



**TITUS:
THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE GRACE OF GOD
AND THE FUNCTION OF THE CHURCH**

The Cretans (Part 2)

Titus 1:10-16

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Titus and the men who would become Elders were responsible for addressing the people in the local assembly who were creating problems for the congregation by promoting bad doctrine and ungodly living as a result of listening to Jewish myths and the commandments of men who turn away from God. This influence was coming from particular Cretans involved in the local church. Paul explains the character of these individuals, the conversation to have with them, and some things the congregation should consider in relation to the mess being made by these individuals. Given the insights learned through this section of Titus, there are some cautions our church must consider.

The Caution for this Congregation in Relation to the Cretans

- A. If we do not guard the church from allowing the culture of this age to influence our thinking about our salvation, sanctification, and service, we will become a church that is driven by false doctrines, ungodly principles, and ungodly practices.
- B. Sometimes there are people in the church who need to be rebuked for the unbiblical doctrines they hold and spread to others, resulting in creating problems within the households of our church.
- C. Sometimes there are people in the church who need to be rebuked for the ungodly conduct they walk in, resulting in influencing others in the church in negative ways.
- D. God holds the leaders of this church responsible for promoting, providing and preserving sound biblical doctrine and silencing anyone in the church who contradicts sound biblical doctrine.
- E. Leadership is expected to call these people out so that these people may line up in right doctrine and conduct themselves uprightly within this local church community. This is to be done in order to preserve the spiritual health of this church.
- F. Saints in this congregation cannot live by the commandments or myths of men, or attempt to keep God's law in the flesh thinking it will please God. This leads to further corruptness in life.

- G. That can also result in this church letting politics, class, color, or personal preferences determine what the right way to live is or what the agenda of the church should be.
- H. A corrupt heart cannot walk in purity by restraining the body from certain acts, trying to keep ceremonial laws, or trying to do good works. Behavior modification does not address the corrupt heart which cannot be changed by attempting to restrain the body and do good works.
- I. Therefore, do not fool yourself into thinking that you are right with God because of what you do and don't do based upon your personal practices and devotions.
- J. True change is conditioned upon faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ, resulting in a changed position from sinner to saint and a changed condition of heart. God is working within our hearts to transform us into the complete likeness of Jesus Christ. We participate with God in the change process through confession, repentance and replacement of sin with right living in all aspects of our lives on the inside and outside as empowered by God to do so.
- K. Therefore, do not fool yourself into thinking you are right with God because you made some profession of faith, yet you have no connection to God.
- L. There are people who claim a connection to God while living an ungodly life and lacking good deeds. Living this way demonstrates a disconnect between them and God, resulting in being detestable, disobedient, and worthless for any good deed.
- M. This is why you should submit to the leadership of this church, so that you may learn sound doctrine, live godly lives, and be protected from ungodly doctrine which leads to ungodly living.