

Main Reading: **Titus** 1:5-9

v. 5 — “This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order...”

Titus was in Crete for *two* reasons:

1 To set everything into order.

This is a **medical** term, in the Greek, which was used when a broken bone had slipped out of position from where it should be.

In other words, the church in Crete needed an alignment.

Titus needed to be like a good orthodontist who puts a set of braces onto crooked teeth.

They had been planted by Paul, but he must not have had time to get them started off on the right foot.

So, God is able to use Titus, who comes in and fills the gaps where Paul could not serve.

2 Titus was sent to “...appoint elders in every town...”

The church *needs* **leadership**. And this is *important*.

No organization will *ever* exceed the level of its leaders.

A CEO who doesn't know business equals a company in trouble.

And no church will *ever* surpass their pastor in spiritual **maturity**.

An immature pastor will equal an immature congregation.

As the **pulpit** goes, so goes the **pew**.

Therefore, God has standards that a man must meet in order to be a *qualified* pastor.

And these rules weren't just for the island of Crete only...

Paul sent these *same* guidelines to Timothy, who was in modern day Turkey.

So, these are guidelines that apply to all churches—even your church today.

Big church, small church, church in the city, church in the country....these are the rules.

v. 6-9 — “if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers...God’s steward...above reproach...not...arrogant...quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy...but hospitable...self-controlled...and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.”

Pastors are shepherds, not CEOs.

So, the skills for being a pastor aren’t learned by running a large company,

They are learned by reading books in the Bible, like Titus.

Here are *some* guidelines for pastoral ministry given to Titus from Paul: a pastor *must* be...

above reproach = good reputation in the community and among those he would serve.

Public moral failures, scandals, etc. ✘

This was a pressing issue in Crete, where the entire island had a bad reputation.

In fact, there’s a Greek word, "**crecia**," that means a dishonest and money-hungry person.

The word, "crecia," is derived from Crete.

Now, this does **not** mean without sin...

“For if Paul were to say this, every person would be rejected, no one could be ordained.” —Augustine

The qualification for being a church leader or a Christian at all,
is repentance—continuing to admit your sin.

the husband of one wife = *literally* a one-woman man...a Pastor loves & commits to his wife.

There’s no room for ministers to be flirtatious with other women...

Training his children in the Lord = Christian living and service *must* begin at home.

“If a servant of God cannot win his own children to Christ, what success can he expect with outsiders?” — Warren Wiersbe

Imagine a man with rebellious teenagers uprooting his family for a new job—at a church!

Do you know how much trouble that would cause at home?

There's an unfortunate stereotype that pastor's kids are the worst ones in the church...

It should ideally be the other way around...

a steward of God = *responsible* while taking care of someone else's things.

God's people have been placed under the pastor's care, and he must *not* take that lightly.

[Joseph + Potiphar, Jesus' Parable of the Steward]

a peacemaker, not a fight-picker = Jude taught us to **fight** for the faith (Jude 1:3),

but this *doesn't* mean that we are *constantly*
looking to bicker with others about *everything*.

In Crete, the people were violent...so it was important for a Cretian pastor to counteract
their aggressive behavior with gentleness.

addiction-free = If you can't control yourself, how could you *ever* control the direction of a church?

the opposite of greedy = Pastors are *supposed* to be paid. 1 **Corinthians** 9:14

Getting rich should *never* be the motivation to start a ministry.

a good host = In those days, there was *a lot* of travel and *hardly any* good place to stay...

The inns or hotels were usually infested with prostitution.

So, when a Christian traveled, it was hard...Christians in other towns, therefore,
kept an open-door policy with fellow believers, and elders need to lead by example in this area.

able to teach others well = Doctors should be able to teach about sickness, medicine, etc.

Lawyers should be able to teach about gov't and laws.

Pastors should be able to teach about God from the word of God.

However, sometimes people seem to only want sermons with cute, little stories and **jokes**.

They wanna say "**He's a great speaker—I never laughed so hard in my life!**" on the ride home.

But that's not healthy...In fact, the Greek phrase for "*sound doctrine*" means "*healthy teaching*."

If your pastor is strictly a good-looking stand-up comedian, you'll be spiritually sick.

It'd be like only eating junk food week after week...

Churches *need* teaching with substance—we need protein. **Hebrews** 5:13–14

Imagine that you're sick and in the hospital...or that your family has been hit with a tragedy.

Which pastor would you want to come visit you? The jokester...or the caring teacher?

See, when a church goes on a search for a pastor, and the committee is chosen,

They don't don't need to ask "***What do the people want in a pastor?***"

To the best of my knowledge...that never ends well [Case in point: King Saul]

Instead, we need to ask, "***What does God require from a pastor?***"

Because, if he fits these qualifications, all of the other details—his hair color, fashion sense, accent, and favorite football team—don't matter.

And, please remember, all of these qualifications for a pastor's life also apply to you.

Sure, you may not have a title at your church, but you're a Christian—*that's* your title.

Yes, pastors are held to a higher standard. **James** 3:1

But ***all*** of us need to have good reputations, be dedicated to our families (Ten Commandments), have patience with people, show hospitality (1 Peter 4:9), be disciplined, display self control (Galatians 5), and be readily equipped with Bible truth.