

Little Letters

Week 1

Titus 1

Titus task

1. Straighten out the issues.

5. The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

2. Appoint elders-

We have elders, we could do with a couple more so here is a kind of job description.

What does an elder do?

6. An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.

7. Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain.

8. Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.

Notice it isn't so much what they do but who they are. It is more about their combined attributes than a task. That is why it is difficult to write a job description for Elders. Interestingly enough, in other parts of Scripture, the descriptions of deacons is similar – all about character rather than skills or achievements. And let's be realistic, this is a tough job description.

3. That's a tough job description.

It goes on from who he or she is to the belief structure. Here though it is more task related.

9. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.
Rebuking those Who Fail to Do Good.

Notice the tasks: Hold firm to the trustworthy message

To

Encourage others

Refute those who oppose it

And rebuke those who don't do good.

MM, there is a spiritual disciplinary role here. That makes it a tough job.

4. Sound doctrine / Discipline role

Eldership and in fact leadership is sometimes about defining what is right or wrong, even working out who is credible and who is not. But if we look at the next passage we see what we have to do with people who have no credibility – they must not be given voice.

10. For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group.

11. They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain.

This next bit of the passage is a bit weird!

12. One of Crete's own prophets has said it: "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons."

Sounds decidedly discriminatory. Although Paul is using it as an example of not only individual spiritual development but also development of a group of people. He is wanting to change the culture.

5. **How do you change culture?** Point them in the right way. Eldership role? Yes, but also the rest of leadership including myself, it also includes department leaders, team leaders, volunteers.

To change culture

WE look to being leaders ourselves,

WE look to sound faith,

WE pay no attention to myths and

WE put no credence in those who sprout untruth.

Look at this:

13. This saying is true. 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 merely human commands of those who reject the truth.

15. To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.

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

6. Eldership is about developing people.