



Titus 1:4-9

Truth #2 - God's Church must be orderly and organised

Doctrine #2 - The doctrine of the Church (Ecclesiology)

Principle #2 - The Leader's exemplary private life

The apostle Paul was a church planter. He knew that the best legacy that he could leave behind wherever he went to preach was a functional and vibrant local church that would become a base of operations for the extension of the Kingdom of God in their region. But to achieve this required teaching, training, and instruction.

1. What did Paul expect Titus to do in Crete? (Titus 1:5)
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2. Based on Titus 1:4, why might Paul have had the confidence that Titus could carry out this task?
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3. Paul's brief stay on the island of Crete apparently led to several churches being planted. How can we surmise this based on Titus 1:5?

It seems that there was suggestion to the contrary among the early Christians that becoming a Christian necessarily meant joining the local Christian community. God's plan of redemption not involved individuals, it involved establishing and strengthening local churches.

The Role of an Elder

4. In Philippians 1:1, the Apostle Paul addresses three categories of believers that give us an insight into how the early church was structured. What are these three categories and what does this tell us about the early churches?

The strength and health of a church stands or falls upon its leaders. In the early church there qualified believers whom God called to be *overseers* over a congregation of believers.

5. Based on Titus 1:6-8 what was the criteria required for someone to be considered for appointment as an elder?

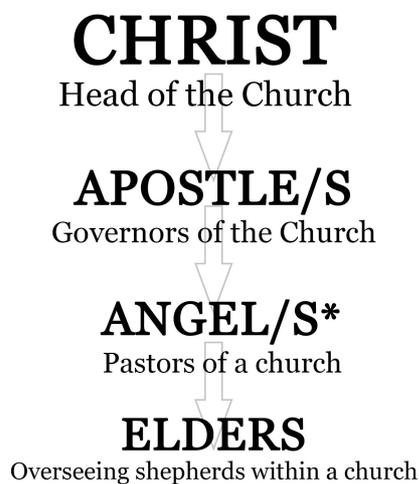
These overseers (elders) were charged to guard the flock of God from 'wolves' (note: Luke 10:3; John 10:12; Acts 20:29)

6. What two ways were elders to do this? (Titus 1:8-9)

Elders were to ensure that their church was organised and orderly.

The Doctrine of Ecclesiology

The Greek word for “church” is *ecclesia*. It means *the gathering of the called-out ones*. The doctrine of Ecclesiology is drawn together from what the New Testament teaches about *the church*. In Matthew 16:18 Christ declares that He was going to build His Church on the ‘rock’ of the revelation of who He was. That is, the church is comprised of those who have received a revelation from the Holy Spirit about the Lordship of Christ and the gift of faith to trust Him as their Saviour. The New Testament teaches that the Church must be led by those whom God calls and equips. By the time we get to the closing book of the New Testament, the Book of Revelation, we see the following structure emerge:



* The word “angel” means messenger and can refer to a human being.

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The Principles for Our Growth

7. If you were helping a new believer to understand how Titus 1:4-9 applied to their life? What would you point out to them?

Prayer

Father,

Help us to love what You love—the Church. Grant that we can be vitally connected with each other in a way that builds others up and serves to bring them closer to Christ. May we be nourished in Your Word and strengthened by Your Spirit each time we meet together. Enable us to carry the load within our local church that You have assigned to us. Anoint those in our church family who are called to guard, protect, strengthen and feed us. In Jesus' Name we pray.

Amen.

