



# STUDY GUIDE

April 19  
-  
June 7

The background of the page is a detailed architectural blueprint of a church building, showing various rooms and corridors. Labels on the blueprint include "SJR Camera", "Theatre", "View Camera", "Press Camera", "Digital Gallery", "1-2-3", "Reception", "Information", "Counselor Waiting", "Civil Meeting", and "Temporary". Grid lines are labeled with letters A-F and numbers 1-4.

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



# GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR THE CHURCH

An Expository Study  
Through the Book of Titus

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**April 19 - June 7**

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Written by TJ Johnson

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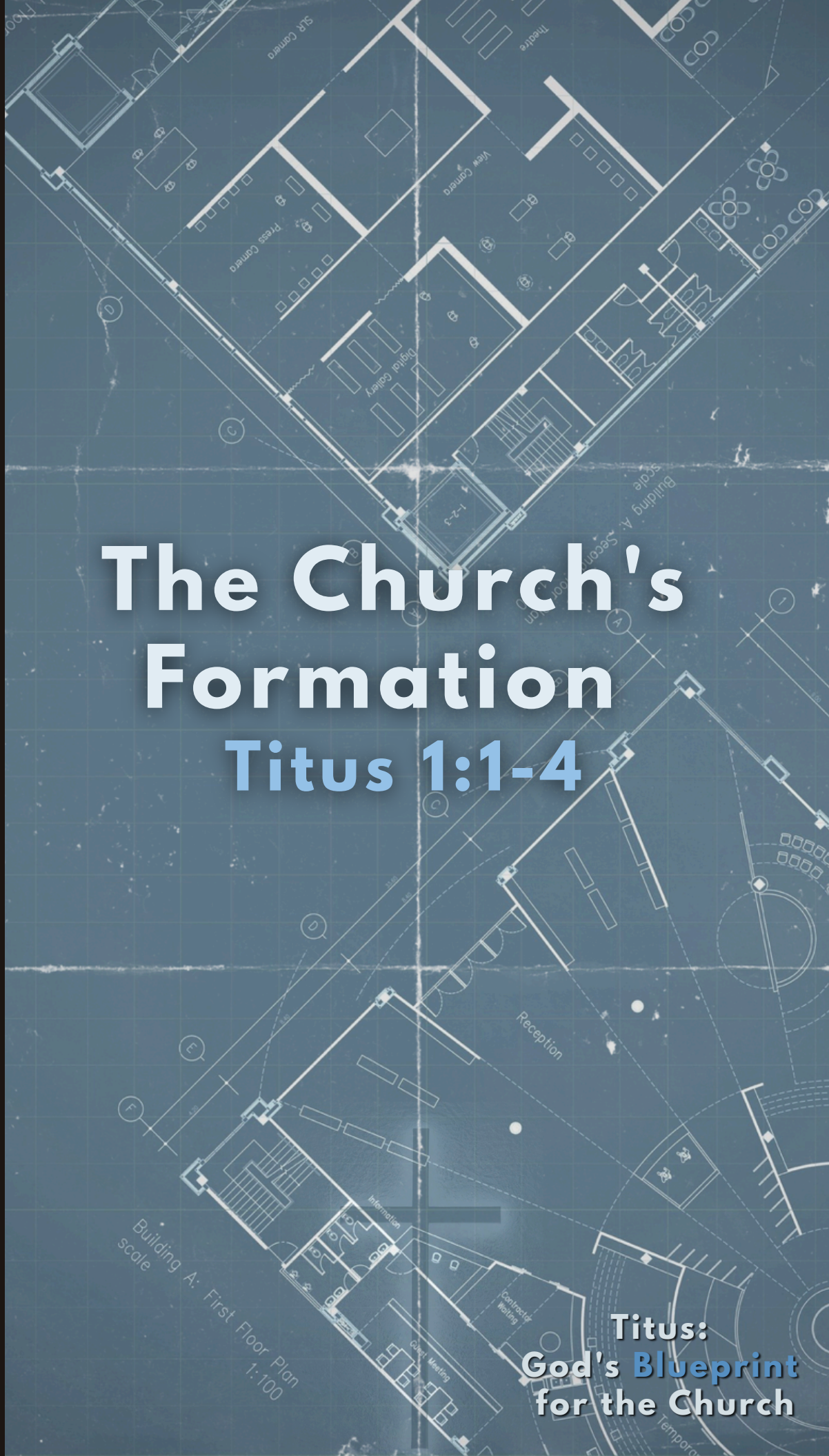
# STUDY GUIDE

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

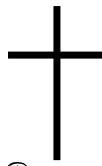
This Sunday we began a new series through the book of Titus. Since we will spend the next eight weeks in this book, it is imperative we understand its original context so that we might make proper exegesis and then application to our lives today, that we might encounter the living God and be transformed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

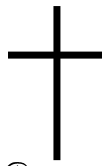
**Text: Titus 1:1-4**

**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

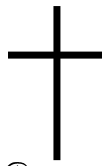


*Put What Remained Into Order*

**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?**
- 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.**
- 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?**
- 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?**
- 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?**



*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

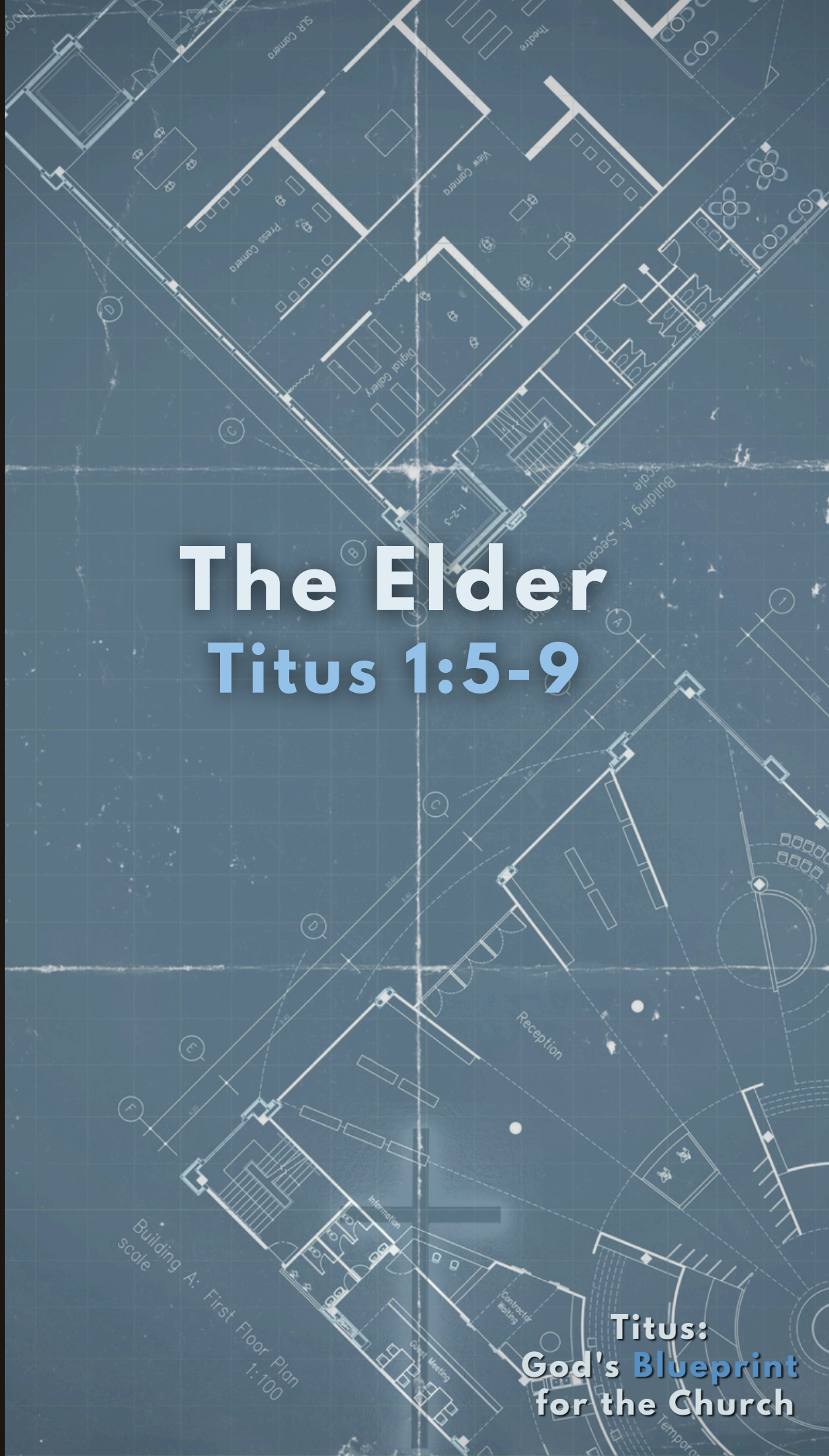


# STUDY GUIDE

April 26

## The Elder Titus 1:5-9

Titus:  
God's Blueprint  
for the Church



# Sermon Overview

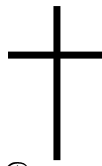
Church Family,

As we continue our study through the book of Titus, we have only just made it past the introduction, which to no surprise is in typical Pauline structure. As we move beyond the first four verses, we get to Paul's "reason" for assigning Titus to the land of Crete. Titus was to appoint Elders in every city. Depending on your denominational upbringing this may or may not be a familiar passage. Here at City Church, we recognize 2 ordained offices. The office of the Elder and the Office of the Deacon. This coming Lord's Day, I hope to focus on the Office of the Elder for local churches. We will broadly survey the importance of the office in scripture and seek to answer questions arising from the text on who should and who should not serve as an Elder in Christ's Church. Whether you are serving as an Elder or not, I think the below verse captures the serious nature of the Office and will hopefully draw your attention to an area that the Apostle Paul considered lacking in a New Testament Church if not in order (Hebrews 13:17):

"Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you."

Brothers and sisters, we are called as a visible covenant community to publicly worship the one, true and living God. On behalf of the Elders of City Church, I hope you will join us this coming Lord's Day.

Sincerely,  
Elder Grant Jones



*Put What Remained Into Order*

## Sermon Outline

**Title: The Elder**

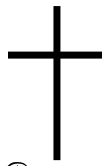
**Text: Titus 1:5-9**

**Proposition: The Elder is a steward of Jesus, the Great Shepherd, who would have local churches overseen by under-shepherds with holy character, humility, and biblical teaching. Shepherds unafraid to use the rod and staff to care for the flock.**

- 1. The Office (Titus 1:5)**
- 2. Qualifications in Household (Titus 1:6)**
- 3. Qualifications in Character (Titus 1:7-8)**
- 4. Able to Teach (Titus 1:9)**

## Sermon Notes

## Sermon Applications



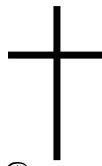
## *Put What Remained Into Order*

### **Discussion Questions**

***“5 This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— 6 if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. 7 For an overseer, as God’s steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, 8 but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. 9 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.” Titus 1:5-9***

**1. Among your group, consider allowing members to share about their Church Government structures from their home country with which they may be familiar. After a time of sharing, discuss verse 5 and the language Paul uses towards Titus, “that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city” (NJKV). It seems that Paul's clear command is that Titus would appoint a plurality of Elders in the local Churches. Based on reading through this passage, what are some practical advantages of a local Church being led by a plurality of Elders as compared to 1 man being over a local flock?**

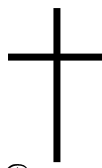
**2. Perhaps one of the more puzzling phrases in our text comes from verse 6 under the English phrase “the husband of one wife” or more literally a “one woman man,” depending on your translation. Allow members to share how they have typically understood this verse. Faithful believers have come to varying degrees of interpretation of the exact nature of Paul’s meaning such as disqualifying single men, divorced men, men engaged in polygamy, men not faithful sexually to their wife, and/or male widowers. Trustworthy elders have had varying stances on Paul’s exact meaning. After discussing the above, answer the following: If a man who is married is being considered to serve as an Elder, what does an assessment of his relationship with his wife benefit those considering his qualifications to serve as an Elder?**



*Put What Remained Into Order*

**3. In a similar vein to Question 2, from verse 6, how does an assessment of a man's children and the children's behavior impact the question of him meeting the qualifications of an Elder. Should there be a difference in assessing the behavior of young children still in the home vs. grown children who are no longer under their parents' direct physical care (Grown Children)? Do you think this qualification in verse 6 means a man without any children should be excluded automatically? Why or why not? I would encourage you to think of New Testament figures such as Paul, who did not have children, but was certainly an Overseer of Christ's Church.**

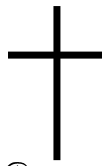
**4. In verses 7 & 8, Paul gives a listing of "he must not" and "he must". Take some time to re-read those qualifications. To broaden and personalize the discussion, consider how this list of character qualities is not unique to the office of Elder, but are attributes that all Christians should be known by. Do a quick internal inventory of your walk with the Lord based on the things listed in verses 7 & 8. Discuss which ones have been a particular thorn in your life (confess to the group if needed). What specifically do you need prayer for in these areas, and what do you suspect you are neglecting in your times of failure in those areas? Consider also lifting up your Elders from your Churches in prayer. There are no perfect earthly Elders. While their lives should be a model to their flock and they should not be known as immoral or untrustworthy men, they also struggle just like you do in maintaining all of these qualifications.**



*Put What Remained Into Order*

5. Maybe you have said or have heard it said “doctrine divides”. If so, consider sharing your experience with that phrase. Based on our passage, I think Paul might agree, but not for the same reason as those who often say the phrase. The phrase “doctrine divides” is often used to imply that being dogmatic about what the Bible teaches is not worth the division. To be fair, there is sometimes a line between purity and unity, but Paul tells us in verse 9 that sound doctrine is vital for an Elder. In other words, we NEED Elders who have a spine for sound doctrine, and are willing to separate truth from lies for the flock, and call out error. Paul wants Titus to call men who care deeply about doctrine for the sake of shepherding the flock. Should you look to your Elders for advice and insight into God’s word, both directly from scripture study and practically in your life choices? If so, can you share a specific example (good or bad) and highlight how it relates to this text in verses 5 - 9? If the Elder is to use the word to defend the flock from internal and external threats, what dangers can Church members be subject to IF their Elders are not sound in doctrine and willing both to extort and convict? Once discussed, consider reading Psalm 23 and note that the Shepherd has a rod (protective weapon) and staff (guiding tool). Be reminded and encouraged that your Elders are under-shepherds to the Shepherd we all answer to in Christ.

6. Considering the qualifications of character and of being able to teach (exhort & convict), what are the dangers of emphasizing one over the other? For example, overlooking moral failures because the man is “clearly a gifted teacher”? Or a man who is an admirable peace-keeper, hospitable, and generous, yet he is not willing or able to directly confront a member (including a fellow Officer: Elder or Deacon) of the church that is backsliding into a sinful lifestyle or embracing a doctrine fundamentally opposed to the gospel?



*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

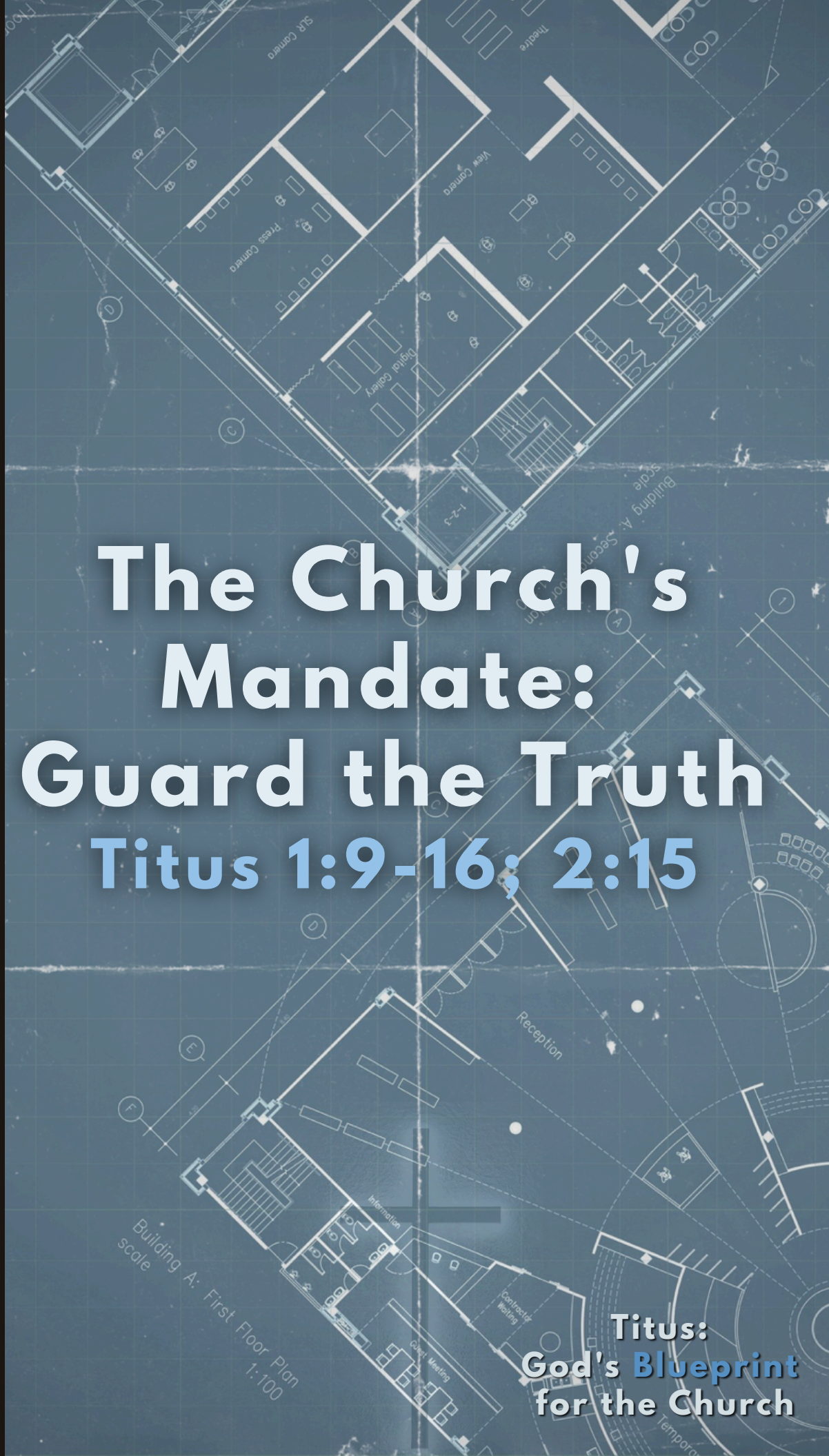


# STUDY GUIDE

May 3

## The Church's Mandate: Guard the Truth Titus 1:9-16; 2:15

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

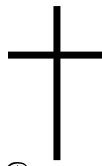


# Sermon Overview

After listing out the lofty qualifications for the office of elder in Titus 1, Paul moves on to explain why elders must “hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught.” For the churches on the island of Crete to be set in order, the leadership must be able to accurately teach the gospel message. Beyond instruction, however, Paul warns they also need to be able to “rebuke those who contradict it.” In the first century, as in every age, bad ideas warp people’s perception of the truth and can damage their faith.

The church is God’s chosen means through which the gospel of Jesus Christ will be preserved for generations to come. As we proclaim the truth with our words, we mobilize as members of his body to uphold and encourage one another and outwardly live the reconciliation we have with God in our families, schools, and workplaces. Jesus has entrusted this ministry to his people, but he has not left us alone or without all that is necessary to do it faithfully. Let us gather this Sunday as his church fully utilizing all that he has provided through his word to preserve the truth.

Ps Zach Mazrim



*Put What Remained Into Order*

## Sermon Outline

**Title: The Church's Mandate: Guard the Truth**

**Text: Titus 1:9-16; 2:15**

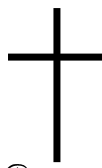
**Proposition: The Church Exists to Preserve the True Gospel.**

**The church preserves the true gospel through:**

- 1. Teaching it**
- 2. Rebuking false teaching**
- 3. Upholding one another in faith**
- 4. Embodying it in their lives**

## Sermon Notes

## Sermon Applications

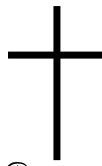


## *Put What Remained Into Order*

### **Discussion Questions**

***“9 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. 10 For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. 11 They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach. 12 One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” 13 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, 14 not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth. 15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. 16 They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.” Titus 1:9-16 “Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you”. Titus 2:15***

- 1. “Teaching the Bible is especially needed for our day and age.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement, and why?**
- 2. How have you primarily learned the truth of the gospel? (Sunday school as a child, parents’ teaching, regularly hearing sermons, reading the bible or other books, small group bible studies, etc.)**
- 3. What false teachings from other professed Christians have you been exposed to, and how were you able to identify them as untrue?**
- 4. What wrong ideas or claims about Christianity have you encountered outside of the church?**
- 5. Give one practical example of how you can regularly encourage a fellow believer in the coming week or month?**
- 6. We will read more next Sunday about what living as a Christian looks like, but what can you do this week to demonstrate to others that you have genuinely put your faith in Jesus?**



*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



# STUDY GUIDE

May 10

# The Church's Method: Gendered and Generational Disciples Titus 2:1-10

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

# Sermon Overview

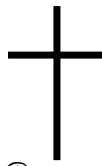
Hello City Church Family,

This week we will continue our study of Titus, looking at God's blueprint for the church. Last week's passage was about preserving sound doctrine, and this week will show what sound doctrine looks like when it is lived out. Right belief and right behavior cannot be separated.

In this passage, Paul gives specific instructions to older men, older women, younger women, younger men, and bondservants. These instructions touch on two of the most divisive topics in the world today: gender and generation. What does it mean to be a Godly man or a Godly woman? How should the old relate to the young and vice versa?

God has designed the church to be a place where men and women, young and old, and slave and free are one in Christ, and glorify God in unique ways before a watching world. Join us this Sunday as we learn to adorn the doctrine of God our Savior with our lives.

Elder Ben Whitmore



*Put What Remained Into Order*

## Sermon Outline

**Title: The Church's Method: Gendered and Generational Disciples**

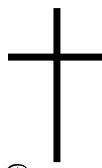
**Text: Titus 2:1 - 10**

**Proposition: Because our lifestyles demonstrate our doctrine, they should uniquely display Christ's glory according to our gender, age, and vocation, knowing that they will both bless and offend society.**

- 1. Good doctrine means Godly lifestyles**
- 2. Godly lifestyles will bless and offend society**
- 3. A Godly lifestyle is lived uniquely according to our gender, life stage, and vocation**

## Sermon Notes

## Sermon Applications

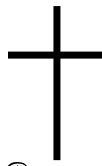


## *Put What Remained Into Order*

### **Discussion Questions**

***“1 But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. 2 Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. 3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, 4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. 6 Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. 7 Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, 8 and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. 9 Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, 10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.” Titus 2:1-10***

- 1. Verses 1 says to teach what accords with sound doctrine. How do the instructions in verses 2 - 10 relate to doctrine?**
- 2. Why do you think Paul gave specific instructions to older and younger men and women and bondservants? What similarities and differences do you note in the different instructions?**
- 3. In verses 5, 8, and 10, Paul gives reasons for the instructions he gives. What are the reasons, and why do they matter?**
- 4. Of all the commands listed in this passage, which is most difficult for you, and what is one thing you can do this week to grow in it?**
- 5. Our text speaks of the older training the younger. Are you currently being mentored by or mentoring anyone? If yes, what does that look like? If not, what is one thing you could do to move toward that?**
- 6. How can you apply Paul's instructions to bondservants in Titus 2:9 - 10 in your work today?**



*Put What Remained Into Order*

## Prayer & Praise

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### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports

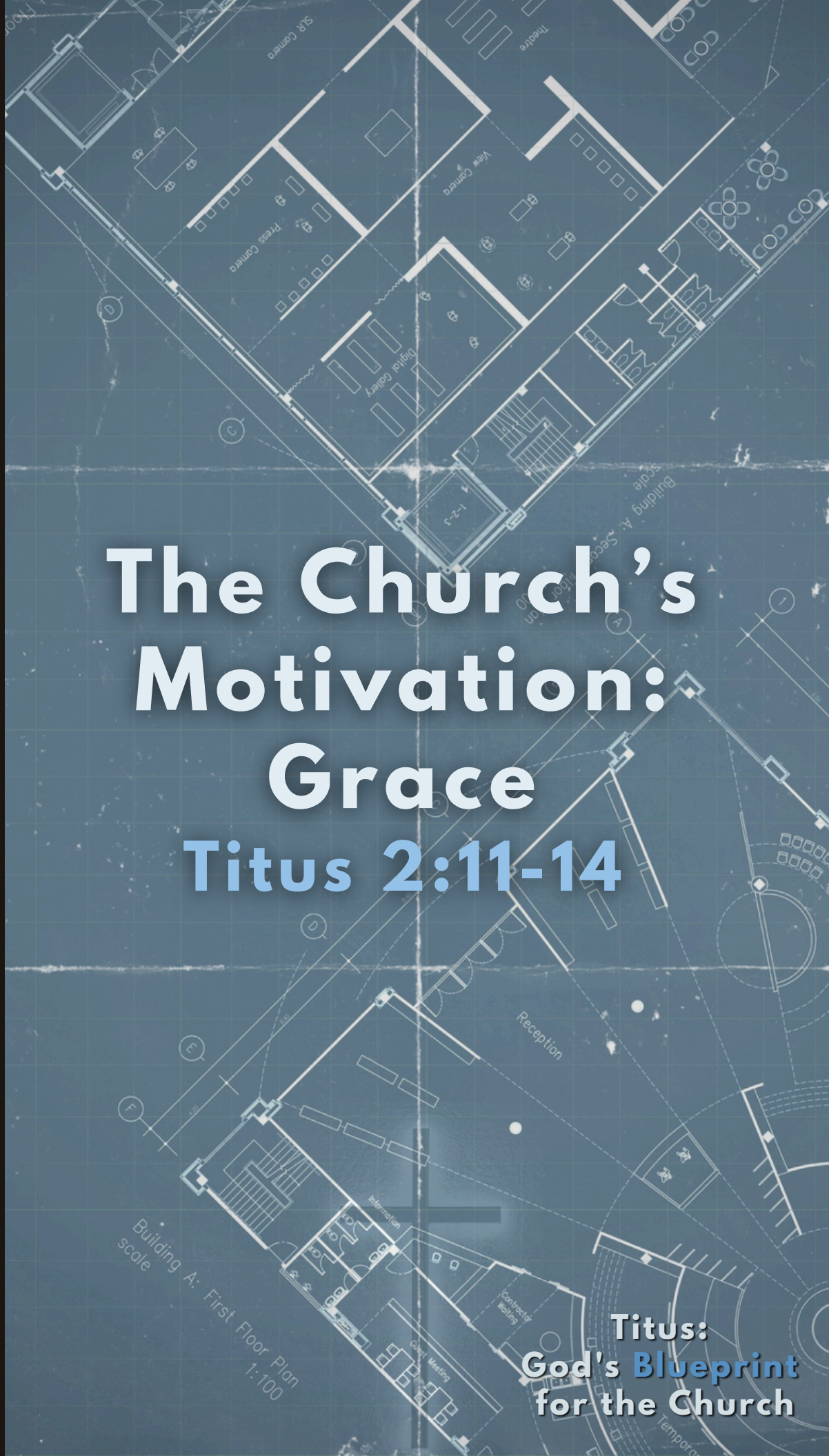


# STUDY GUIDE

May 17

## The Church's Motivation: Grace Titus 2:11-14

Titus:  
God's Blueprint  
for the Church



# Sermon Overview

Most Pauline epistles begin with indicatives—this is who Christ is and what He has done for you—and end with imperatives—therefore, in light of Christ, you are empowered to do these things. Titus is an exception to this rule. After a short introduction, he moves straight to the imperatives.

Chapter one admonishes Titus to appoint elders, rebuke false teachers, and correct false beliefs. Chapter two admonishes men and women to be reverent, self-controlled, not to slander or be addicted to wine, etc. Chapter three continues, admonishing the church to submit to rulers, avoid quarreling and foolish controversies, be gentle, give to urgent needs, etc.

Because the book is almost entirely composed of commands, one might begin to believe that Christianity is just another system of morality achieved through hard work and determination. But that would be a mistake. The motivation for our morality is not grounded in our grit but in God's grace. The book's structure, in fact, proves this.

It begins with grace: "To Titus, my true child in a common faith: grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior" (Titus 1:4).

It ends with grace: "Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all" (Titus 3:15).

And right in the middle of this book, we find one long run-on sentence—an indicative—with grace as its subject: "For the grace of God has appeared" (Titus 2:11).

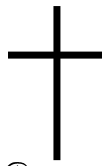
Don't skip over that three-letter conjunction, for. It is central to understanding how God expects us to live obedient lives. All the demands found before and after this sentence can only be fulfilled by grace.

Let me try to make it very practical for you. Do you struggle to do the right thing? Do you often find yourself promising to do better, try harder, only to fail again and again? Do you read the Bible and get overwhelmed by all the commands that you KNOW you can't fully keep? If so, it might be because your obedience has been fueled by guilt or grit—and not by grace.

Titus 2:11-14 is a reminder to us all that true change happens as we behold the beauty of God and daily reflect on His grace.

Grace be with you,

Elder TJ Johnson



*Put What Remained Into Order*

## Sermon Outline

**Text: Titus 2:11-14**

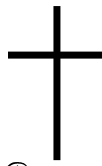
**Title: The Church's Motivation: Grace**

**Theme: The obedience God requires can only come from the grace God provides.**

- 1. Personal Grace (2:11a).**
- 2. Past Grace (2:11b).**
- 3. Present Grace (2:12).**
- 4. Future Grace (2:13-14).**

## Sermon Notes

## Sermon Applications



## *Put What Remained Into Order*

### **Discussion Questions**

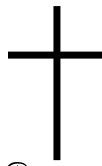
***“11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.” Titus 2:11-14***

- 1. What is grace? Give a definition, give examples, and discuss the various types of grace mentioned in the Bible.**
- 2. Read Titus 2:11 and John 1:14-17. Our text teaches that grace has fully appeared in the person of Jesus Christ—not just in a doctrine or a feeling, but in a real life, a real death, and a real resurrection.**

**As a way to stir up your affections for Jesus, discuss one example from His life, His death, or His resurrection where you see grace on full display.**

- 3. Read Titus 2:11 and Ephesians 2:8-9. Some common misunderstandings about salvation and grace are:**
  - That God owes us salvation—He was obligated to die for us.**
  - That our good works can earn us favor with God or increase His love for us.**
  - That some types of people are beyond God's grace.**
  - That because God is gracious, everyone will be saved.**

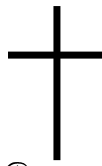
**Choose one of these (or add your own misunderstanding you've heard or even believed), talk about why people believe this, how Ephesians 2:8-9 and Titus 2:11 corrects it, and how a true understanding of salvation by grace alone increases our love for God.**



*Put What Remained Into Order*

**Discussion Questions**

4. **Read Titus 2:12. Grace trains us to both renounce sin and to live righteously. Which of those two do you tend to emphasize more in your own life—the "don'ts" or the "do's" and how can you better emphasize both mortification and vivification? Bonus: The sermon said, "grace is training you," but then asks, "are you submitting to that training?" What are one or two specific, practical habits or disciplines that help a Christian place themselves under grace's training instead of resisting it?**
  
5. **Read Titus 2:13-14. Biblical waiting is not passive. What does it look like practically to actively wait for the appearing of Jesus and how does this future grace encourage us to be "zealous for good works"?**



*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



# STUDY GUIDE

May 24

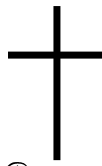
## The Church's Mission: Doing Good Works in the World Titus 3:1-8

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

# Sermon Overview

Sunday's message will explore how believers are called to reflect God's goodness through everyday acts of humility, compassion, service, and integrity. We will discuss how to live transformed lives by God's grace and mercy. Through Paul's teaching to Titus, we will see how good works become a practical witness to the world in our homes, workplaces, schools, and communities. Join us as we learn how the church can bring hope, healing, and the character of Christ into broken places through lives devoted to doing good.

Elder Raphel Moffett



*Put What Remained Into Order*

## Sermon Outline

**Text: Titus 3:1-8**

**Title: The Church's Mission: Doing Good Works in the World**

**Theme: Because God alone is good, the mission of the church is to demonstrate His nature in the earth through good works motivated by sincere gratitude for His grace and mercy, not by an attempt to earn salvation.**

### MAIN POINTS

1. Goodness comes from God
2. Good works and moral acts are different
3. Do good in broken places
4. Good works can change the world

### TEXT

Verse 1: Reminder

Verse 2: Restraint

Verse 3: Reflection

Verse 4: Revelation

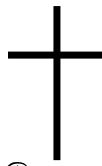
Verse 5: Renewal

Verse 6: Redemption

Verse 7: Righteousness

Verse 8: Responsibility

### Sermon Applications

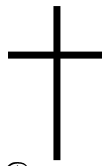


## *Put What Remained Into Order*

### **Discussion Questions**

***“1 Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. 3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 8 The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.” Titus 3:1-8***

- 1. Why is it important to understand that goodness comes from God and not from ourselves?**
- 2. How are good works different from moral acts?**
- 3. What are some broken places in our communities where we can demonstrate God’s goodness?**
- 4. How does remembering our own need for grace and mercy shape the way we treat other people?**
- 5. In what practical ways can our church become a stronger witness to the world through good works?**



*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



# STUDY GUIDE

May 31

## The Church's Mindset: Essentials, Non-Essentials, All Things Titus 3:9-11

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

# Sermon Overview

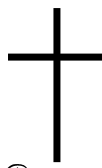
There's a quote often attributed to Rupertus Meldenius: *"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, love."* It's a wise maxim to live by. Regardless of whether we agree or disagree on a topic or action, our response to that disagreement must always be love—first for God, then for our neighbor. Love for God should make us staunch defenders of the essentials. Love for neighbor should keep us from dividing over non-essentials.

The problem, however, is that this maxim doesn't tell us what the essentials and non-essentials actually are. How do we know when we are rightly defending the faith over an essential matter, and when we are wrongly stirring up division over a non-essential? When should we remain silent in a small group discussion? When should we speak out against a practice in the church? When is debate and discussion healthy and when is it toxic?

In Titus 1:9–16, the Holy Spirit gives clear examples of essentials under attack that must be defended. And in Titus 3:9–11, the Spirit shows clear examples of non-essentials being elevated to the point of division. In an international, interdenominational church like ours, there are ample opportunities for non-essentials to escalate into division. It is my hope that this Sunday's passage will bring us clarity on how we are to *"make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace"* (Ephesians 4:3).

Peacemaking with you,

Pastor TJ Johnson



*Put What Remained Into Order*

## Sermon Outline

**Text: Titus 3:9-11**

**Title: The Church's Mindset: Essentials, Non- Essentials, All Things**

**Theme: A gospel-focused church knows what to fight for, what to overlook, and how to deal with those who insist on secondary matters.**

### **1. What we should avoid**

- A. We are to avoid foolish controversies (literally debates)**
- B. We are to avoid genealogies**
- C. We are to avoid dissensions**
- D. We are to avoid quarrels about the law**

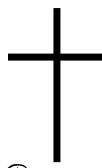
### **2. Why we should avoid it**

- A. It is unprofitable ἀνωφελής**
- B. It is worthless μάταιος**
- C. It is divisive αἰρετικός**

### **3. How we should avoid it**

- A. Warn them**
- B. WARN TWICE**
- C. Remove them**
- D. Remind Yourself**

## Sermon Applications



*Put What Remained Into Order*

## Discussion Questions

***“9 But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless. 10 As for a person who stirs up division, after warning him once and then twice, have nothing more to do with him, 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.” Titus 3:9-11***

**1. Read the following from our BICF Constitution and discuss your own experience regarding unity in a multicultural, interdenominational church like BICF.**

### **3.2.3 We are in Unity**

*We are a beautiful mixture of cultures and denominational backgrounds, and Christ has made us one. We joyfully affirm that there is one body, one Spirit, one hope, one baptism; and one God and Father of all.*

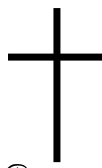
### **5.1 Covenant of Fellowship**

*Members affirm commitment to...relating graciously and lovingly to other members, preserving the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace;*

**2. Read Titus 3:9. How does one know when they are defending the faith versus when they are causing division?**

**3. Read Titus 3:9. What are some modern examples of things you have personally seen cause division in a church, small group, or friendship, and how might we better avoid them?**

**4. Read Titus 3:1-9, noting the comparison of “profitable” and “unprofitable” in v. 8 & 9. What are some tertiary items in the Bible that you personally feel people have wasted much time on that could have been devoted to the godly matters mentioned in Titus 3:1-8? How can we help one another focus more on the most important things? Explain.**



## *Put What Remained Into Order*

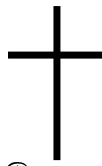
5. Read Titus 3:10–11. Have you ever personally had to deal with someone who caused the type of division mentioned in Titus 3? What did you learn from that experience? What are some common but wrong ways people might handle these situations?

6. Read Titus 3:11. How might verse 11 give us the confidence to do what we might not want to do?

### **Bonus**

7. Using the sermon's hierarchy of theological importance pyramid (pictured below), create your own version as a practical guide to help you determine what you should engage for the sake of the gospel and what you should avoid for the sake of unity.





*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



# STUDY GUIDE

June 7

## The Church's Money: On Mission Together Titus 3:12-15

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

# Sermon Overview

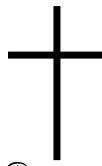
There are ten people who can give a seed offering of \$1,000. God says that if you give this offering, He will bless you with a business. The car you want, He will bring to you this week. This is your doorway through which wealth may come to you. Plant your seed and watch God.

Many believers are told by the preacher give a “seed” offering (money) in church expecting God to do something great for them. There is often little discussion about building the kingdom of God or strengthening the church family. In fact, 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion.” This scripture has sometimes been overlooked.

Paul writes to his son in the ministry, Titus, who is currently pastoring in Crete, for him to come to him without delay (Titus 3:12). He provides Titus with instructions about how believers should behave and interact with one another (Titus 2). Our scriptures this week focus on God’s mission and how we must be diligent to help further the ministry by our willingness to help. “Diligently help Zenas and Apollos on their journey, so that they will lack nothing” (Titus 3:13). As believers, we are to support the ministry to further the mission of God, which is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In addition, Paul notes that we should devote ourselves to good works for meeting pressing needs so we are not unfruitful (Titus 3:14). Good works are God’s ordained actions that benefit others and glorify Him. The body of believers should continually think about how to glorify God by doing good works. People outside the church should know God’s people. Since we are born of the Holy Spirit, good works are a part of us, and we have the capacity to work on behalf of God.

This week we take a deep dive into our giving to the ministry and how we can glorify God together.

Elder Rico Corporal



*Put What Remained Into Order*

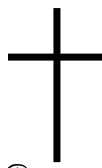
## Sermon Outline

**Text: Titus 3:12-15**

**Title: The Church's Money: On Mission Together**

### Sermon Notes

### Sermon Applications

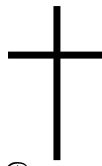


## *Put What Remained Into Order*

### **Discussion Questions**

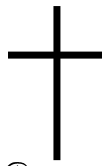
***“12 When I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. 13 Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. 14 And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful. 15 All who are with me send greetings to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.” Titus 3:12-15***

- 1. How does 2 Corinthians 9:7 inform our understanding of giving from the heart rather than giving reluctantly or under compulsion? What are the potential benefits and risks of sermons that tie material blessings to financial gifts?**
- 2. What motives drive individuals to give, and how can a church cultivate generosity without manipulation or coercion? What safeguards can churches implement to ensure transparent, accountable stewardship that honors Scripture?**
- 3. How do seed-based giving practices affect unity, trust, and generosity within the church family? What strategies can a congregation adopt to advance the mission while also meeting the needs of the local community?**
- 4. What does Paul’s instruction to help Zenas and Apollos suggest about support for itinerant workers today? How should churches allocate resources between staff, missionaries, and infrastructure to best advance the gospel?**
- 5. In what ways do good works demonstrate faith and glorify God, and how can we assess their effectiveness without turning service into a fundraising tool? How can believers balance acts of service with evangelism and the proclamation of the Gospel?**
- 6. How can pastors communicate financial matters clearly to avoid misunderstanding or pressure? What practical safeguards ensure preaching aligns with biblical teaching rather than personal gain or preferences of leaders?**



*Put What Remained Into Order*

**7. How should Titus 3:12-14 be read within the broader biblical teaching on giving and mission? What principles should guide a church when choosing fundraising strategies, considering Scripture, and how can a church evaluate these practices over time?**



*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