1Thess #119

Spiritual authority demands a strong stance in Bible Doctrine.

We will do the LORD’S Supper at the end of the message.

Let us open in Titus chapter one today RF. As you go to Titus I will make some strong points that some may dispute yet I challenge them to back it up in Biblical history or scripture.

The authority in the church is the head which is Jesus Christ – yet underneath TLJC is a pastor-teacher and then a chain of command flows under that office;

/Phl 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the
saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, **including the overseers**

(*episkopos*)**and deacons** *(diakonos):*

Overseers was a broad term for those in leadership – pastor-teachers or administrators. Deacons are under authority of leadership; they are called to serve the congregation.\

EEPISS-KO-POS, was a dual term for church leadership often for pastors or even administrators who help run and organize the congregation.

DEE-AS-KONOSS, was a term used for a waiter or one who serves others.

The chain of command in the church is always headed up by a pastor-teacher and then you have administration under that office. Deacons and Evangelists may work as administrators on a board of directors, along-side a secretary or treasurer as well as other administrative callings.

Yet the leading positions in the church for pastor, evangelist and deacons are always male roles.

/1Tim 2:12 But **I do not allow a woman to teach or to exercise authority** over a man, but to remain quiet.

This is very clear not in relation to one incident or one church. This was established by Jesus, that MEN in leadership (12 apostles) and all the MEN in teaching or chain of command (deacons & evangelists), be MEN (husbands).\

There is a lot of nonsense and false teaching developed over the years about female pastors and deacons.

They attempt to say the Apostle Paul was concerned about the teaching of the Gnostics and this type of command was only for a certain congregation…there is no evidence to this statement. In fact, the real evidence in Christian history and the scripture is that men were established as church authority.

Woman were teachers for children and teachers for other woman, they were administrators and many other aspects of ministry - but not in the lead authority.

 REPEAT

/Titus 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, **that you would set in order** what remains and **appoint elders** in every city as I directed you,

This means to take full control and become the key leader that others learn from and accept as spiritual authority. \

Every deacon and pastor ordained in the early church was a man.

[Tit 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/tit/1/6/s_1130006) *namely,* if any man is beyond reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of indecent behavior or rebellion.

If women were to become pastors and deacons their would have been clear scriptures backing that up, not to mention a history of the apostles ordaining them.

As the Apostle Paul goes on to describe the role of church leadership he mentions a subject matter that must be discussed before closing out this series.

/[Tit 1:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/tit/1/7/s_1130007) For **the overseer must be** beyond reproach as God’s steward, not **self-willed**, not **quick-tempered**, not **overindulging in wine**, not **a bully**, not **greedy** for money,

There is a singular expectation at the head of the church – it is not a democracy; it is a singular, male authority and a defined chain of command underneath him.\

One man in authority who is under the authority of the WORD.

/Self-willed (*authadēs*)*-* haughty and filled with pride, focused on self and more power for self.

Quick-tempered (*orgilos*)*-* a very short fuse, a man with temperament issues. Extremely moody or irritable. \

AOTH-OT-AZE, is a deep arrogance, focused on power and self.

ORE-GEE-LOS, speaks to a man who is unhappy and very quick to blame others. A man that leaps to volatile words and anger with little or no provocation.

These qualities usually follow the person who struggles with forgiveness and hypersensitivity. They rarely can admit when they are wrong and everything offends them.

/Addicted to wine (*paroinos*)- alcoholism or addiction is sin and draws a man away from being a strong authority figure.

Bully (*plēktēs*)- pugnacious, one who is ready for strife or easily provoked into battle (verbal and physical). \

PIE-LOY-MOS, speaks to addiction or alcoholism. Anyone in the grips of this sin will make poor decisions and become drawn away from true integrity.

PLAC-TACE, means a man with not only a temper problem but they often resort to confrontation physically and verbally to solve problems. They always need to be in a position of dominance and use intimidation whenever necessary.

/Greed (*aischrokerdēs*)- the root word points to a filth deep within the soul that is a darkness and desire for financial gain.

1Tim 6:10 **For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil**, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and **pierced themselves with many griefs**.\

ICE-HUC-OR-DACE, is someone fond of sordid gain in the original Greek.

It is extremely dangerous ground for anyone in leadership! It leads people far away from integrity and truth, it drives people into becoming manipulative and liars.

Addiction and a short temper can be dealt with over time by allowing GOD to wash that soul structure clean and heading toward SM.

There is no perfect pastor-teacher.

Yet you do have to pay attention to what they currently do and say concerning their lifestyle.

Greed is something deep within that is not recognizable on the surface like addiction or a hot temperament.

Greed is very subtle and many people do not realize that it tugs at them from deep within the soul structure.

How you think about money and approach handling money is something everyone should keep in the forefront of their minds.

Greed is what often leads a pastor-teacher down the path of false doctrine. Because they want to build up their bank account.

They will teach on whatever the popular message of the day is to keep butts in the seats.

[Tit 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/tit/1/8/s_1130008) but hospitable, loving what is good, self-controlled, righteous, holy, disciplined,

The pastor-teacher must keep moving toward maturity and obtain greater patience, developing that relaxed mental attitude.

That is what Titus 1:9 is driving at – relaxed mental attitude and developing greater patience over time.

/[Tit 1:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/tit/1/9/s_1130009) **holding firmly the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching,** so that he will be able both to exhort in **sound doctrine** and to refute those who contradict *it.*

The call is that the pastor-teacher adhere to a strict regiment of study within the WORD. Bible Doctrine is not ever-growing and changing, there are no new doctrines on the horizon! \

Stick to the teaching principles handed down by the Apostle Paul.

There are times to build up others and times to stand strong against the lies and counterfeits, even if it offends people.

The WORD is never to be manipulated or changed to satisfy a new age or popular opinion.

[Tit 1:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/tit/1/10/s_1130010) For there are many rebellious people, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

Those of the circumcision speaks to a dual meaning of the Jewish crowd who followed the teaching of the Sanhedrin, but also born-again Bels – meaning spiritual circumcision.

Titus was dealing with a large population of the Greek culture that had either just been born again or had been converted to Christianity for many years.

There was probably several thousand Bels at this historic point.

Crete is the largest of the Greek islands.

Many Greeks were spinning off into false doctrines and some began to find it very lucrative to teach and form congregations under the Christian faith.

Just as it was two thousand years ago we have today many denominational leaders and spiritual gurus who use spiritual talk and twisted scripture to line their pockets.

/[Tit 1:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/tit/1/11/s_1130011) **who must be silenced** because they are upsetting whole families, **teaching things they should not***teach* for **the sake of dishonest gain**.

This is a command from the Apostle Paul that Titus had to take an extremely strong stance against false teachers. \

There is a strong calling in the office of pastor-teacher to speak out against lies and counterfeits, to lead Bels in the right direction.

[Tit 1:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/tit/1/12/s_1130012) One of them, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”

/[Tit 1:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/tit/1/13/s_1130013) **This testimony is true**. For this reason **reprimand them severely** (*apotomōs*) so that they may be sound in the faith,

This means very sharp, very abrupt and right to the point! This is blunt force truth on two levels.\

APT-OH-TOM-OS, is very strong word only used a few times in the NT.

The Apostle Paul uses two forceful truths – first he agrees with the famous prophet/poet (Epimenides) that the men of Crete were lacking discipline.

That is truly what he points out in the original context. They had a reputation for immorality, the party lifestyle. They also were known for speaking out in boastful lies and ridiculous stories.

The men of Crete were prone to stubbornness and conflict especially when you confronted them with truth that challenged them.

The second blunt force truth – was that as a pastor-teacher you have to take charge and stand in BD even if it means you come across harsh at times.

Anyone in authority has to be comfortable with being the bad guy once and awhile.

[Tit 1:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/tit/1/14/s_1130014) not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.

/The pastor-teacher has to be the eyes and ears of his flock, as to what is false and what could distract and even destroy the congregation. There has to be a keen awareness of historical trends and social attitudes, that may bring in a wave of rebellion or apathy and warnings against such trends or attitudes have to be spoken about boldly. This is a shepherd’s calling among other skills.\

We will get ready to do the Lord’s supper and close – please go to John chapter ten RF.

/A shepherd has to guide, correct and discipline as well as feed, nurture and protect. The shepherd remains vigilant concerning the landscape ahead as well as what is surrounding the flock. The shepherding job of the pastor-teacher is to reflect the person and work of Jesus Christ in their efforts of studying, teaching and protecting the spiritual intake of the Bels under their charge.\

This is a serious calling and every pastor and church leader will answer for what they taught and how they led those under their authority.

In the words of TLJC – HE clearly spoke about the sheep gate and that HE is the only entrance into heaven. Christ is the doorway of the sheep gate into the city.

Everything else and everyone else is a counterfeit…a thief and liar, sneaking in to rob and destroy.

/Jhn 10:11 “I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

Jesus Christ laid everything down, HIS life and very existence, every day in HIS ministry was about others and it culminated upon that CROSS!\

The pastor-teacher must be willing to lay themselves down for the sake of the mind of Christ – to get the message out into a lost and dying world.

[Jhn 10:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/10/12/s_1007012) “He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees the wolf coming, and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters *the flock.*

[Jhn 10:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/10/13/s_1007013) “*He flees* because he is a hired hand and does not care about the sheep.

Jesus Christ gave HIMSELF up so that whomsoever believes upon HIM shall be saved and have eternal security.

All other avenues are false teaching designed to confuse the world. Make sure you are under the authority of the mind of Jesus Christ.

[Jhn 10:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/10/14/s_1007014) “I am the good shepherd, and I know My own, and My own know Me,

True Bels who seek out a relationship with Christ understand the concept of really hearing and really following the true shepherd.

[Jhn 10:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/10/15/s_1007015) just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

The Lord Jesus Christ did not come to this world to become a building to worship within, nor did HE come to establish a denominational standard. HE came to heal and save those who would truly listen to HIS voice.

TLJC is the Good Shepherd who guides, corrects and lays down HIS life for you.

HIS sacrifice from the birth of the virgin Mary – living a life of near poverty and vulnerability in human form. Right up until the betrayal and attacks from those who claimed they loved Him.

The unjust and unfair treatment…false trials, the whippings, beatings and humiliation.

Being nailed to a wooden cross and hung up in the hot sun on display…to be spit upon and ridiculed.

ALL for a world that often times rejects and laughs at HIM.

Yet HIS attitude is always – FATHER forgive them for they know not what they do.

Let us bring our Loving Shepherd into remembrance today.

On the night Jesus was so bitterly betrayed – TLJC took the bread and broke it, giving thanks, HE said, “This is my body which is for you…take and eat.”

In remembrance of our LORD, let us eat the bread.

In the same manner Jesus took the cup, held it up and gave thanks, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it,* in remembrance of Me.”

Let us drink the cup.

Let us pray…amen.