

*Paul, writing to Titus, gives him instruction as he serves churches on the island of Crete. His job is “putting what remained in order” (1:5) after Paul has left. This involves appointing elders (1:5–16) and teaching the believers how to follow Christ in daily living—“what accords with sound doctrine” (2:1–3:11).*

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## *Titus 1*

### **The Opening Greeting (1:1–4)**

From Paul, God’s servant and Jesus Christ’s apostle

*Why was Paul serving God and His chosen people?*

- To help them know the truth
- To help them live out that truth in godliness
- To help them live in light of the eternal life which has been promised to us by a completely truthful God and then brought to us in the gospel by God’s servants

To Titus, Paul’s genuine son in their shared faith

Grace and peace

### **Responsibility #1: Appointing Elders (1:5–16)**

*What kind of elders should he appoint? (1:5–9)*

An elder must be a man who is “above reproach.”

- He is faithful to his wife (1:6).
- He is a spiritual leader to his children, demonstrating his stewardship (1:6–7).
- He is not motivated by ego or pride (1:7).
- He is not motivated by money (1:7).
- He is loving, good, and self-controlled (1:8).
- He is faithful in doctrine (1:9).
- He is able to teach and to defend doctrine (1:9).

*Why should he appoint elders? (1:10–16)*

There are false teachers who need to be silenced.

- They refuse to submit to authority (1:10).
- They talk without truthful substance (1:10).
- They are out for personal/financial gain (1:11).
- They must be rebuked so they will be “healthy in the faith” (1:13).
- They are easily distracted, pursuing things that are not important (1:14).

A biblical rebuke will sort out what kind of people they are.

- If they are “pure,” they will respond in repentance (1:15).
- If they are “defiled,” they will continue in their error (1:15).
- No matter what they profess, unrepentance shows they are not believers (1:16).

### Questions to Think About

Paul opens the letter by describing himself in terms of his relationship to the gospel, “the truth” (1:1). How adept are you at delineating the gospel? Why is this important (cf. 1:10)?

How would you define the gospel in just a sentence or two, taking in some of the points Paul makes about it in 1:1–3 (cf. Rom 1:1–6; Gal 1:3–5)?

Does the discussion of the qualifications of elders have anything to do with Christian women (1:5–9)? If so, in what ways?

How can we encourage the shepherds and teachers Jesus has given to our church?

What are some modern-day “Jewish myths and commands of people who turn from the truth” (1:14) that Christians are tempted to pursue instead of sound doctrine?

What does the way we listen to the teaching of God’s Word say about our hearts (1:15–16)?

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*Key Verse: “He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it” (Titus 1:9).*