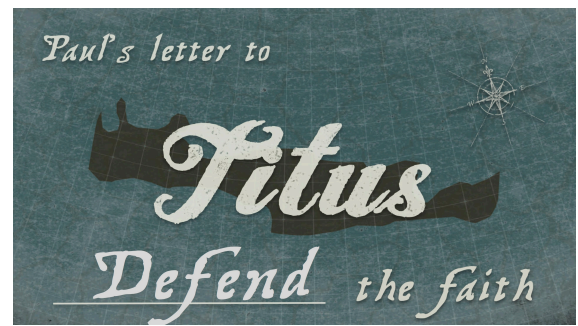




Living Water
Church

Diving Deeper: A Gather Group discussion guide
or personal devotional guide



Defend the Faith

Introduction: . Paul leaves Titus in Crete to put in order the doctrine and structure of the churches. The churches were being attacked with false teaching and corrupt “leaders.” It was the duty of Titus to make sure that the church was healthy through qualified leadership and sound gospel doctrine.

Text: Titus 1:5-16; 3:9-11

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: Share of a time when a leader/coach/boss was not leading out of godly character and the good of the mission? Share of a time when a leader/coach/boss was leading out of godly character and the good of the mission. Discuss the difference between these two experiences.
2. Titus was left to set leaders in the churches. Read the qualifications in Titus 1:5-9. What do you notice about the character qualification for those who lead the church? What is the doctrine qualification? What does it mean to be “above reproach?”
3. Notice that Paul uses Elder and Overseer for the same office. The references to the leadership of the church calls for godly men to be pastor/elder/overseer. Why is it important to have godly leadership in the church?
4. The pastor is considered a “steward” of God’s household. What are the responsibilities of a steward? How does this idea go with the qualification for leaders be effective husbands and fathers?
5. There was an infectious disease among the churches on the island of Crete. There were people who were bringing false teaching into the church and causing much difficulty. How did Paul see the threat to false teaching? Why is it important to identify the false teaching and silence the false teachers?
6. The circumcision party was upsetting entire families. Read Col. 2:16-19. There were those who taught that Christ was not enough. The law of Moses was required to follow in order to really be a follower of Christ. They insisted on people keeping the law of circumcision, dietary laws, festivals, and the Sabbath. How does Paul address this false teaching? Why is this teaching so dangerous?
7. There were those who were also entertaining Jewish myths, commands of men, foolish controversies, genealogies, and disputes about the law. Many people today will entertain the idea that there are missing books of the Bible. The Talmud and apocryphal writings were books filled with commands of men and myth. Paul encourages them to not allow the rules of men and the legends of Jewish myth grab ahold of their heart. What are the possible dangers of myth, false religions, commands of man, and interest in the mystical in our culture today?
8. Titus 3: 9-11. Paul advises to not argue of matters of the law. Many Christians will fuss and debate (argue and fight) over the Bible. They wield their sword and take the dagger of verses and stab one another while the lost are perishing for the truth. Why is it ineffective to argue over the Bible?
9. What does Paul command Titus to do if someone will not hold to sound doctrine when corrected for the second time?
10. What is the most effective way to defend the faith?

Think About it:

If you are going to defend the faith, you must know the faith. It is critical to know what the gospel is— if you are going to stand and defend the gospel. The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is foundational. The church needs qualified gospel centered men to lead the church. The qualifications for effective leadership is godly character, and sound doctrine.

Moving Forward:

Pray for your pastors. Those who lead the church are held accountable to God. Be confident in the gospel of Christ and do not allow strange, false, and weird teachings to capture your imagination. Filter everything you hear and read through the grid of the gospel. Take time this week to read through Titus and pray for boldness to defend the faith.

