

## TITUS 3:9-15

### A. Introduction

1. Titus is one of three letters that the apostle Paul wrote, known as the Pastoral Epistles.

These are letters addressed to individuals who were church leaders, one of whom was Titus.

2. Why Titus?

Titus is a great book for us to study together because it gives us a model for how to lead a local church that is healthy in terms of what it believes and how it behaves.

In Titus 1:1-4 we saw that a healthy church is one where people become Christians, remain as Christians and grow as Christians as they hear the gospel preached.

In Titus 1:5-9 we saw that a healthy church needs qualified leaders – men as elders who are godly in their conduct, character, and convictions.

In Titus 1:10-16 we saw that a healthy church has elders who confront those who are deceiving church members and church members who are being deceived.

In Titus 2:1-10 we saw that a healthy church has elders who ensure that whole households are taught how to live as healthy Christians in all areas of life.

In Titus 2:11-15 we saw that a healthy church understands grace and is shaped by grace because it is taught both the doctrine and duty of grace by its leaders, because grace is the only reason why they can and will live godly lives.

In Titus 3:1-8 we saw that a healthy church is a community that shows God's kindness and love.

3. Now what should the elders do when there are people in the church who are harming the church and stopping it from being healthy because they are not living as healthy Christians?

Paul ends his letter by telling Titus what he is to do.

He gives him two final instructions.

### B. Don't get involved

1. Avoid divisive issues.

"But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because they are unprofitable and useless." (Titus 3:9)

There are things that are a waste of time and energy.

Don't get distracted by these things.

2. Avoid divisive people.

"Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned." (Titus 3:10-11)

There are people whose behaviour is harming or will harm the church.

They need to be disciplined.

If they will not repent, having being warned, they must be rejected.

### **C. Don't give up**

#### 1. Keep modelling how to do good.

There were two practical ways, in addition to not getting involved with divisive issues and people, that Titus was to model to the church doing good – in both instances this involved supporting gospel workers.

Firstly, Paul.

“As soon as I send Artemus or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there.” (Titus 3:12)

Paul needed to meet with Titus at Nicopolis over winter in order to rest, strategise and spend time with his co-worker.

Paul was going to send Artemus or Tychicus in order to free Titus to join him.

Titus would model to the church what it meant to do good by joining Paul.

Secondly, Zenas and Apollos.

“Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need.” (Titus 3:13)

Paul tells Titus to ensure that a couple of gospel workers who will be coming to Crete, either to minister for a while, or on the way to another destination, are provided for – no doubt this would have included both hospitality and financial support.

#### 2. Keep teaching how to do good.

Titus needed to ensure that the members of the church kept on doing good things and this would require ongoing teaching.

“Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives.” (Titus 3:14)

In order to do these things, Titus will need encouragement and Paul’s final greeting no doubt would have given him just that.

“Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.” (Titus 3:15)

So, a healthy church stays away from things that distract, sorts out situations that damage, and sticks with doing good.

### **D. Application**

#### 1. As elders, there are things we must not get distracted by.

There are all sort of controversies in the wider Christian world that don’t affect this local church, but we could waste a lot of time talking about instead of the things that are important and do affect this local church.

#### 2. As elders, there are things we must not ignore.

Unrepentant sin and divisive behaviour from a member must be taken seriously and dealt with for the health of the church and the honour of Christ.

#### 3. As elders, there are things we must not give up doing.

We must keep on doing what is good and encouraging the members of the church to do what is good.