

“The Liars vs. God”

Titus 1:10-16

October 9, 2016

Intro: Let me ask you a handful of questions as we began

1. Who do you trust?
2. Why do you trust them?
3. What role does the Bible play in your process?
4. How important are these questions to you today?
5. How important... to your eternity?

T/S: You might be surprised to learn just how much God and His Word speak to these questions... not just in our text for today, but throughout the Bible... & the N.T. especially:

Here's a small sampling...

Jesus: *Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravaging wolves. ([Matt 7:15](#))*

Paul: *I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. And men will rise up from your own number with deviant doctrines to lure the disciples into following them. ([Acts 20:29-30](#))*

..I fear that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your minds may be seduced from a complete and pure devotion to Christ... ([2 Cor 11:3](#))

Now the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will depart from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and the teachings of demons, through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared. ([1 Tim 4:1-2](#))

Peter: *There were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly bring in destructive heresies... Many will follow their unrestrained ways & the way of truth will be blasphemed because of them. They will exploit you in their greed with deceptive words. ([2 Pet 2:1-2](#))*

John: *Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to determine if they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. ([1 John 4:1](#))*

Many deceivers have gone out into the world... ([2 John 7](#))

Jude: *Dear friends, although I was eager to write you about the salvation we share, I found it necessary to write and exhort/urge you to contend/fight for the faith that was once for all, delivered to the saints. For some (ungodly) men... have snuck in unnoticed... ([Jude 3-4](#))*

God has called us as ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ to a ministry of reconciliation. He has also called us to a ministry of rebuke. He has called us to a ministry of comfort. He has also called us to a ministry of confrontation.

We are the BOTH/AND family of God! - JDP

T/S: In [Titus 1:10-16](#) the focus is on **rebuke & confrontation**.

PREVIEW:

- I. We Must **Confront** the **DIVISIVE**
- II. We Must **Confront** the **DECEIVERS**
- III. We Must **Confront** the **DEFILED**

v.10-11

I. We Must Confront the DIVISIVE

- a. They are **DESTRUCTIVE** *talkers* (v.10)
- b. They are **DANGEROUS** *thinkers* (v.11)
- c. They are **DISHONEST** *teachers* (v.11)

A. They are **DESTRUCTIVE talkers**

¹⁰ For there are many who are rebellious, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party.

“For” = links back to v.9
v.10-16 = Explanation of v.9
v.10-16 = Application of v.9

Titus 1:10-16 is intimately connected with verses 5-9, which is demonstrated by the word "*for*" that begins verse 10. We are to *exhort* / "*encourage*" and *refute*, for there are many who "*overthrow entire households.*" **Here we see the importance of appointing qualified pastors who are godly in character and sound in doctrine.** These false teachers no doubt are personable and persuasive, attractive, and ambitious. What they say/teach has just enough truth to deceive the immature, and it comes with enough cleverness to fool the gullible. – Dr. Dan Akin

"Rebellious" = **attitude.**

"Empty talk" = **actions.**

*** "Holy hypocrites"

*** "Ear-ticklers"

*** All sizzle, no steak preachers!

"deceivers" = **"*DESTRUCTIVE talkers!*"**

"circ. party" = religious crowd...

B. They are **DANGEROUS** thinkers

¹¹ *They **must be silenced**, since they are overthrowing/upsetting/misleading entire families*

- **Spiritual charlatans...**

- **Spiritual seducers...**

- **Pulpit pimps...**

In the situation at Crete, the peddlers of "theological pornography" were Judaizers who offered a *Jesus plus* theology, which is always a *minus Jesus* theology. Add to Christ and you subtract Christ. This is the spiritual mathematics of these masters of deception. Corrupted in their own thinking, they corrupt the thinking of others and "overthrow entire households." Like a fast-spreading cancer they do not infect one but many. This is how effective they can be. Propagators of a "man-centered message" and a "what-I-can-do gospel," they deflect our focus from Christ and His adoration... to ourselves and our accomplishments. The beauty and greatness of Jesus is at best ignored and at worst denied. This is why "it is necessary to silence them" (v. 11). They are ruining the unity of the church, its witness in the community, and ultimately the name of "our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ" (2:13). **- Dr. David Platt**

VIDEO: Ponzi – The Bernie Madoff Lesson on Liars...
(Do you care as much spiritually as you do financially?)

C. They are **DISHONEST** teachers

*...they are upsetting entire families by **teaching for shameful gain** what they ought not to teach.*

Paul pulled no punches as he went on the offensive in the ministry of confrontation. **These men must be muzzled, stopped, shut up. Confront them with the truth of the gospel.** That is our primary weapon. Confront them with the real results of their activity: they ruin entire households. Confront them with their motive for ministry: dishonest gain.

v.12-14

II. We Must Confront the DECEIVERs

- a. **WHO** they are is **CLEAR**
- b. **WHAT** they believe must be **CONFRONTED**

A. WHO they are is **CLEAR** (v.12-13)

¹² Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." ¹³ This testimony is true...

A careful study of any teacher will bring to light his true colors. We're to hold teachers/teachings up to the Bible – period!

- Liars!
- Unrestrained spiritual brutes...
- Lazy... physical & spiritual self-fed gluttons

NOTE: Paul's application—it was not to every Cretan...

B. WHAT they believe must be CONFRONTED

*Therefore, **rebuke them sharply**, so that they will be **sound in the faith** ¹⁴ and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth.*

*Herein we see the heart of **biblical rebuke & confrontation!***

We always confront with “truth in love!”

Paul is firm in his instructions. As a surgeon cuts away diseased and infectious tissue that threatens the health of the body, we must cut away this toxic teaching. What is our goal in performing this spiritual surgery? It is pastoral. It is redemptive. It is so that those who are self-deceived and deceiving others may be "sound in the faith." **We cut to cure. We operate to liberate...**

- Christ Centered Commentary

v.15-16

III. We Must Confront the DEFILED

Again we are reminded:

What you believe is who you become!

- a. They're **Dirty** down to their DNA
- b. They're **Devilish** in spite of what they say
- c. They're **Discovered** & told you can't stay!

A. They're **DIRTY** down to their DNA...

15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are defiled (a.k.a. "corrupted") and do not believe, nothing is pure.

QUOTE: John MacArthur - "When a person is pure in heart and mind, his perspectives on all things are pure, and that inner purity produces outer purity." Tragically, the opposite is also true. When a person is corrupt and impure in heart and mind, his perspectives on all things are corrupt and impure, and that inner impurity produces outer impurity.

(Herein we find the **Doctrine of Total Depravity**)

B. They're **DEVILISH** in spite of what they say...

In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.

C. They're **DISCOVERED**... and told you cannot stay!

*16 They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are **detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.***

“Lips lie... lives tell the truth!” - JDP

Isa 29:13 ***“These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me***

These false prophets profess to know God, but with their works they deny Him. Trusting in their own works, their own wisdom, their own righteousness, they by their lives deny the God they profess to know. By their man-centered, humanistic message that focuses on what they can do, they make an idol of themselves. In the process they deny the truth of Scripture, question the sinfulness and inability of man to save himself, cheapen the cross, slight the Holy Spirit, and construct their own false system of salvation. - **American Standard Commentary**

A. DETESTABLE = “sickening to God” / “idolizing self”

Satan opposes the kingdom by trying to snatch the Word from (hearers) hearts ([Matt. 13](#)). But when that fails, he has other ways of attacking God's work... Satan is primarily an *imitator*: He plants false Christians, he encourages a false growth, and he introduces false doctrine...Satan cannot uproot... true Christians, so he plants counterfeit Christians in their midst.... Christ is sowing true believers in various places that they might bear fruit ([John 12:23-26](#)). But, wherever Christ sows a true Christian, Satan comes and sows a counterfeit.

We must beware of Satan's counterfeits. He has counterfeit Christians ([2 Cor. 11:26](#)) who believe a counterfeit Gospel ([Gal. 1:6-9](#)). He encourages a counterfeit righteousness ([Rom. 10:1-3](#)), and even has a counterfeit church ([Rev. 2:9](#)). At the end of the age, he will produce a counterfeit Christ ([2 Thes. 2:1-12](#)).

We must also stay awake to make sure that Satan's ministers do not get into the true fellowship and do damage ([2 Peter 2](#); [1 John 4:1-6](#)). It is when God's people sleep that Satan works. - **(BE) Commentary**

B. [DISOBEDIENT](#) = “self-governing” / “non-God-lover”

“Of all bad men, religious bad men are the worst.” - C.S. Lewis

C. [DISQUALIFIED](#) = literally *“good for nothing good!”* - JDP

* **Illustration: Ferdinand Waldo Demara**



Born: Boston, MA 1921

Died: 1982

He accomplished many things in his life...

In 1960 he made a movie about him... because...

He served in the U.S. Army AND the Canadian Navy
He was a sheriff's deputy & an asst. prison warden
He was a psychologist & cancer research technician
He was a child-care specialist & a school teacher
He was a civil engineer, a lawyer & 2X monk types...



He was also an **active surgeon...** in the Korean War!

"The Great Imposter" - 1960

- Imagine if he was your lawyer
- Imagine if he was child-care specialist...
- Imagine if he was your **SURGEON...**

WELL... when he **died in 1982** he was a **Baptist minister...**

Beware the “Baptist Bernie Madoffs”

Beware the “Deceiving Demara’s”

Church...

*Christ commands us to call-out
the counterfeits!*

Close:

The ministry of confrontation is not easy, but it is essential. When the integrity of the gospel is at stake, we cannot run and hide. We must stand and fight. Armed with truth, motivated by love, and clothed with a pure life, we can engage the enemy and rescue the captive, observing both the exhortation and the warning in Jude: "Fight for the faith that was once for all delivered to the Saints... AND (in so doing...) Save others by snatching them from the fire..."

- N.A.S Commentary

Let's Pray!