

# **“The Marks of a Blameless Man”**

## **Titus 1:5-9**

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### **I. Introduction**

A. Paul gives two reasons why he left Titus in Crete.

1. “Set in order the things that are wanting” or “straighten out what was left unfinished.”
  - a) We get our words “Orthodontist” and “Orthopedics”
  - b) Titus was charged with the task of straightening out the church.
  - c) The importance of the church
2. “Ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed you.”
  - a) Why was this important?
    - 1) False teachers
    - 2) The need for Spiritual Leaders in the church and the home
  - b) What are these Spiritual leaders called?
    - 1) “Elders” (v.5)
      - a. Greek- “presbuteros”
      - b. Showing the maturity and dignity of the office
    - 2) “Bishops”
      - a. Greek- “episkopos”
      - b. The term is based upon a compound Greek word that means “oversight.”
      - c. His job was the oversight of the church
    - 3) “Pastor”
      - a. (Ephesians 4:11)
      - b. Pastor-teacher
      - c. It means “shepherd.”
      - d. He is to feed, lead, and protect the flock.
    - 4) All three terms, elder, bishop, and pastor, are used interchangeably for the same person or group (Acts 20).
    - 5) As a father, you are to be the elder, bishop, or pastor of your home.
    - 6) There is only one other office in the church, and that is a “deacon” (1 Timothy 3:8-13).
      - a. It means “servant.”
      - b. The derivative of the word deacon is a compound word based on two words, “through” and “dust.”
      - c. The imagery suggests a man who moves quickly to perform his tasks and creates a trail of dust due to his haste.
  3. The number one requirement for these Spiritual leaders:
    - a) Blamelessness (v.6)

- 1) It is repeated in verse 7
- 2) This does not, of course, mean “sinless” or “faultless,” or no one would be qualified.
- 3) “Blameless” means “not to be taken upon.” It means that no just cause for censure or criticism can be proven against him.
- 4) It is “unquestioned integrity” or “unimpeachable.”
4. Paul now tells Titus that the Spiritual leaders he appoints must be blameless in three aspects of their lives.

## II. Blameless in their Marriage and Family Life (Titus 1:6)

### A. Marriage (v.6)

1. If a man’s marriage and family are not right, he cannot lead the church.
2. The home is the training ground for Christian leaders.
3. Literally “a one woman man”
4. It’s a man’s faithfulness to one woman, his wife.
  - a) (Ephesians 5:25)
5. It implies inner as well as outward sexual purity.
  - a) (Matthew 5:28)
6. *“The writer of Proverbs asks rhetorically, “Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Or can a man walk on hot coals, and his feet not be scorched? So is the one who goes into his neighbor’s wife; whoever touches her will not go unpunished” (Proverbs 6:27-29). “Men do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy himself when he is hungry,” the writer goes on to say, “but when he is found, he must repay sevenfold; he must give all the substance of his house” (vv.30-31). But “the one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; he who would destroy himself does it. Wounds and disgrace he will find, and his reproach will not be blotted out.” (Proverbs 6:32-33). Unlike a thief, a man who commits adultery has no way to make restitution for his sin and can never be free of reproach and can never be “above reproach.” – John MacArthur*

### B. Children (v.6)

1. “Having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly” (v.6)
2. “He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God’s children?” (1 Timothy 3:4-5)
  - a) Illustration- David and Absalom
3. Dad, are you devoted to your children?
  - a) Do you instruct them?
  - b) Discipline them?
  - c) Love them and take time for them?
  - d) “Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4 KJV).

### III. Blameless in their Character and Conduct (Titus 1:7-8)

A. Paul lists five negatives that should not be found in the steward of God, and relates to five areas of strong temptation.

1. Pride (v.7)

- a) Not self-willed
- b) Arrogant or self-pleasing
- c) Leaders are not to use their passion or power to get their own way.
- d) It's a man who is headstrong and stubborn and demands his own way without regard for others.
- e) They won't listen to either criticism or advice.
- f) Lording over people in the church
  - 1) Also, dads in the home
- g) Be a loving servant-leader
  - 1) Illustration- Jesus (John 13)

2. Temper (v.7)

- a) Not soon angry
- b) In dealing with difficult and demanding people—tempted to become irritable and impatient
  - 1) Illustration- Moses

3. Drink (v.7)

- a) Not given to wine
- b) Sitting long at wine or “over fond of wine”
- c) “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (Proverbs 20:1 KJV).
- d) “Drunkenness...shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Galatians 5:21).
  - 1) Illustration- Noah's son
- e) Is alcohol destroying your witness?
  - 1) (Ephesians 5:18)

4. Power (v.7)

- a) No striker
- b) Not violent or not pugnacious
- c) Not for pastors
- d) Not in the home with your wife and children

5. Money (v.7)

- a) Not given to filthy lucre
- b) Not pursuing dishonest gain
- c) It's a motive of greed
- d) It's right for pastors to be supported by the church, but it is wrong for them to exploit God's people.
  - 1) (1 Peter 5:1-4)
- e) Pastors should be motivated by their love of God and His people.

B. After the vices come the virtues. Six positive virtues:

1. “A lover of hospitality” (v.8)
2. “A lover of what is good” (v.8)
  - a) People, good things
  - b) Hates evil
  - c) A love to submit to the Lord’s Word and will
3. “Sober”
  - a) It’s sober-minded
  - b) A man who has self-mastery
  - c) He is sensible in judgement
  - d) A disciplined lifestyle
4. “Just”
  - a) Righteous or upright
  - b) Just in his dealings with people
  - c) Seeks fairness for others
  - d) It’s virtue
  - e) Like Jesus
5. “Holy”
  - a) Saintly toward God
  - b) Lives in the fear of God
  - c) Is devoted to God
6. “Temperate”
  - a) Self-controlled
  - b) It’s the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5)
  - c) It covers all other virtues
  - d) Be filled with the Spirit
    - 1) (Ephesians 5:18)
      - a. The contrast
      - b. The command
      - c. The conditions
        - i. Desire
        - ii. Denounce sin
        - iii. Dedicate yourself
        - iv. Depend daily on the Holy Spirit
      - d. The consequences
        - i. Joyful
        - ii. Thankful
        - iii. Submissive

#### **IV. Blameless in Belief (Titus 1:9)**

- A. Paul moves from the pastor’s home and family, and their character and conduct, to their necessary grasp of the truth. He must hold fast.

1. “The faithful Word”
  - a) “Reliable word”
  - b) It is true, and it is God’s Word.
  - c) (2 Timothy 3:16)
2. “According to the teaching or consistent with the teaching of the apostles” (v.13)
  - a) “The faith” (v.13) and “the truth” (v.14)
  - b) (2 Timothy 6:20)
3. Church leaders must be orthodox.
  - a) Right view of the Bible
  - b) God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit
  - c) Salvation, the church, and the Father
  - d) Why?
    1. “To exhort” or “to encourage” the believers with sound doctrine
    2. To convince or refute false teachers
      - a. The pastor must be strong in the Word.
      - b. He must have the gift of teaching.

## **V. Conclusion**

- A. It is not his physical strength, educational attainments, social status or business savvy
  1. It is his Godly character, call, and gifting from God
  2. God is looking for a man’s whole heart.