



Titus has elements of personal discipleship woven through it, but it is primarily written as a compact **blueprint** from God for establishing His Church locally.

Verses 1-3

- God's church is established under the sovereign **authority** of God.
- Because of the hope of eternal life that God has promised, God's church is to be about bringing people to **salvation** by faith and growing the saved into **godliness** through the knowledge of His truth.
- The message that accomplishes God's blueprint is found nowhere else but the **Bible**.
- The means of getting the message out to accomplish God's will is ...**proclaiming** God's truth from God's Word every where in every way at every chance.
- God's plan for His church is God's plan for **you**.

Verses 4-5

- "*Appoint*" means to ordain, to set in place, to put into **office**.
- The three terms used biblically for this office of leadership in a local church are **interchangeable**.
 - Elder speaks to the **maturity** of the man, not so much physical as spiritual.
 - Overseer speaks to his function of **leadership**.
 - Pastor speaks to his function of feeding the sheep as a **shepherd**.

The basic biblical pattern for the New Testament church organization was that leadership was to come from **within** the church (be local), to be **plural** in composition (not dominated by one personality), and to meet certain **standards** of character and behavior (to be qualified).

Verses 6, 7-8

- The first qualification is the overarching statement to which all the others somehow **relate**.
- "*Blameless*" means to be without fault, **unchargeable**, without indictment or accusation.
 - Not someone who is **sinless**, but someone to whom no one can point to any public or gross sins in his life. He must have a good reputation.

Verse 9 (2 Timothy 2:24-26)

The single qualification that relates to a particular **skill** or function is his teaching or preaching ability.

Every elder must be grounded and mature in and knowledgeable enough of God's Word to **instruct** another believer and to **correct** doctrinal error with confidence when he encounters it.

The standards for elders, pastors, overseers are high because that is how God wants **you** to live.

- What God's Word requires of elders and deacons is no different than what God's Word expects to be found to an **increasing** degree in **every** Christian.

Verses 10-16

The reason Titus must appoint **qualified** elders who are able to encourage and refute with sound doctrine is because in their absence, the **wrong people** assume authoritative or instructive positions and because of the problems such leaders then create.

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

- This difficult act of confronting those in error in the church is a challenge for **all** of us, not just elders. Honest and loving though at times painfully blunt **confrontation** is one of the keys to spiritual soundness.

Verses 16, 15 (Isaiah 29:13)

God judges us based on the disposition of our **hearts**, not our external deeds. If we want God to accept our works, they must be according to His Word which begins with a heart purified by true **faith**.

God's church **belongs** to Him, not to us.

It is, we are, to exist according to His **plan**, not ours.

It is, we are, to be led by those He **calls** and qualifies according to His **standards**, not our opinions and not our wills.

All the things God expects of His **church** and requires of His **leaders** are the very things he expects and values in every one of **us**.