



## Study Guide

### Titus 1

## “Prioritizing Church Organization”

# Titus 1

While Timothy was laboring in metropolitan Ephesus, Titus had his hands full on the island of Crete. Titus was a Greek believer (Gal. 2:3) who had served Paul well on special assignments to the church in Corinth (2 Cor. 7:13–14; 8:6, 16, 23; 12:18). Apparently Titus had been won to Christ through Paul’s personal ministry (Titus 1:4) as Timothy had been (1 Tim. 1:2). “As for Titus,” Paul wrote, “he is my partner and fellow worker among you” (2 Cor. 8:23, NIV).

But the people on the island of Crete were not the easiest to work with, and Titus became somewhat discouraged. Like Timothy, he was probably a young man. But unlike Timothy, he was not given to timidity and physical ailments. Paul had been with Titus on Crete and had left him there to correct the things that were wrong. Since Jews from Crete were present at Pentecost (Acts 2:11), it is possible that they had carried the Gospel to their native land.

Titus had his share of problems! The churches needed qualified leaders, and the various groups in the churches needed shepherding. One group of false teachers was trying to mix Jewish law with the Gospel of grace (Titus 1:10, 14), while some of the Gentile believers were abusing the message of grace and turning it into license (Titus 2:11–15). By nature, the people of Crete were not easy to work with (Titus 1:12–13), and Titus needed extraordinary patience and love. It would have been easy for Titus to have “heard God’s call to go elsewhere,” but he stuck it out and finished his work.

As you read and study this letter, you will discover that it is a condensed version of Paul’s first letter to Timothy. In this first chapter, Paul reminded Titus of three responsibilities he had to fulfill.

## Preach The Word

### 1:1-4

1. In this rather lengthy greeting, Paul emphasized the importance of the Word of God. Four times he used the Greek preposition *kata*, the root meaning of which is “down.” But in this context, *kata* helps us see the relationship between the ministry and the Word of God. What are the four phrases that show this relationship? a) according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s \_\_\_\_\_, b) the knowledge of the \_\_\_\_\_ that leads to \_\_\_\_\_, c) he brought his word to light...by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, d) To Titus, my true son in our \_\_\_\_\_ faith.

## Appoint Qualified Leaders

### 1:5-9

1. Several of the qualifications listed here (Titus 1:6–8) have already been discussed in our study of 1 Timothy 3:2–3: “blameless, the husband of one wife ... not given to wine, no striker [not violent], not given to filthy lucre ... a lover of hospitality ... sober.” The fact that these standards applied to Christians on the island of Crete as well as to those in the city of Ephesus proves that God’s measure for leaders does not fluctuate. A big-city church and a small-town church both need godly people in places of leadership.

Now, consider nine additional qualifications: a) \_\_\_\_\_ children, b) \_\_\_\_\_ of God, c) not \_\_\_\_\_, d) not \_\_\_\_\_, e) a love of \_\_\_\_\_, f) \_\_\_\_\_, g) \_\_\_\_\_, h) \_\_\_\_\_, holds \_\_\_\_\_ to the trustworthy message.

## Silence False Teachers

### 1:10-16

1. Give Paul’s three facts about these teachers. a) What they were \_\_\_\_\_, b) What they \_\_\_\_\_, c) Why they \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What was Titus to do? a) \_\_\_\_\_ their mouths, b) \_\_\_\_\_ them sharply.