

A Study in the Book of Titus

LESSON TWO

Insubordinate Leaders & Disrupters

(Titus 1:10-16)

Prayerfully read through Titus, chapter one, verses 10 through 16.

1. Our last lesson ended with **verse 9** and Paul's exhortation that all Elders hold firmly to the faithful Word of God so "**that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.**" We begin this lesson on the heels of that verse, with Paul revealing to Titus his deep concern regarding the false teachers who have crept into the church. Write down his warning to Titus in **verses 10 & 11.**

2. Look up the word **insubordinate** and share the definitions you find.

3. Our God is a God of **order** and He has established **orders of authority** in many areas of our lives. He has an established order within government, an established order within marriage, an established order within our workplaces, and He has an established order of authority within the church. Submission to authority, as long as it is not in opposition to God's authority, is required of us as believers in Christ. What do these verses tell us about **submission?**

1 Corinthians 16:15 & 16 -

Ephesians 5:21 -

Ephesians 5:22-24 -

1 Peter 2:13 & 14 -

1 Peter 5:5 -

4. **Submission** is the opposite of **insubordination**. It is a sign of humility and meekness. Those unwilling to submit to authority are in **rebellion** to God's command. What does God say about **rebellion** in the **first half** of **1 Samuel 15:23**?

5. That is a pretty serious description! As Paul goes on to describe in **verse 10** the characteristics of these rebellious and insubordinate people who have crept into the church, we find that they love to engage in "**idle talk.**" The Greek word is **mataiologos**. It means **empty, void, useless, meaningless, vain**. Paul gives a great description of this in his warning written to Timothy in **1 Timothy 1:5-7**. Look up these verses and write them down below.

6. What was the greatest reason Paul gives for why these mouths needed to be stopped, found in **Titus 1:11**?

7. Paul specifically calls out **“those of the circumcision.”** This was the most prevalent group of false teachers at the time, who were persuading people in the church that Christ’s sacrifice on the cross alone was not sufficient for salvation. They were trying to draw new believers back to the Law and the Jewish ceremonies and ordinances, such as circumcision. This was a dangerous teaching because it preached a **different Jesus**, not the Son of God **whose blood was sufficient to cleanse us from all our sin and bring us into salvation and peace with God that promised us eternal life.** There are many false teachings today that also preach a **“different Jesus”** than the One God’s Word proclaims. Can you give some examples of today’s false teachers who have infiltrated the church and are teaching a **“different Jesus?”**

8. What do the following Scriptures tell us about these false teachers?

Romans 16:18 -

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 -

Galatians 4:17 -

Colossians 2:8 -

1 Timothy 6:3-5 -

We can name some denominations and segments of the “so-called church” that fit that description. Many of the **compromises** we see creeping into the church are also preaching a **different Jesus**, whether it’s from those entrenched in legalism, that try to put in bondage those that Christ has made free, or those embracing a cheap grace philosophy, which ignores God’s call for us to live a life of holiness. All of these false teachings must ignore large portions of Scripture to make their case. And all of them are leading people astray and turning them from the truth.

9. Paul states in the last part of **verse 11**, that these false teachers teach these things for the sake of “**dishonest gain.**” Sometimes they do so for financial gain, to fill up their churches by compromising the truth of God’s Word and instead teach only things they think people want to hear. And some do it to gain popularity and acceptance within the culture. Scripture is so often in direct opposition to the culture, and many of these “false teachers” don’t want to be labeled as “narrow minded” or “intolerant.” They want acceptance from a culture that is contrary to God’s Word, choosing to embrace the culture rather than the truth. What kind of examples of **compromise** do you see happening within many churches today? Share some of your thoughts.

10. Carefully read **verses 12-14**. The location of these churches Paul had called Titus to oversee were on the island of Crete. And the Cretans had a reputation that preceded them. From **verse 12**, describe the reputation Paul tells us these people had.

11. In **verse 13**, Paul affirms that the testimony about the reputation of the Cretans is true. How does Paul say Titus is to respond to this?

12. Note the **purpose** of the rebuke that Paul states here. What is Paul's desired outcome from such a rebuke?
13. Look back at **verse 9** of our chapter. What does Paul tell Titus the Elders and leaders in the church are called to do?
14. We see other examples of this throughout Scripture. Note that the purpose isn't to condemn, ridicule, or destroy these false teachers, but to put an end to their false teaching. Look up and record the following examples we find in the Scriptures below.
- 1 Corinthians 5:5 -**
- 2 Corinthians 13:10 -**
- Galatians 6:1 -**
- 2 Thessalonians 3:14 & 15 -**
15. Write down Paul's statement in **Titus 1:15**.

16. “To the pure, all things are pure...” This is NOT referring to anything God’s Word declares as sinful or immoral. Since Paul was refuting the false teaching of the Jewish legalists, he was most likely referring to issues of their dietary laws and other regulations that they were trying to impose upon the Christian believers. This was a big issue infiltrating the church by the Circumcision. Read **Acts 10:9-16**, then record **Acts 10:15** below.

17. What did Jesus say to the Pharisees in **Mark 7:6-9**? Summarize these verses in your own words.

18. What did Paul state to Timothy in **1 Timothy 4:1-3**?

Jesus’ words in **John 8:32** stated, **“You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”**

19. Every good gift God has given to mankind, Satan has perverted and distorted. Probably one of the best examples we have of this is the intimacy God designed between a man and a woman in marriage. We all know how the enemy of our souls has taken this good gift, meant to express the love between a husband and wife, and perverted it to unimaginable forms of impurity. Such is the case with all of God’s good gifts. Within the boundary lines of God’s design, these gifts are pure and undefiled. Outside of the boundary lines God has designed, they become perverted and defiled. What does Paul tell us in **1 Corinthians 10:31**?

Bible commentator **G. Campbell Morgan** shares this comment on **Titus 1:15**:
“The ‘all things’ refers to everything which is non-moral; such as appetite and food, desire and marriage, exchange and commerce, weariness and recreation, and so on through all the varied realms of life. To the pure all these things are pure, and they will be maintained in purity. To the impure, every one of them may be made the vehicle and occasion of impurity.”

20. Write down Paul’s conclusion about these false teachers in **Titus 1:16**.

21. Pastor **David Guzik** states: **“These are strong words, but Paul means it. These difficult people probably pretended to have a higher spirituality than Titus or other godly leaders. But Paul saw right through their spiritual façade and wanted Titus - and all the Christians on Crete - to see through it also.”** Look back at Paul’s qualifications for Elders over the church in **Titus 1:7-9**, and write them down again below.

22. What did Paul command Timothy to do in **2 Timothy 4:2**?

Just as a shepherd over his sheep, the pastor and elder in the church was to **protect** his flock from predators. Paul’s command to Titus was to **sharply rebuke** these false teachers and **stop their mouths** (Titus 1:11 & 13). **Guzik** states: **“ Paul’s purpose, of course, was to convince these teachers and get them to be ‘sound in the faith’ (Tit. 1:13). But while he is doing this, he must protect the church from their false teachings. False doctrine is like yeast: it enters secretly, it grows quickly, and permeates completely (Gal 5:9). The best time to attack false doctrine is at the beginning, before it has a chance to spread.”**

He adds, **“It makes all the difference between life and death whether or not you believe the truth of the Word or believe lies. You can choose what you want to believe, but you cannot change the consequences.”**

23. What was your greatest take away from Lesson Two in our study of Titus?

This study was written and prepared by Shawn Van Hook, 2025

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