

A LOCAL CHURCH IS TO BE AN ORGANIC ORGANIZATION

Titus 1:1-16 (January 5, 2025)

...our Savior, **4** To Titus, my true son in our common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. **5** The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. **6** An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. **7** Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. **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. **10** For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. **11** They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. **12** One of Crete's own prophets has said it: "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." **13** This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith **14** and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth. **15** To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. **16** They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

What unites the followers of Christ as one family? OUR COMMON FAITH

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I. A local church needs:

1. Order: Structure and system to fulfill God's purpose (v5a)
2. Ordained pastor (elder, bishop, overseer): Governing and supervising personnel. (v5b)

II. Pastor's traits (characteristics)

1. Family life (v6)
2. Personal character (vv7-8)
3. Possession of doctrinal authenticity (v9)

III. Traits of rebellious people

Full of (v10):

1. Meaningless talk
2. Deception

Their negative effects (impacts) in a local church: Disrupting whole church by teaching false doctrine for dishonest gain (v11)

IV. How to handle the rebellious people in a local church

1. They must be silenced. (v11a)
2. How to make them silenced: By rebuking them sharply (v13)
3. What is the end goal of rebuking? (vv13b-14)
 - (1) They remain in the common faith.
 - (2) They pay no attention to false doctrine.

V. Traits of UNBELIEVING people (those who reject the truth)

Their actions prove that they don't know the Holy God. (vv15-16)
- Unfit for doing anything good -

APPLICATION

I am called to live a holy life (godly life).

Our knowledge of the truth must always lead us to godliness. (v1)

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is the core of Christian faith (believers' common faith)?
2. What are some of the examples of structure and system of a local church to fulfill God's purpose as an organic organization?
3. What are three basic areas in a person's life that a local church should consider for a pastoral leadership (teaching and governing elders)?
4. What are the two initial signs of rebellious spirit in Christian's church life, and what is a rebellious church member's negative impact upon a local church?
5. How should a rebellious Christian be handled in a local church?
6. What is the end goal of a local church discipline (rebuking)?
7. Choose the right answer: Our faith and our knowledge of the truth must always lead us to (1) godliness (2) ungodliness.

I AM INTERESTED IN TAKING A CLASS FOR MY SPIRITUAL GROWTH.

- () Membership 101
- () Maturity 201
- () Ministry 301
- () Mission/Evangelism 401

OTHER CLASSES

- () Foundations for basic Christian doctrines
- () Fresh Start for starting my faith in Christ
- () How to do daily Quiet Time with God

NEED TO TALK TO A PASTOR?

- () I would like to talk with a pastor to understand the biblical view on a subject.
- () I would like to know what it means to be a member of MBF (NVCCC)

ANY OTHER QUESTION? LET US KNOW, PLEASE.
