

# The Profile of a Christian Leader

## Titus 1 (July 25)

### INTRODUCTION:

- Bring a few study Bibles and resources to class. Break the class into groups and give them a few minutes to study the background of Titus. Have the groups describe the basics of the context of Titus. Make sure to emphasize the importance of studying context when studying our Bible.
- A great resource for understanding the big picture of Titus is from The Bible Project. Go to YouTube and search for “The Bible Project Titus.” There is a brief video that you can watch as you prepare.
- Paul opens his letter to Titus not only reminding him of his Gospel obligation, but also giving him instructions on how to choose worthy leaders in the church.

### BIBLE STUDY:

1. The Christian Leader’s Home Life (vs. 1-6)
  - a. Immediately following a brief introduction (vs. 1-4), Paul begins his summary profile of Christian leaders.
  - b. It should be understood, God has high expectations for those that represent His Gospel. Paul begins by addressing the pastor’s home life.
  - c. Paul addresses two specific aspects:
    - i. The pastor’s companion (vs. 6a). He is to be a man who possesses eyes only for his wife. We could ask: does he have a solid, biblical marriage?
    - ii. The pastor’s children (vs. 6b). This is especially pertinent to children living in the home.
    - iii. Paul’s point: If you can’t lead your own house how can you expect to lead God’s house?
2. The Christian Leader’s Personal Life (vs. 7-8)
  - a. Now Paul turns our attention to the character of the spiritual leader.
  - b. He first reveals five negative traits to avoid (vs. 7).
    - i. Not self-willed: He is not to be an overbearing person, typically characterized by arrogance.
    - ii. Not soon angry: He should not be quick-tempered or possess a short fuse.
    - iii. Not given to wine: This literally means to not “sit long at the wine.” This would be what we refer to as “social drinking.” Total abstinence from alcohol is God’s standard for God’s man.
    - iv. No striker: This term means “ready to wound.” A Christian leader should not be quarrelsome or divisive.
    - v. Not given to filthy lucre: They should not be greedy for material goods and money.
  - c. Paul then presents six positive traits:
    - i. Lover of hospitality: A great church leader is generous to guests.
    - ii. Lover of good men: A good leader supports good ideas, good projects, good motives and good ministry. His heart looks for good in what others do.
    - iii. Sober: Christian leaders have a sober spirit – they are self-controlled. They know how to curb their appetites and not be ruled by their passions.
    - iv. Just: Christian leaders seek to be right with men and respect justice and honor.

- v. Holy: They should strive to be right with God. They should strive to keep short accounts with God.
    - vi. Temperate: Christian leaders are inwardly strong.
  - d. Discuss: How do these qualities line up with what we typically recognize in Christian leaders today?
- 3. The Christian Leader's Church Life (vs. 9-16)
  - a. Paul is particularly mindful that Titus would ever cease in "holding fast the faithful word." What does this include?
  - b. First, the Christian leader is called to encourage the good (vs. 9).
    - i. The leader is to hold to sound doctrine. Nothing surpasses a Christian leader's possession of sound, healthy doctrine.
    - ii. The church's doctrine is closely linked to the pastor's doctrine. A strong pulpit leads to a strong church.
  - c. Second, the Christian leader is called to expose the bad (vs. 10-16). Sound doctrine exposes bad doctrine.

APPLICATION:

- God has high standards for Christian leaders.
  - Do these standards align with what has been your understanding and expectations for your leaders?
  - Which of these characteristics have application to every Christian life?
- How does this text encourage you to pray for your pastor?