

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

The Cretans (Part 3)

Titus 1:10-16

Dr. Nicolas Ellen

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, our church must come to evaluate ourselves and see where confessions, repentance, and replacement of sin may need to take place.

The Confessions to Be Made by this Congregation

- A. Evaluate yourself to see where you may have been influenced by ungodly doctrines, resulting in problems in your home and disruption to others in this congregation.
- B. Evaluate yourself to see where you may be trying to limit yourself and others to do's and don'ts that are driven by personal preferences and standards of men.
- C. Evaluate yourself to see where you may be trying to limit yourself and others to your political views, color, or class.
- D. Evaluate yourself to see where your profession of faith and your practices in life are in contradiction to each other.
- E. Ask God to break you of your self-rule, self-righteousness, and self-indulgence— a preoccupation with being your own boss, not having to answer to God or others; a preoccupation with your standards and methodology of what is right; being able to care for, provide for and maintain yourself apart from God and others; and living to please self in whatever capacity you choose. You must ask God to break you of these things, believing that He will answer your prayer.
- F. Ask God on a consistent basis to create in you a heart that embraces His rule over you; to create in you a heart that is desirous of Him and His will; to create in you a heart that is willingly submissive to Him, so that you will do what God has commanded without

challenge, excuse, or delay. You must ask God to give you these things, believing that He will answer your prayer.

- G. Confess your sin and seek forgiveness from God and the individuals in this church you have corrupted through promoting ungodly doctrines and ideas and practicing ungodly living.
- H. Turn away from these ungodly doctrines, ideas, and ways of living and seek to submit to the leadership of this church to develop in knowing Jesus Christ, becoming like Jesus Christ and being useful to Jesus Christ.