



The reason Titus must appoint **elders** is because in their absence the **wrong** people have assumed positions of leadership and instruction.

The reason the elders Titus must appoints must meet such clear and high **standards** is because without those God-given qualifications, the wrong **kind** of people get put in authority.

The reason the elders Titus appoint must be able to encourage and refute with **sound** doctrine (v.10) is because of the **problem** the wrong people in leadership create.

Part of spiritual leadership is **silencing** people who should not speak. How can the congregation and elders tell who falls into this category?

1. They are **rebellious people**: insubordinate, out of control – they want to associate with the church but they never want to come under its **authority**.
2. They are **mere talkers**: persuasive but say nothing of **value**
3. They are **deceivers**: misleading, make you **feel** like they are teaching truth when in fact they are not
4. They are after **dishonest gain**: they do what they do as a means of gaining something for **self** without regard for Christ

Especially – namely

Circumcision group – **Jews** trying to add circumcision and following Jewish laws to faith in Jesus as **necessary** for real salvation

Ruining – real **damage** going on

Households – may refer to literal **family** units; more likely referring to house **churches** of the day where most Christian teaching was taking place

They must be silenced:

- 1) By revoking their right to teach or speak; give them no **platform**, no opportunity
- 2) By overpowering them with the **truth** (Matthew 22)

Rebuke – is the same word used in verse 9 for what the **elder** must do (refute) as well as in 1 Timothy 5:20, 2 Timothy 4:2, and Titus 2:15

Titus was not to give his **opinion** about the behavior of the false teachers; he was to expose them by the continued teaching of God's Word.

There is a **redemptive** heart to this, but to give them a chance at being sound in the faith they must be rebuked **sharply**.

False teaching **in** the church is deadly because it not only destroys the souls of people in the church, but cripples and sometimes renders entirely powerless the church's **witness** to the world.

Honest and loving though at times painfully blunt **confrontation** is the key to spiritual soundness.

When someone you know is consistently **acting** on a belief or doctrine that is wrong or, worse, is teaching or holding out that doctrine as truth, you do the church nor yourself nor God nor them any **favours** by letting it slide.

Anything less than God's truth **destroys** churches, families, lives, eternities.

Hebrews 10:24; Colossians 3:16

If you love your soul and the souls of your children, you will care about the **battle** that Paul is calling all of us to fight and you will care that you have elders, pastors, overseers capable of handling themselves **faithfully** and ably in that battle.