

## False Teachers

- This group of men in Titus is the same group mentioned in 1 Timothy. (Tit. 1:10-14a; 1 Tim. 1:3-11).
- They are not likely the exact men, but their doctrines are the same.

### **TIT 1:10 For there are many rebellious [unruly, insubordinate] men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,**

- The Greek particle “gar” [**gahr**] gives a major reason why the appointment of elders was so important.
- It was urgent that mature, spiritual, truth-loving men guard the flock.

1. “For there are many rebellious men” - The number of the false teachers were not a few, but “many.”
2. “empty [useless, vain] talkers and deceivers” - See 1 Tim. 1:6.

1TI 1:6 For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion,

3. “especially those of the circumcision” - Judaizers were not the only false teachers, but they were a major problem in Crete and elsewhere.

a. This speaks of those who said that Christians must obey the Jewish law.

1) Many of the false teachers were Jews who had come into the church. (Acts 11:2-3; Rom. 4:12; Gal. 2:12; Eph. 2:11; Phil. 3:3).

2) See also Col. 4:11; Acts 6:9.

b. There were Jewish members who were among the futile talkers and mind-deceivers.

c. Paul taught that such made the death of Jesus useless. (Gal. 2:21).

GAL 2:21 "I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly [in vain]."

d. Paul taught such are severed from Christ. (Gal. 5:4).

GAL 5:4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

### **TIT 1:11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting [overturning, ruining] whole families, teaching things they should not teach, for the sake of sordid [dishonest, shameful] gain.**

1. “who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families” - “upsetting” has the idea of destroying.
  - a. Elders must not permit such teachers to spread their false doctrine.
  - b. This shows elders have the authority and responsibility to silence false teachers.

- c. False teachers must not be allowed to teach from the pulpit or in the class rooms or in any other way.
- d. Elders must also be able and willing to refute false teachers as well as being able to clearly set forth the truth to edify the church. See Acts 20:28-30; Eph. 4:11-13.
- e. Stopping false teaches, in the congregation, is not always easy and may cause division, but false teachers must be stopped.
- f. Elders must not let “wolves” made havoc of the flock. (Matt. 7:15; Acts 20:28-30; 1 Jn. 4:1).
- g. This is made easier when the elders are all devoted to “sound doctrine.”
- h. Most churches soon have serious problems, and division when the leadership becomes divided.
- i. False teachers should be disfellowshipped if they refuse to repent.
- j. This is especially true of those who deny foundational doctrines. (Eph. 4:4-6).
  - 1) Foundation doctrines are doctrines upon which Christianity rests.
  - 2) Christianity falls without these foundational doctrines.
  - 3) Some other foundational doctrines are the virgin birth, the Deity of Christ, the resurrection.

2. “teaching things they should not teach, for the sake of sordid gain”

1TI 1:3 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus, in order that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines,

- a. They were teaching evil, hurtful, damning doctrine.
- b. They taught these evil things for money.
  - 1) Paul maintains they did it for “sordid gain.”
  - 2) The word “sordid” is from the Greek “aischros” [i **skrahs**] meaning “shameful, indecent.”
- c. They may have pretended to have higher motives, but in reality they were motivated by money.

3. **Here are some myths being taught today.**

- a. Brethren and outsiders are not interested in doctrine.
  - 1) The fact is that most people today have had little, if any, opportunity to hear biblical preaching.
  - 2) It is strange to many believers and unbelievers.
- b. We must entertain people to grow, and as long as preaching and teaching does not proclaim anything wrong it is ok. In their view it does not have to be edifying.
- c. We must do whatever it takes to grow in numbers.

- 1) Success is measured by how large we become.
- 2) The fact the church is large means it must be approved of God.
- d. The largest congregations grow by adapting to the times, and numbers show they are right.
- e. We do not need a “thus-saith-the Lord.”
  - 1) Silence is permission and defining other things as cultural is also permission.
  - 2) Most anything accepted by the culture is ok.
  - 3) Culture determines faith and practice more than scripture.
- f. We do not need to worry about a little false or questionable doctrine or conduct. ( 1 Cor. 5:6).

1CO 5:6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?

- g. If you ignore false teaching, it will go away or not do much harm.
- h. There is no such things as absolute truth in the minds of those want to believe and practice whatever pleases them.

**TIT 1:12 One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."**

- 1. “One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said”
  - a. He is speaking of a prophet born in Crete, and wae a spokesman for the gods.
  - b. The identity of this prophet in not known, but what this uninspired prophet proclaimed was true of the Cretans.
  - c. Some believe he was Epimenides who lived somewhere between 630 and 500 B.C..
  - d. This seems to be the origin of the statement.
- 2. "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."
  - a. “Cretans are always” - What a sad statement!
  - b. “liars” - They cannot be trusted.
    - 1) Nothing but lies flows from their mouths.
    - 2) See 1 Tim. 1:10.

1TI 1:10 and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and **liars** and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,

- c. “evil beasts” - “wicked brutes” - They were savage and cruel characters.
- d. “lazy [idle] gluttons” - They hated work They lived off the labors of others.

3. The Cretan prophet was mostly right, but not completely right.

a. The power of the gospel can change things. (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8,9; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

1CO 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,

1CO 6:10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

1CO 6:11 And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.

b. Some, at Crete, were now Christians and some were even ready to be appointed as elders.

c. One must never underestimate the awesome power of the gospel.

**TIT 1:13 This testimony is true. For this cause reprove [rebuke] them severely [sharply] that they may be sound in the faith,**

1. “This testimony is true.” - Paul clearly affirms the statement of the uninspired prophet as being absolutely true.

2. “For this cause reprove them severely that they may be sound [healthy] in the faith”

a. “hugiaino” [hoo gee i noh] - “I am in good health, healthy, sound, correct.”

b. Paul uses the word “sound” [healthy] several times.

1TI 1:10 and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to **sound** teaching,

1TI 4:6 In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the **sound** doctrine which you have been following.

1TI 6:3 If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with **sound** words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness,

2TI 1:13 Retain the standard of **sound** words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

2TI 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure **sound** doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires;

TIT 1:9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in **sound** doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

TIT 1:13 This testimony is true. For this cause reprove them severely that they may be **sound** in the faith,

TIT 2:1 But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for **sound** doctrine.

TIT 2:2 Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, **sound** in faith, in love, in perseverance.

TIT 2:8 **sound** in speech which is beyond reproach, in order that the opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

c. “Sound in the faith” comes from healthy doctrine, that is, the doctrine taught by Christ and the apostles. (2 Tim. 4:2).

**TIT 1:14 not paying attention to Jewish myths [legends, fairy tales] and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.**

1. “not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men”

1TI 1:4 nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith.

- a. Jewish “myths” were worthless for salvation.
- b. Christians must ignore the commandments of men regardless of who the teachers might be. (Matt. 15:9).

MAT 15:9 'But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' "

- c. They served no useful purpose with their fictitious tales about Adam, Moses, Elijah, etc.
- d. On top of teaching the Jewish myths, they also were teaching licentiousness, that is, the doctrine of lawfulness.
- e. This is made clear by 1 Timothy. (1 Tim. 1:8-11).

1TI 1:8 But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully,

1TI 1:9 realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous man, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers

1TI 1:10 and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching,

1TI 1:11 according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.

2. “who turn away from the truth”

- a. This is a deliberate action.
- b. They deliberately turned from “the truth” and taught others to do the same.

**TIT 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.**

1. “To the pure, all things are pure” - TCNT “Everything is pure to the pure-minded.”

- a. This could refer to the idea that God’s creation is not unclean. (Rom. 14:14, 20; 1 Cor. 6:12; 10:23; Gal. 2:11-21; Col. 2:16-23).
  - 1) Some were falsely imposing the food and dietary laws of the Law of Moses on Christians.
  - 2) They were declaring unclean what God said was clean.
- b. Christians are to be “pure in heart.” (Matt. 5:8).
- c. They think on pure things. (Phil. 4:8).

PHI 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.

- d. Jesus put emphasis on keeping the heart. (Matt. 15:8-12, 15-20).

MAT 15:8 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me.

MAT 15:9 'But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' "

MAT 15:10 And after He called the multitude to Him, He said to them, "Hear, and understand.

MAT 15:11 "Not what enters into the mouth defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man."

MAT 15:12 Then the disciples came and said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?"

MAT 15:15 And Peter answered and said to Him, "Explain the parable to us."

MAT 15:16 And He said, "Are you still lacking in understanding also?"

MAT 15:17 "Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated?"

MAT 15:18 "But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man.

MAT 15:19 "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

MAT 15:20 "These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man."

2. "but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure"

- a. Those who have become so defiled major in impure things, and constantly search for new and more exciting way to fulfill their lusts.
- b. They even dream of impure things.
- c. They also make what God has declared clean unclean. See note on food.

3. "but both their mind and their conscience are defiled" - Their thinking becomes corrupt and their conscience defiled to the point that doing wrong does not hurt their conscience.

**TIT 1:16 They [the false teachers] profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient, and worthless for any good deed.**

1. "They profess to know God" - They claim "to know God," and have a true and superior understanding of Him.
  - a. They did not really know Him. (1 Jn. 2:3-5; 5:3).

1JO 2:3 And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.

1JO 2:4 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;

1JO 2:5 but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him:

1JO 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

- b. They lied about this and everything else.
  - 1) They did not really know God and have a superior understanding of Him.
  - 2) They did not know Him at all.

2. "but by their deeds they deny Him" - They disowned Him by their actions. See Matt. 15:8,9.

MAT 15:8 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me.

MAT 15:9 'But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' "

3. "being detestable [vile] and disobedient

- a. "detestable" - "bdeluktos" [bedh look **tahs**] - "abominable, detestable."

- b. “disobedient” - “apeithes” [ah pay **thays**] - “disobedient.
4. “and worthless for any good deed” - “adokimos” [ah **dah** kee mahs] - “not standing the test, unqualified, worthless.”
- a. They were useless for good works of any kind.
  - b. In contrast Christians are to be ready for good works. (Tit. 3:1; 2:14; Matt. 5:14-16; Gal. 6:9, 10).

TIT 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed,

TIT 2:14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

MAT 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

MAT 5:15 "Nor do men light a lamp, and put it under the peck-measure, but on the lampstand; and it gives light to all who are in the house.

MAT 5:16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

GAL 6:9 And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary.

GAL 6:10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,  
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation

Used by permission." ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org))