

Authority in the Church: *Introducing Titus*

Titus & Selected Scriptures



INTRODUCTION

WHEN?

WHO?

WHY?

Three _____ presuppositions that lay at the heart of the book of Titus

1. The Imperative of Christ's _____ , _____

2. The Imperative of Christ's _____ , _____

3. The Imperative of _____ Christ's Body, _____

Title of Sermon: *Authority in the Church: Introducing Titus*
Scripture Text: *Titus & Selected Scriptures*
Pastor-Teacher: *Justin Hornbaker*
Date Preached: *Sunday 2-12-2023*



AUTHORITY IN THE CHURCH: INTRODUCTION TITUS (Detailed Notes)

© Justin Hornbaker

Titus 1:1-5

Paul the Apostle, from persecutor of Christ to proclaimer of Christ, the zealous missionary: Acts 7, 8, 9, & 13 Paul, along with other missionary men like Titus, defying congregationalism, and appointing elders themselves since Acts 14:23

3 foundational assumptions that lay at the heart of Titus:

- 1. The Imperative of Christ's Body, the Church**
- 2. The Imperative of Christ's Authority, the Elders**
- 3. The Imperative of Protecting Christ's Body, Discipline**

Point 1. The Church

Definition of the church: "The Church is an assembly of God's elect people, who are born-again believers that come together in orderly worship to proclaim Christ until He comes again."

The church - ekklesia, meaning assembly, gathering, congregation

Most 2nd person pronouns used in NT are plural, examples: 1 Corinthians 11:18, 12:27, Ephesians 4:4, Romans 7:4, Colossians 3:15

"The church" is NOT a bible study, a group having fellowship, an institution, a succession of bishops/popes, etc. - all these are distortions

"An assembly of God's elect" - God chooses His people, Titus 1:1, 2 Timothy 2:10, 1 Peter 2:9, John 15:16

"Who are born-again believers", John 3, 2 Peter 1:10, Titus 3:5 - not the "right" bloodline, human family, club, secret society, etc. - you cannot be born into the church, you must be born again

That come together physically, not over zoom, not online, not over the phone, etc. - consider the illustrations used by the Apostle Paul in the NT

– A Body, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; can your hand be in one place and your torso in another?

- A Building or House, 1 Peter 2:4-8; Stones scattered are not a building, they are scattered materials serving no purpose.

“In an orderly worship”, Titus 1:5, Paul wants Titus (not the congregations) to set in order what remains; God is a God of order, 1 Corinthians 14:20, 31-33, 40; 1 Corinthians 7:17

Paul directing churches, filling offices, and following an orderly plan of worship In orderly worship, Titus 1:3, all that is done in a worship service is worship:

- Public Reading of Scripture, 1 Timothy 4:13
- Prayer, 1 Timothy 2:8
- Singing Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual songs, Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16
- Preaching, Titus 1:2, 2 Timothy 4:2, Acts 2:42
- the Lord's Supper, 1 Corinthians 12:13
- Water Baptisms, 1 Corinthians 12:13
- Membership, that is, the Right Hand of Fellowship, Galatians 2:9
- Serving One Another, Galatians 5:13, 6:2, Ephesians 4:32, 5:21, Colossians 3:13

“To proclaim Christ”, the gospel both saves and sanctifies; 1 Corinthians 1:16-17, 23
- Paul's philosophy of ministry in Colossians 1:28, "we proclaim Him..."

“Until He comes again”, 1 Corinthians 11:26, 1 Corinthians 4:5, Revelation 22:12

Point 2. The Elders

Authority, rightfully used is part of God's economy

Rejection of rightful authority is man's perversion of God's economy

Protected by Christ's authority delegated to Elders

Titus 1:5, Paul commissions Titus to appoint elders in every Cretan church, what are elders?

Titus 1:6-9

John 13:13-17

Matthew 16:17-20 & 1 Peter 2:4-8 Matt 17:1, 18:1 (28:16)

John 21:15-19

Ephesians 2:20

In 1 Peter 5:1-5

“He who controls the education,

“Shapes the minds of the next generation.”

Society slanders and demeans those in authority: guilty until proven innocent—Not the bible's position!

Authority is always from God, so any rightful authority is a delegated authority by God...

Point 3. Discipline

Titus and church discipline

Elders and leaders carry out higher levels of discipline

Titus 2:9 Titus 2:10–13 Titus 3:10

Matthew 18

Hebrews 12

FOUR phases of discipline:

- Self (self-discipline) – Hebrews 12:4 battling sin
- Brotherly (Steps 1 & 2) – Luke 17:3, rebuke, repent, forgive
- Pastoral (Steps 3 & 4) – tell to the church, hand over to Satan
- External (residing in Step 4)– may repent, may not...

— Goal is RESTORATION