

Episode #343 Titus 1 Part 4: Qualified Leaders

I. The book of Titus is a personal letter of Paul to Titus, a leader among the believers on the island of Crete. He is instructed how to act as a leader, and also how to choose others as leaders over the believers in Crete. From these instructions, we learn much about how God wants His people to act in this dispensation of grace in which we live.

II. Paul is writing to Titus as a leader, and particularly instructing him how to choose leaders in Crete, where Paul had left him. We saw he is to choose elders, which means representatives (Greek *presbuteros*.) Now, Paul will list the qualifications for leaders.

II. Titus 1:6-9. Qualifications for leaders.

A. Titus 1:6. Qualifications of the *presbuteros*.

1. A “blameless” person is not sinless (Romans 3:10.) Rather, Paul means “blameless” in the other things he is about to list.
2. Needs to be the husband of one wife, or a “one-woman man.”
3. Must also have faithful (believing) children who are well-behaved.

B. Titus 1:7. Qualifications of the *episkopos*.

1. A “bishop” is the traditional word of the Church of England. Greek *episkopos*, *epi* meaning “over” and *skopos* meaning “to look,” means “overwatcher.” (Could translate “overlooker” or “overseer,” but both of these have connotations in English that are not true of the Greek.)
2. Again, must be blameless.
3. A steward is Greek *oikonomos* or house-ruler, very similar to *oikonomia* (house-law).
4. Must not be self-willed or quick-tempered.
5. Must not be given to wine (*paroinos*), which means constantly beside it.
6. Must not be violent, or greedy for money. Neither one would be good for watching over the younger believers!

C. Titus 1:8. More qualifications. An overwatcher must be hospitable, *philoxenos*, a lover of foreigners. He must love good things, be sober-minded (serious), be just (fair), be holy (*hosios*, favorable, undefiled), and be self-controlled.

D. Titus 1:9. Still more qualifications of the *episkopos*.

1. Holding fast to right doctrine he had been taught (by God’s representatives).
2. Able by this word to exhort (*parakaleo*) and make the facts known (*elegcho*) to those who speak something else instead of good teaching (*antilego*.)

V. Paul instructs Titus as to the qualifications for choosing leaders in Crete. They are to be blameless, one-woman men, and have believing children who are well-behaved. They must not be quick-tempered, given to wine, or violent. They must be hospitable, love good things, be sober-minded, be fair, be holy, and be self-controlled. They must hold fast to sound doctrine, and make it known to those who teach differently. These are not just good criteria for leaders, they also are good traits for all who believe in Christ to develop in their lives. Let us all strive to be like this!