

An Ongoing Threat

Titus 1:10-16

Main Idea

Because the church will face the threat of false teachers and corrupt doctrine, we must be committed to persistently promoting the truth and aggressively refuting corrupt doctrine.

Titus 1:9-16

The overseer must be... ⁹ holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

¹⁰ For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, ¹¹ who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.

¹² One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”

Titus 1:13-16

¹³ This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith, ¹⁴ not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.

¹⁵ To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

¹⁶ They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed.

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1. The problem of false teachers & their contrast with qualified elders

¹⁰ For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision

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1. The problem of false teachers & their contrast with qualified elders
 - a. They reject the authority over them

¹⁰ For there are many **rebellious** men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision

Biblically qualified teachers are committed to the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, and they labor to submit themselves and their teaching to it.

False teachers characteristically deny that the bible is the only authoritative standard of faith and practice. They function under their own authority.

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1. The problem of false teachers & their contrast with qualified elders
 - a. They reject the authority over them
 - b. Their teaching is not profitable

¹⁰ For there are many rebellious men, **empty talkers** and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision

2 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ **All Scripture is** inspired by God and **profitable** for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness...

Sound doctrine is profitable for God's people because it conforms them to the revealed will of God.

Corrupt doctrine is not profitable because it fails to conform us to the revealed will of God, making it empty of value.

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1. The problem of false teachers & their contrast with qualified elders
 - a. They reject the authority over them
 - b. Their teaching is not profitable
 - c. They are deceiving (and sometimes deceived)

¹⁰ For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and **deceivers**, especially those of the circumcision

An Ongoing Threat

1. The problem of false teachers & their contrast with qualified elders
 - a. They reject the authority over them
 - b. Their teaching is not profitable
 - c. They are deceiving (and sometimes deceived)
 - d. They have selfish motives

¹¹ ...teaching things they should not teach **for the sake of sordid gain.**

The qualified elder is not self-interested and not fond of sordid gain, keeping him free to hold fast to the Word, regardless of popular opinion.

The false teacher is selfishly motivated and bound to compromise sound doctrine in an effort to appeal to popular opinion.

The reputation of the Cretans was an accurate stereotype for these false teachers.

¹² One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” ¹³ This testimony is true...

What they taught and why they taught proved that they were:

- Dishonest
- Self-interested
- Greedy

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2. The necessary action
 - a. Name them

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especially those of the circumcision

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2. The necessary action

- a. Name them
- b. Silence them

¹¹ who **must be silenced** because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach

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2. The necessary action

- a. Name them
- b. Silence them
- c. Deal with them deliberately

¹³ This testimony is true. For this reason **reprove them severely** so that they may be sound in the faith

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2. The necessary action

- a. Name them
- b. Silence them
- c. Deal with them deliberately

¹³ This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely **so that they may be sound in the faith**

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3. The consequences of false teaching
 - a. Entire families corrupted

¹¹ ...who must be silenced **because they are upsetting whole families**, teaching things they should not teach

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3. The consequences of false teaching

- a. Entire families corrupted
- b. People are turning away from the truth

¹⁴ not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who **turn away from the truth.**

An Ongoing Threat

3. The consequences of false teaching

- a. Entire families corrupted
- b. People are turning away from the truth
- c. The gospel is compromised

¹⁵ To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

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