

## Introduction

- Saw last week that Paul's goal in writing is to foster faith in the church that Titus served:
  - "...for the faith of God's elect..." (v.1)
- In the passage we are looking at tonight he begins to get down to the nitty gritty of how that is to happen in Titus' context:

## Sort 'em out!

- (5) *The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.*
- A few things are implied by this verse:
  - (image: sort out)
  - first that the church needed sorting out, straightening out
  - things were not as they should be - we'll find out more later, but vs.10 gives a clue
  - second, that such straightening out is possible
  - change is possible, things can change... despite all the jokes about change in churches!!
  - ("A bishop tells how he visited a church and talked ot man who had been a churchwarden for forty years. 'You must have seen some changes in the church during your 40 years,' said the bishop. 'Yes, I have,' replied the churchwarden, 'and I have opposed every single one of them!'")
- And the third implication is this:
  - (image: appoint elders)
  - elders, or leaders, are what makes this positive change possible
  - there is a need for leadership in the local church
  - not just organisation, but leadership
  - leaders who will set a good direction, resist attempts to steer a church off course, who will set an example as they live and serve in the midst of the local church - not shouting from afar, but leading from in the midst...

## Avoid

- (Image: avoid)
- If leaders or elders (and note that it is plural, not singular!) are to sort out the church, to straighten things out, to present the church to her Lord, to Jesus, what are these elders to be like?
  - that must have been Titus' question - he was, after all, to appoint them!
  - what's on the job spec, on the person requirement...?
- (6) *An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.*
- (7) *Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless - not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain.*
- First thing Paul does is lay out a few things leaders in the church should **not** be like!
  - **Avoid blame:** what does that imply? General character summary...
  - **One wife?** Sexually pure... Not just bigamy, but also serial relationships...
  - **Children who believe:** how far push this? In context would mean not openly rebellious, who accept the elders' leadership at home...
  - **Avoid: over-bearing.** This is about power and control and bullying and forcing their opinion on others. It is therefore about listening and understanding people...
  - **Avoid: quick temper**

## Titus 1:5-9 Leaders That Sort Out The Church Fintry, 30/8/2009, pm

- Avoid: drunkenness
- Avoid: violence. Domestic abuse? One aspect of seeking to exert power.
- Avoid: dishonest gain
  
- Temptations to money, sex, power are all in there
  - they are to be avoided by leaders, and people who have flaws in any of these areas are to be avoided as leaders

### Embrace

- (Image: embrace)
  - (8) Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.
  - (9) He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.
- Paul isn't just negative
  
- Embrace hospitality:
- Loves what is good: (conversation this week where ill was spoken of others... that is not loving what is good); again its a general character thing
- Self-controlled:
- Upright:
- Holy:
- Disciplined:
- Hold firmly to the trustworthy message: Scripture, study, learning, putting into practise
  - so can encourage others and refute error...

### Conclusion

- How do we apply "leadership" passages to everyone?
  
- Affirm this kind of leadership:
  - pray for this kind of leader
  - encourage this kind of leadership when it is seen
  - train this kind of leadership
  
- Follow the example of this kind of leadership
  - in 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul writes: "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."
  - leaders are to be examples for followers...
  - and we are to emulate them
  
- Also, though, every one of us is a leader!
  - what is a leader? Somebody who somebody else follows...
  - so these encouragements to avoid the temptations of money, sex and power, of temper or drunkenness, violence apply to us - as parents, as siblings, as friends, as members of a congregation together...
  - so do the encouragement to embrace hospitality, to love the good, to develop self-control, and so on. To grow in knowledge of, love for God's Word - and in living it - hold firmly to...
  
- Do we want to be part of a church that is on the way to being sorted out?