His children understand the Scriptures better!

1. Verse 5 reveals that Paul left Titus in Crete for 2 reasons. What are they?
2. What does Titus need to put in order? You will have to do some detective work for this answer, but clues can be found in each of the 3 chapters.
3. What underlying principles for ministry does Paul want Titus to apply in verse 5?
4. The word "elder" is similarly translated *overseer, bishop, shepherd*. Look up the definitions of those words.
5. What is the *function* of elders in the church? See Acts 20:28-31; Col. 1:28-29; 1 Thess. 2:11-12; 1 Tim. 3:5; 4:6-16; 5:17; 2 Tim. 2:2; Titus 1:9; 2:1; Heb. 13:7, 17; 1 Pet. 5:1-3.
6. Whether a man is married or single, is with or without children, what is the #1 qualification he must have if he is to be an elder? See verses 6 and 7 and 1 Tim. 3:2.

7. What does it mean to be *above reproach*? Define.

8. In what ways is an elder to be above reproach? See Phil. 3:17; 1 Tim. 4:12; and Titus 1:6-9.

9. Why is it important that the church's leaders be above reproach? Does that standard effect you and me in any way?

10. Make 5-10 observations about a life that is above reproach from one or more of the following sections of Scripture: Prov. 4:20-27; Ps. 24:3-6; 119:113-120; 141:1-5.

11. If an "Official Integrity Committee" was formed to observe whether your life would be considered above reproach—and they were arriving today to follow you around—what would you change? If needed, what specific steps do you want to begin to implement in order to be above reproach?

Guard my soul and deliver me; Do not let me be ashamed, for I take refuge in Thee.
Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for Thee. Ps. 25:20-21

12. Verse 6 then lists a second qualification for an elder. He is to be "the husband of one wife" which literally in Greek means *one-woman man*. He is to be a husband who is inwardly and outwardly faithful to his wife. He is not characterized by a roving eye, but by a devoted eye. Read Eph. 5:25-33 and discuss the importance of a godly marriage for all those who name the name of Christ.

13. If you are married, what are some ways you can help your husband be a one-woman man?

14. Just as men are to be devoted to their wives, women are to be faithful to their husbands. A man's battle for purity and faithfulness takes place largely in the visual arena, while a woman must learn to guard how she thinks about other men. Are your thoughts characteristic of a *one-man woman* or do your thoughts center on other men (whether real or fictitious)? If you struggle with this area, can you identify anything you are doing that encourages those wandering, lingering, unfaithful thoughts?
 - a. Now that you've identified them, what are you going to do about it? It has been said that, "*Secret sin on earth is open scandal in heaven.*" What steps must you take to have a heart *devoted to your* husband?

15. What observations about marriage can you make from this verse, "*Like a bird wanders from her nest, so is a man who wanders from his home* (Prov. 27:8)?"

16. Next, an elder is to have children who *believe* (NASB). A better rendering of the word is given in the New King James Version which says, "*having faithful children.*" The Greek word *pistos* has been translated both ways making this phrase somewhat disputed as to its meaning. Some believe that an elder must have children who are Christians (who believe) in order to be an elder; while some take it to mean, as we do, that an elder is to have *faithful* children. That is, an elder is to have children who are obedient and under control, though they may not, as yet, be believers. The main reason we take this view is that no one can bring about another's salvation. Salvation is a gracious work of God in the heart of an unbeliever. To say that children of elders must be believers places great stress upon the parents to produce a "saved" child.

17. Define *faithful*. In light of everything stated above, why would it be necessary for an elder to have “faithful” children? See 1 Tim. 3:4-5, 12?

18. The children are not to be accused of *dissipation* or *rebellion*. What do those words mean?

19. As we’ve stated before, these characteristics are not only for elders, but for the whole body of Christ. If you have children, would you say (or would others say) that you have them under control? Who is running the show in your home—you or your kids? If your kids are running you, then you must, today, begin taking steps to bring order to your family.

20. Write down 3 or more ways the Bible says to bring train up *faithful* children: see Deut. 6:5-7; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 29:15; Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21; 1 Tim. 3:4; Titus 2:4.

21. Titus 1:6 plainly shows the importance of a leader living what he believes in front of his family. God wants no man to lead in the church who doesn’t first tend to his family. What can you do to encourage our church’s leaders to maintain this priority in their lives?

22. *What do you do* to maintain the priorities of godliness in marriage and family? If you haven’t maintained them, what are some steps you must take to bring honor to God in this area of your life?