

From Grace to Good

Lesson 6

Titus 1:1-16

August 22, 2021

Living Good Shows You Know Christ

Introduction

The royal priesthood, portrayed extensively in Leviticus, needed to be wholly set apart from the rest of Israel. Everything from their food to their attire made it evident that their job was distinct. Imagine a priest of the Levitical order coming around today? They'd walk out in their massive breast-piece, complete with many precious stones. They'd sport their engraved linen ephod, robe, a woven tunic, and turban complete with a sash to finish the ensemble! Everything they wore to what they ate was distinguishably different from everyone else because God designated their job as distinct. Their lives were a display of how God was different from any other god.

The priesthood was set in this place amongst the Israelites to mediate between the people and God. The priests were to show the people the way to live and how to please the Lord. They were different to display God's standards for living and not acting according to the customs of what they had learned and brought from Egypt.

Our passage today speaks of elders put in a similar position as priests. Their lives: different. Their bodies: temples of the living God. They are both soldiers and shepherds in the way they protect and lead. They must hold firmly to sound doctrine to lead others in the same way. They must be a cut above. Set apart. The world must see them and know without a doubt that they are different. They resemble God in their conduct and lead people to a life set apart for Him.

Memory verse: “They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny Him. They are detestable, disobedient, worthless for doing anything good.”—Titus 1:16

Pray and read Titus 1:1-16. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. Who was it that wrote the letter to Titus? (Titus 1:1)
2. What was the reason for Paul leaving Crete? (Titus 1:5)
3. What are the stipulations for an elder? (Titus 1:6)
4. What are the things an overseer must not do?
(Titus 1:7)
5. What are the things an overseer must do? (Titus 1:8)
6. Why must an overseer hold firmly to the trustworthy message he has been taught? (Titus 1:9)

7. Why must the rebellious people be silenced?
(Titus 1:10-11)

8. Finish this sentence: "To the _____, all things are _____, but to those who are corrupted and do not _____, nothing is pure." (Titus 1:15)

What does the passage mean?

1. Paul uses the word "servant" to describe himself. Westerners can often view servitude in a negative sense because the master in those instances was harsh and volatile. What kind of master is God? (Mark 10:42-45; Philippians 2:5-8)

2. Leviticus is filled with practices for the Israelites to administer to be a royal priesthood. Being completely set apart and different from the rest of the nation leads them to understand better who God is. How are the qualifications listed in Titus similar to being part of God's royal priesthood? (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:19)

3. Do these qualifications mean the elder must attain perfection? How does God enable someone to pursue these qualities of maturity? (1 Corinthians 12:11; Galatians 5:22-23; Philippians 2:12-13)

4. To what authority are elders to submit? (Romans 13:1-7; James 4:7; Hebrews 13:17) Why is this an important quality?

Applying the passage

1. Paul knew the challenge ahead of Titus to change a people like the Cretans who had a strong reputation for sinful actions. But he also knew it wasn't impossible. What is God calling you to that seems challenging or even impossible? What steps of obedience could you take today to pursue His calling?

