

# Outline of the Book of Titus

The book of Titus, written by the Apostle Paul, is a pastoral epistle that provides instructions for church organization, sound doctrine, and Christian living. Paul addresses Titus, who is overseeing the churches in Crete, with guidance on appointing elders, combating false teachings, and promoting good works. Below is an exhaustive outline of Titus, highlighting the dangers facing believers.

## I. Introduction (1:1-4)

### A. Salutation (1:1-4)

1. Paul's apostleship by the command of God (1:1-3)
2. Greeting to Titus, his true son in the common faith (1:4)
3. Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior (1:4)

## II. Instructions for Church Leadership (1:5-16)

### A. Appointment of Elders (1:5-9)

1. Paul's purpose for leaving Titus in Crete (1:5)
2. Qualifications for elders (1:6-9)
  - Blameless, faithful to one wife, having faithful children (1:6)
  - Not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain (1:7)
  - Hospitable, loves what is good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined (1:8)
  - Holding firmly to the trustworthy message (1:9)

### B. Rebuke of False Teachers (1:10-16)

1. The presence and characteristics of false teachers (1:10-11)
2. Cretans' reputation for dishonesty and laziness (1:12-13)
3. The need for sound rebuke to promote healthy faith (1:13-14)
4. Description of the defiled and unbelieving (1:15-16)

## III. Instructions for Christian Living (2:1-3:11)

### A. Teaching Sound Doctrine (2:1-15)

1. Instructions for older men (2:2)
2. Instructions for older women (2:3)
3. Instructions for younger women (2:4-5)
4. Instructions for young men (2:6)
5. Instructions for Titus himself (2:7-8)
6. Instructions for slaves (2:9-10)
7. The grace of God bringing salvation and teaching us to live godly lives (2:11-14)
8. Encouragement to teach with authority and to rebuke when necessary (2:15)

### B. Doing Good for the Sake of the Gospel (3:1-11)

1. Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, and to be ready for every good work (3:1)

2. Avoid slander, be peaceable and considerate, showing humility to all (3:2)
3. Reminder of our past and God's mercy through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit (3:3-7)
4. Affirmation of good works (3:8)
5. Avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, arguments, and quarrels about the law (3:9)
6. How to deal with a divisive person (3:10-11)

## IV. Final Instructions and Greetings (3:12-15)

- A. Paul's Plans and Requests (3:12-14)
  1. Instructions regarding Artemas or Tychicus and Zenas the lawyer and Apollos (3:12-13)
  2. Encouragement to help them in their journey and to meet urgent needs (3:14)
- B. Final Greetings (3:15)
  1. Greetings from all who are with Paul (3:15a)
  2. Grace be with you all (3:15b)

## Dangers Facing the Believer Highlighted in Titus

### 1. False Teachers and Deceptive Doctrines (1:10-11):

- **Danger:** Being led astray by false teachers who are rebellious, deceptive, and promote doctrines for dishonest gain.
- **Application:** Appoint qualified leaders who hold firmly to the trustworthy message and are able to refute false teachings.

### 2. Cultural Corruption (1:12-14):

- **Danger:** Succumbing to the corrupt practices and reputations prevalent in society (e.g., lying, laziness).
- **Application:** Rebuke sharply to promote healthy faith and avoid being influenced by cultural dishonesty and immorality.

### 3. Defilement of Mind and Conscience (1:15-16):

- **Danger:** Allowing oneself to be corrupted, leading to unbelief and a detachment from the truth.
- **Application:** Maintain purity in mind and actions, recognizing that to the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled, nothing is pure.

### 4. Neglecting Sound Doctrine (2:1-10):

- **Danger:** Failing to teach and live according to sound doctrine, leading to a lifestyle inconsistent with the gospel.
- **Application:** Teach sound doctrine across all demographics (older men, older women, younger women, younger men, slaves) and live a life that exemplifies godliness.

### 5. Ignoring God's Grace and Its Transformative Power (2:11-14):

- **Danger:** Neglecting the teaching that God's grace brings salvation and trains us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions.

- **Application:** Embrace the transformative power of God’s grace, living self-controlled, upright, and godly lives, and be eager to do what is good.

## 6. Disobedience to Authorities and Lack of Good Works (3:1-2):

- **Danger:** Disobeying rulers and authorities and failing to be ready for every good work.
- **Application:** Be subject to rulers and authorities, be obedient, and ready to do good, avoiding slander and showing humility to all.

## 7. Forgetting Past Sinfulness and God’s Mercy (3:3-7):

- **Danger:** Forgetting the state of sinfulness from which we were saved and neglecting to live in the light of God’s mercy.
- **Application:** Remember our past, recognize God’s mercy through rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, and live accordingly.

## 8. Engaging in Foolish Controversies (3:9):

- **Danger:** Getting involved in foolish controversies, genealogies, arguments, and quarrels about the law.
- **Application:** Avoid such disputes as they are unprofitable and useless, focusing instead on what promotes unity and godliness.

## 9. Dealing with Divisive Persons (3:10-11):

- **Danger:** Allowing divisive persons to disrupt the unity and peace of the church.
- **Application:** Warn a divisive person once or twice, and after that, have nothing to do with them, recognizing their condemnation.

## Well-known Passages from Titus

[Titus 1:12-16 ESV] One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, not devoting themselves to Jewish myths and the commands of people who turn away from the truth. To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled. They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

[Titus 2:11-15 ESV] For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

[Titus 3:1-7 ESV] Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

## Conclusion for Titus

By understanding these dangers and applying Paul's instructions, believers can maintain sound doctrine, live godly lives, and foster a healthy, thriving church community.