

Titus 1:5-9

5 This is why the reason is ahead not behind he had a job to do I left you Paul had authority to instruct not just share ... Titus Titus in Crete, so that you might put what remained what was it that remained was it simply appointing elders or the contents of the entire epistle? into order this is a the idea of making teeth straight, so this is the reason he is writing to Titus: to put order into the church, how ... and appoint Titus had apostolic authority elders what does this word mean in every town local churches not one church but many churches, in each town on Crete as I directed you local churches but still under authority so this isn't a new instruction - what stopped him doing it before? — 6 if anyone not just leaders or any one of the elders? is above reproach = avoids even the appearance of sin, above reproach - does that mean above being corrected in terms of being blameless? Not perfect but without cause to offend? What is the balance here? this takes time and effort the husband of one wife so an overseer needs to be a man?, and his children are believers does this mean that someone who has grown up children who are not walking with the Lord is not qualified to be an overseer? and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination witness to the world many confused about what believers believed one's family matters matter! 7 For an overseer Paul uses overseer and elder then as synonyms, as God's steward a steward is a term for one entrusted with something, something to look after, or perhaps entrusted authority to carefully manage and employ service is to Him and not to men not a game a person personal plaything God has delegated responsibility, must imperative be above beyond? reproach the phrase restated = important? Or is it now unpacked in the proceeding?. He must imperative not be arrogant thinks he knows better than everyone else the word is must...not if possible calls for humility or quick-tempered patient or a drunkard given to drink self control or violent angry or greedy for gain financial as well as "career" pastors calls for contentment, 8 but hospitable an open home - prioritising people over tasks, a lover of good, speaks of real commitment to good self-controlled, this is a hard one upright not bent or crooked in any way holy, set apart for God all believers are called holy, so what does this mean specifically? and disciplined ouch. Set aside to serve 9 He must hold firm even is hard times a call to patience and confidence to the trustworthy word... awesome statement the bible is to be trusted as taught.... nothing new or added not "as written" or "as read" - emphasises the value and need for Biblical teaching, so that he may be able to give.... word give seems a bee a caring word... not forcing instruction teach what it means in what does sound mean? sound doctrine definition? study to enable you to teach not just for information and also to rebuke those who contradict it..... need a balance understanding of this this lots of people just doing the rebuking 'Order' English definition : the arrangement or disposition of people or things in relation to each other according to a particular sequence, pattern, or method.

Overarching point:

- The need for sound leadership in the churches
- Personal responsibility for holiness
- Doctrine matters
- There is a right way to live
- Calling to order the churches so that instruction and protection can be given
 - Where there is no order there is also no instruction?
 - Where there is no order there is also no protection against false doctrine?

What the text preaches about the nature and character of God:

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- God loves order - shows that He is good
- God is trustworthy
- God cares about how his church is conducted
- God has given us the way in which we can know Him and be a witness in this world
- God is holy
- God is intricately concerned about the Christian's well-being
- God desires for the Church to be a healthy community of believers that are rooted and grounded in truth

What the text preaches to me (my response to who God is):

- God calls people to serve Him through leading and serving others
- The way we live really matters to Godhe is holy he wants us to be holy
- Being "called to ministry" has a series of personal requirements to fulfil first. The word "calling" doesn't even appear in this text
- God wants us to get to know him through his word
- We need to listen to God appointed teachers
- We need to really desire true holiness
- We need to do more than desire holiness - what am I doing to put my energy and resources to that end?
- Being a member of a local church is essential
- I should be ready to learn and be well-versed in "sound doctrine"
- We should be teachable
- God has placed "elders" and "overseers" over the church in order to bring about a healthy church and effective witness. What am I doing to ensure the "elders" and "overseers" are bringing about health?
- Live a life that is accountable

What the text preaches to us (what is the church's response to who God is):

- We should lead our children to be believers
- To neglect the role of elder/overseer is to neglect the instruction of sound doctrine
- We should hold to our convictions
- What do we do with our "sound doctrine"?
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What the text preaches to our culture:

- Culture doesn't want order / responsibility / accountability - we'll do anything to avoid it. It takes God's Spirit to take a wayward heart and submit it to God. Everytime we through off godly order / responsibility / accountability we are in rebellion towards God
- Perspicuity
- There is way to live.....that is pleasing to god
- Your concept of freedom is not freedom.....denying traffic lights does not make us safe
- You are not free. Freedom is found in truth. Not being accountable to "elders" does not make you free to do what you choose.