



LEADER GUIDE

April 19
June 7

The background of the slide is a detailed architectural blueprint of a church building, showing various rooms and their layouts. Labels on the blueprint include "SLR Camera", "View Camera", "Press Camera", "Digital Gallery", "Reception", "Information", "Guest Meeting", "Contractor Waiting", and "Temporary". Grid lines are labeled with letters A through F and numbers 1 through 10. The text "Building A: Second Floor Plan 1:100" and "Building A: First Floor Plan 1:100" is also visible.

Titus: God's **Blueprint** for the Church

GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR THE CHURCH

An Expository Study
Through the Book of Titus

April 19 - June 7

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Written by TJ Johnson

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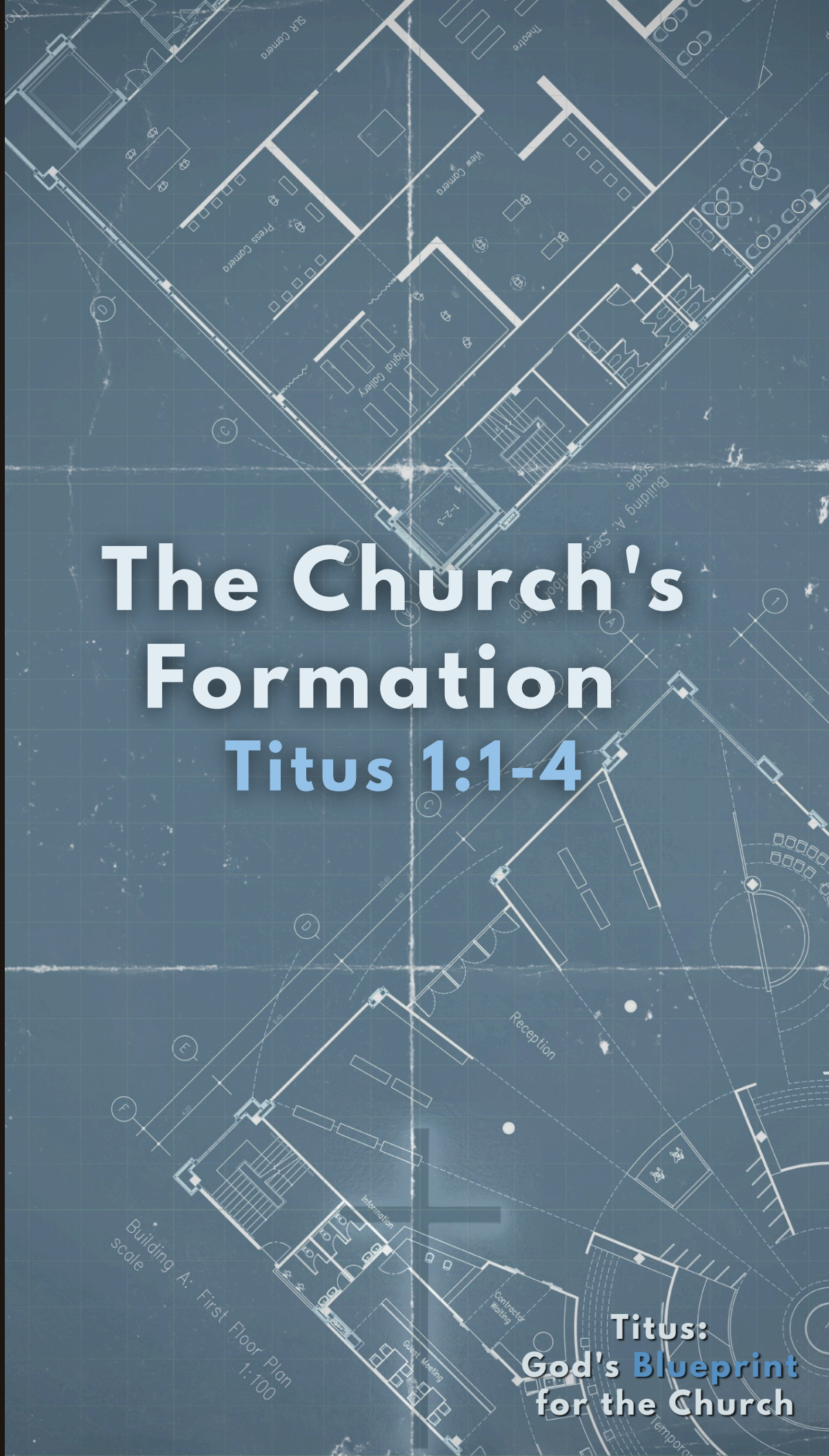
LEADER GUIDE

April 19

The Church's Formation

Titus 1:1-4

Titus:
God's Blueprint
for the Church



Sermon Series Overview

This Sunday, we began a new series through the book of Titus. Since we will spend the next eight weeks in this book, it is imperative that we understand its original context so that we might make proper exegesis and then application to our lives today, that we might encounter the living God and be transformed into His image.

Author:

The Holy Spirit, through the Apostle Paul.

Date

The traditional understanding has been that Titus was written in the time between Paul's first imprisonment (Acts 28) and a second imprisonment which led to his death. Most conservative scholars believe Titus was written in the mid-60s A.D. Certainly, it was written before Paul's death (67AD).

Setting:

The island of Crete—146 miles long, mountainous, home to roughly 15–20 large cities. Crete was wealthy, religiously confused (Zeus worship, emperor worship, cultic rituals), and morally notorious. Even one of their own prophets, Epimenides, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." The culture celebrated deception and sexual immorality in the name of religion.

Genre:

A Pastoral Epistle. Urgent. Practical. Imperative-driven. This is not abstract theology—it's a field manual for local church health.

Background:

According to Titus 1:5, Paul the Apostle left Titus in Crete to organize the churches and appoint elders in every town. Titus was entrusted with strengthening the churches Paul had helped establish by ensuring proper leadership and sound teaching. The letter was written to address the problem of false teachers and their deceptive influence, encouraging believers to uphold sound doctrine and live godly lives.

Big Idea:

The theme of Titus is that true faith should be shown through right living. What Christians believe should shape how they behave, which is why the letter teaches sound doctrine, warns against false teachers, and explains how church leaders and believers should live.

Outline:

1:1–4 Introduction and Greeting

1:5–9 Appointment and Qualifications of Elders

1:10–16 False Teachers Rebuked

2:1 Teach Sound Doctrine

2:2 Older Men

2:3–5 Older Women

2:6–8 Younger Men

2:9–10 Bondservants

2:11–15 Grace and Godly Living for All Believers

3:1–3 Christian Conduct and Good Works

3:4–7 Salvation by Grace

3:8 Devotion to Good Works

3:9–11 Avoid Divisive False Teachers

3:12–15 Final Instructions and Benediction

Main themes:

- Qualified elders and overseers are appointed to lead the church, teach sound doctrine, and rebuke false teaching (Titus 1:5–9; 1:9)
- False teachers pose a continual threat to the church and must be confronted and corrected (Titus 1:10–11; 1:13–14; 3:9–11)
- Christians are called to live godly lives characterized by good works as a response to God's saving grace and the hope of Christ's return (Titus 2:1–10; 2:11–14; 3:1; 3:8; 3:14)
- Justification and salvation are the work of God's mercy and grace, not human works (Titus 2:11; 3:4–7; 3:5)

Sermon Series Overview

April 19, 2026	Titus 1:1-4	The Church's Formation and Foundation
April 26, 2026	Titus 1:5-9	The Church's Ministers: The Elder
May 3, 2026	Titus 1:9-16; 2:15	The Church's Mandate: Guard the Truth
May 10, 2026	Titus 2:1-10	The Church's Method: Gendered and Generational Disciples
May 17, 2026	Titus 2:11-14	The Church's Motivation: Grace
May 24, 2026	Titus 3:1-8	The Church's Mission: Doing Good Works in the World
May 31, 2026	Titus 3:9-11	The Church's Mindset: Avoid Controversies
June 7, 2026	Titus 3:12-15	The Church's Money

Sermon Overview

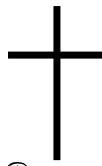
This Sunday we began a new series through the book of Titus. Since we will spend the next eight weeks in this book, it is imperative we understand its original context so that we might make proper exegesis and then application to our lives today, that we might encounter the living God and be transformed into His image. As you prepare to read through this book, here are some key things to keep in mind:

Titus was written by the Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul. This is NOT just a human letter. This is God's Word given to us that we might know Him rightly. It was written in the mid-60s A.D. (between Paul's first and second imprisonments, before his martyrdom around A.D. 67). We are not certain where Paul wrote the letter from, but we do know that it was sent to Titus, a trusted Greek Christian, proven in character and care for God's people, while he was living on the island of Crete.

At the time, Crete was 146 miles long, mountainous, and home to roughly 15–20 large cities. Crete was wealthy, religiously plural (Zeus worship, emperor worship, cultic rituals), and morally dubious. Even one of their own prophets, Epimenides, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." The culture celebrated deception and sexual immorality in the name of religion. Crete then looks a lot like Beijing now: a pluralistic, syncretistic, pagan nation in need of healthy churches that rightly display Christ through the faithful preaching of the gospel.

The book of Acts does not record Paul's ministry in Crete; therefore, it is uncertain who planted the churches on Crete. It could have been Paul, or it could have been Cretans at Pentecost who heard the gospel and carried it back home with them. We do know that at some point Paul and Titus had ministered together on this island and that Paul left Titus in Crete to, "put what remained into order (Titus 1:5)."

The overall tone of the book is urgent, practical, and imperative-driven. This is not abstract theology—it's a field manual for local church health. Titus is one of the most comprehensive books on rightly ordered churches, covering key topics such as church offices, false doctrine, gendered discipleship, holy living, unity in diversity, finances, and more. This Lord's Day, we will study Titus 1:1-4. Come ready to listen, to be encouraged and challenged by the gospel, and ready to see what a healthy church is and why healthy churches matter.



Put What Remained Into Order

Sermon Outline

Title: The Church's Formation and Foundation

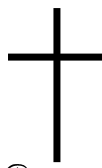
Text: Titus 1:1-4

Theme: The church exists to serve God by preaching the gospel so that faith is formed, truth is learned, Christ is obeyed, and eternal life with God is fully obtained.

- 1. The Church Exists to Exalt God. Titus 1:1a**
- 2. The Church Exists to Evangelize the Elect. Titus 1:1b**
- 3. The Church Exists to Educate in Truth. Titus 1:1c**
- 4. The Church Exists to Equip for Godliness. Titus 1:1d**
- 5. The Church Exists to Expect Eternity. Titus 1:2**

Sermon Notes

Sermon Applications



Put What Remained Into Order

Discussion Questions

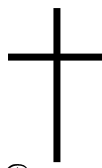
“1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, 2 in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began 3 and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior; 4 To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.” Titus 1:1-4

1. In what ways do these verses remind us that the Christian life—and the life of the church—is meant to be centered on God and not man? What are some common areas where the Christian life and church life can become more focused on man rather than God, and how do we guard against such errors?

The church exists for God's glory, not our own. Paul calls himself a servant of God, showing that he did not seek human recognition but faithful obedience. Churches can become focused on a preacher's personality, success, traditions, or popularity instead of Scripture. Anything that shifts attention from God to people must be guarded against. Sound teaching, Christ-centered worship through singing, prayer, and humility help the body of Christ remain centered on God and faithful to His purpose.

2. What are the specific things a church should be doing "for the sake of the faith of God's elect?" Do you think a church gathering on the Lord's Day should be more focused on evangelizing non-Christians (seeker sensitive) or on edifying Christians? Explain.

Believers gather to equip one another (Ephesians 4:11–13) and to edify the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 14:26–32). After worshiping and glorifying God, the church's role is to strengthen believers and build their faith. Faith grows through hearing God's Word, singing truth, prayer, and practicing public confession together as a community. While unbelievers may attend and hear the gospel, the primary purpose of the Lord's Day gathering is the edification of believers. Evangelism remains essential but is largely carried out by individual Christians in daily life outside the gathered church.



Put What Remained Into Order

Discussion Questions

3. What are some effective ways the church can help the elect grow in the knowledge of the truth? Have you seen ineffective practices in the church? In an interdenominational church setting, how do we come to an agreement on what truth actually is?

One of the church's primary roles is to faithfully teach the Word of God and clearly explain Scripture. Scripture-centered worship services, Bible studies, Sunday school, and discipleship classes help believers grow by learning how to study and apply God's Word personally. Ineffective practices include poor exegesis, preaching based on opinion rather than Scripture, and neglecting sound biblical teaching.

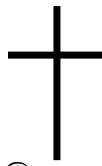
In an interdenominational setting, unity comes through agreement on essential doctrines: the Trinity, the full deity and humanity of Christ, salvation by grace through faith, and Christ's life, death, and bodily resurrection.

Doctrines denying historic Christianity must be rejected, such as denying the Trinity, rejecting Christ's deity or humanity, promoting salvation by works, denying Scripture's authority, or rejecting eternal judgment and salvation through Christ alone.

Secondary issues—church government, baptism, communion practices, spiritual gifts, worship style, end-times views, and the role of women in ministry—require charity, humility, and obedience to conscience. In these matters, believers pursue unity in Christ while allowing respectful disagreement within biblical boundaries.

4. Truth is meant to lead to godliness. What are some reasons why this may not happen? Think of a biblical truth you have known for years but have not consistently obeyed. What is one practical step you can take this week to move from knowing that truth to living it out in godliness?

One reason truth does not always lead to godliness is the hardness of the human heart. As believers, we can hear and understand truth intellectually, but still fail to let it shape our hearts and actions. This results in inconsistency between what we know and how we live. Truth may also be hindered by pride, distraction, or lack of repentance.



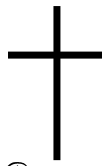
Put What Remained Into Order

Discussion Questions

A practical step is to repent of hardness of heart, ask God for forgiveness, and invite Him to help us obey what we already know. We can also choose one specific truth from Scripture and intentionally apply it in daily life this week.

5. If someone followed your daily schedule and tracked where you spend your time, energy, and money, would they conclude that you are living for the things of this world or for eternal life? What is one specific way your church family helps you reorient your heart toward eternity?

Keeping ourselves accountable through regular check-ins with small group or ministry group members helps us reorient our hearts toward eternal life. Sharing prayer requests and praying for one another allows us to support each other spiritually and stay focused on God's purposes rather than worldly distractions. This kind of community encourages us to evaluate our priorities and live more intentionally for eternity. Through fellowship, encouragement, and accountability, the church helps us grow in faithfulness and keeps our hearts centered on Christ.



Put What Remained Into Order

Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports