



TITUS

A LETTER TO A LEADER

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INTRODUCTION

People flocked to hear Paul's teaching. Educated, articulate, motivated and filled with the Holy Spirit, this man of faith brought news of Jesus to the entire Roman Empire – lives were changed, communities transformed and churches were built. But Paul also understood that the Church must be built on Christ, not on a man. And he knew that, eventually, he wouldn't be around anymore to build, encourage, nurture and teach. So he trained others to assume leadership within the Church, and he urged them to centre their lives and their teaching on the Word of God, and, in turn, to train others to carry on the ministry.

This three-part series on Titus is entitled, 'A Letter to a Leader'. If you're someone who doesn't currently hold a formalised leadership position, whether at work, at church or in the family, please don't be tempted to think this letter isn't also for you. It is. The lessons we'll learn through this letter are important to everyone because everyone, in one way or another, has influence over other people, through their friendship circles, within their family or at work. We need to be aware of this, and consider where we do have influence, and nurture a desire to become more godly in our influence.

Titus was taught and discipled by Paul, and being a Greek believer he stood before the leaders of the Church in Jerusalem as a living example of what Jesus was doing among the 'Gentiles' (Galatians 2v1-3).

Like Timothy, he was one of Paul's trusted traveling companions and closest friends. Later he became Paul's special ambassador, and eventually, the overseer of the churches of Crete.

Slowly and carefully, Paul developed Titus into a mature Christian and a responsible leader. This letter was a step in that discipleship process.

In his letter, Paul lays out what it is to be a godly leader of a church, and how to raise up and train others. He encourages Titus to be a good example of a mature believer and to teach the truth with courage and conviction. And finally he addresses the responsibilities of Christians in society.

Paul's letter to Titus is brief, but it's an important link in the discipleship process – helping a young Christian grow into leadership in the Church.

As we study this letter, I hope that our notions of leadership will be challenged. May it become clear to us where in our lives we are leaders and how we could be leaders. You can either lead up, or you can lead down. May we, with God's strength, lead up!

Garrett Edwards | five30 Pastor

AUTHORSHIP

The first word of the letter names 'Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ' (1v1), as it's author. This means that Titus is included with a dozen other New Testament documents with similar introductions.

Titus and Paul have probably worked together for about a decade by the time Paul writes this letter in the early A.D 60's after he was released from his first imprisonment. This would have been around the same time 1 Timothy might have been written, and the two letters certainly share similarities with a focus on instructions to church leaders.

Paul appears to be away on a mission as he writes. We don't know where he might be, but he does plan to arrive in Nicopolis soon (3v12), which was on the west coast of the province of Epirus in central Greece.

THE BIG IDEA

The overarching themes we'll look at in this letter are:

1. Godly Leadership
2. Adoring God's Doctrine
3. A New Society

Godly Leadership

Paul calls for church order and right living on an island known for laziness, gluttony, lying and evil. In our world today of looking for the easy way to gain instant gratification, of self-centred living and trying to get the most for ourselves, Christian leaders must stand up for a 'better way'.

Adoring God's Doctrine

What is that 'better way'? It's God's way. A lifestyle of self-discipline and of seeing ourselves not as independent individuals, but as a people who form one body and who must work together and for each other. We need to obey this message when discipline is not respected or rewarded by our society.

A New Society

As Christians we form a new society, one that often appears backward to those who don't appreciate our efforts to live upright lives, obeying the government, controlling our speech, trying to live peacefully and be living examples of our faith in the world.

READING PLAN & SERIES OUTLINE

January 24 // Godly Leadership // Titus 1

January 31 // Adoring God's Doctrine // Titus 2

February 7 // A New Society // Titus 3



01. Godly Leadership // Titus 1

NOTES:

THE BIG IDEA

Paul describes the qualifications of leaders. Notice that most of the qualifications involve character, not knowledge or skill. A person's lifestyle and relationships provide a window into his or her character.

KEY TEACHING POINTS

Qualifications for leadership

Checking teaching for accuracy

Being discerning in a world filled with both good and evil

FOR DISCUSSION

What qualifications would you desire to have in a leader?

How would you discern between true and false teaching or between good and evil in this world?

02. Adoring God's Doctrine // Titus 2

THE BIG IDEA

Paul's emphasis is on 'sound doctrine'. Doctrine is the content of our faith, what beliefs form our faith.

Paul gives Titus counsel about how to lead various groups of people within the church.

KEY TEACHING POINTS

The need for sound doctrine

Self control

The Holy Spirit's power to help us live a godly life

FOR DISCUSSION

Have you ever taken time to consider what beliefs you have and how they have shaped your faith? Are you confident about where those beliefs have come from?

How confident do you feel in teaching or confronting others about spiritual or moral issues?

NOTES:

03. A New Society // Titus 3

THE BIG IDEA

As Christians, our first allegiance is to Jesus as Lord. In this we are a new society, but we are not above the law.

KEY TEACHING POINTS

Being good citizens

The nature of freedom

Dealing with false teachers

FOR DISCUSSION

What does it mean for you to be an Australian citizen, and a Queenslander?

How would you define freedom? Do you know people you'd consider 'free', why do you think that of them?

What leaders do you really look up to and admire? What makes them stand out? Have you attempted to imitate them?

NOTES:

