

Titus 1:5-9:

The word testament means covenant or **agreement**.

Old Testament is God's agreement made with us about our salvation before Christ came.

New Testament is God's agreement for our salvation that God made with people about their salvation after Christ came.

Are we in agreement with His agreement? Isn't the extent of our maturity and growth a measure of how much we truly agree with this book? The measure of our agreement is not how much we SAY we agree with this Book. It's how much our lives manifest or **LIVE OUT the agreement**.

Titus is like a spoonful of **OJ concentrate** vs a nice refreshing glass. There are a lot of **challenging PRACTICAL truths** to grasp. Chuck Swindoll says about the Bk of Titus:

"Let the sharp edges of scripture stand. Don't sand them off."

We need to be willing to let our theology determine our lifestyle, not our lifestyles determine our theology.

Eugene Peterson says:

"Eating a book takes it all in, assimilating it into the tissues of our lives."

This little book is the Word of **God**. When we first hear the truth—when we first eat it—it is marvelous and exciting to us, and we try to devour even more of it. But as we begin to make it a part of our lives, begin to assimilate—digest—it, we find that putting it into practice is not always easy. Sometimes it is downright painful!

What my addendum to what Chuck Swindoll says about the sharp edges of the Word of God. If we let the sharp edges roll on to our lives, they will take off our sharp edges, and that's a very good thing!

George Mueller, one of the most admired Christians, said that the secret to his happiness was two things:

1. That he tried to maintain a clear conscience toward God everyday.
2. That he was a lover of God's Word

Titus 1:5-9 is a portion of scripture that has to do with the qualifications of a leader. It is a sobering but hopeful text.

LET'S PRAY

Verse 5: the call of Titus by Paul is to fix a broken situation in Crete.

The history of Crete is pertinent—

*Crete was a large island in the Mediterranean Sea between Eur, Asia and Africa.

160 miles long, 7-35 mi wide

Highly civilized.

Population of believers in Christ lived there.

Acts 2 Cretan Jews were in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost

They heard the Word of God in their own language.

They probably went back to Crete and started churches. What starts in the Spirit does not always end up in the Spirit. Paul is saying in verse 5 that there were things lacking with the churches in Crete.

Titus was left there in Crete to "set in order" the things are lacking on this island as it relates to spiritual things. Titus was also brought into the Corinthian church 3x to help that church. Set in order in the Greek has the root **orthoo**. Orthoo is in our words **orthodontist, orthopedic**. It has to do with straightening what is crooked. Titus is called to straighten the church situation there. He was called to straighten out theological and spiritual problems. He is called to appoint elders in every city. He is going to need help!

Homer who lived 850 years before this book of Titus was written called Crete "the island of 100 cities." There were a lot of cities there.

Listen to the results of Titus' work: 95% of Crete would say they are believers in Christ TODAY! (That is lasting fruit!) Titus did a great job! Muslim influence!

Are there things in your life that are lacking?

Is the Holy Spirit nudging you to set in order some new things to straighten out the things lacking in your life?

Let me give you some examples in my life—

1. I noticed I had 2 struggling young adult kids—I started a 30 day fast and a daily prayer walk around our property. God showed up! He moved those 2 kids to a new place.
2. I had trouble saving money. We had a bit of a wake up call 2 years ago. I started becoming a Dave Ramsey junkie. Started praying for the wind of the Spirit to blow on our finances. We currently have crisis proofed our finances. Instead of the money spender, I am known in my family as the money sheriff.

In Verse 6-8 Paul tells Titus what kind of men he should be looking for.

Verse 6 tells us that a man's family life will be the proving ground for his eligibility as a leader. This is where he is himself. His family is the one who watches how he lives!

Blameless: that does not mean sinless. It means that no public charge can be brought against him.

Husband of one wife: marriage does not only give us delights. It also brings the need for disciplines. This elder is disciplined.

Children who are faithful...this means that they are believers in Christ.

cannot be accused of dissipation:

Dissipation—means descent into drunkenness, darkness, decadence, self indulgence

Rebellion: the action or process of resisting authority, refusal to obey rules or accept normal standards of behavior, unruly, wild living, out of control.

The MOST IMPORTANT thing we can be about as parents is our children's salvation and discipleship! Every home is a little church!

Verse 7:

For a bishop must be blameless, (again blameless)

A steward of God: someone who can supervise arrangements or keep order, guardian, managing the house of God.

There is a list of qualifications for elders that are made up of 5 negatives and 6 positives.

Not self-willed: a self loving arrogance, seeking our own way, disregarding others, stubborn, needs to be in charge, dominated by self. Self pleasing, absorbed by his own image and desire.

Not quick tempered: quarrelsome, someone prone to anger, an angry spirit resting rests under the surface. This person nurses angry feelings.

Not given to wine: someone who gravitates toward alcohol, always needs to have a glass w/a meal. Gravitates toward places associated with alcohol. **BOTTOM LINE: be clear headed.** We should avoid being influenced by anything aside from Holy Spirit.

Not violent: one who is looking for a fight, who will attack verbally and or physically, mean spirited.

Not greedy for money: one who is after persona; financial gain, taking advantage of the people of God to make a profit.

Hospitable: open heart, open home, receiving and entertaining strangers with kindness and without reward. For most situations, be careful about putting on the cloak of unfriendliness.

Unfriendliness or hostility is a behavior attributed to sinners.

A Lover of what is good: think good things. Phil 4:8, surround yourself with good people, do good things in your leisure time, you can tell a lot about a person by what he loves.

Sober minded: saving thoughts, saved thoughts, redeemed thoughts, thoughts lifted above frivolous things, thoughts sure and steady, wisdom, prudence.

Just: righteous, approved by God, a person who lives by faith, right with God through Christ! Lives according to God's standards.

Holy: free from sin. A person who knows how to take care of sin in his life. 1 Jn 1:9, forgives people, a quick forgiver!

Self-controlled: The overriding quality of all these 11 things! controlled on the inside, Does not need to be policed. Can restrain urges. Can say no to temptations. Can control appetites.

Verse 9:

Sound doctrine—

"sound" in the Greek means health, hygiene.

Doctrine means teaching.

A leader needs to uphold teaching that promotes health in his followers. This Book promotes health in you! Do you know that God does not need your obedience. **YOU NEED YOUR OBEDIENCE!**

Richard Baxter, 1656, The Reformed Pastor-- "When your minds are in a holy, heavenly frame, your people are likely to partake of the fruit of it. Your prayers and praises and doctrine will be sweet and heavenly to them. They will likely feel when you have been much with God. That which is most on your hearts is like to be most in their ears. When I let my heart grow cold, my preaching is cold. And when it is confused, my preaching is confused. And so I can oft observe also, in the best of my hearers, that when I have

grown cold in preaching, they have grown cold, too. And the next prayers I have heard from them have been too much like my preaching. O brethren, watch therefore over your own hearts, keep out lusts and passions and worldly inclinations. Keep up the life of faith and love and zeal. Be much at home and be much with God. Take heed to yourselves lest your example contradict your doctrine, lest you unsay with your lives what you say with your tongues and be the greatest hinderers of the success of your own labors. One proud, surly, lordly, word; one needless contention; one covetous action may cut the throat of many a sermon and blast the fruit of all that you have been doing. Let your lives condemn sin and persuade men to duty."