

What is required in a leader?
What is required of a leader?

Titus 1:5-16

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

Things still to do in Crete : there are always ‘things to do’

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



Paul doesn't mention deacons in this letter.
The young churches are 'organic'

Leadership has more to do with character than giftings

An **elder** must be **blameless**, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.

Compared with Timothy's letter,
Paul covers the same qualifications.

It's about personal character
Family matters are considered before
his role in the church

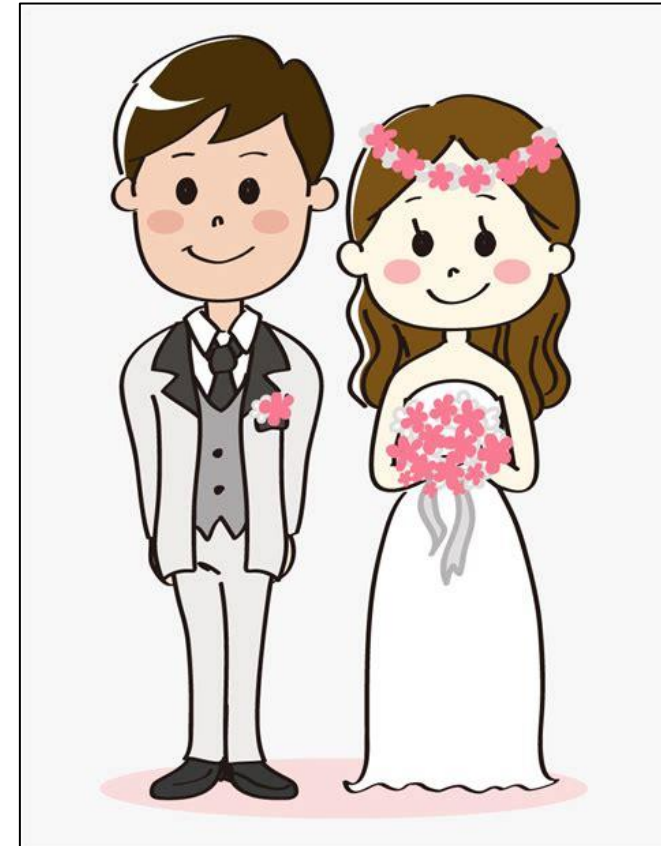


Family matters are considered before his role in the church

An **elder** must be blameless, **the husband of but one wife**, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.

It's a man – if he's married – only 1 wife
(polygamy in Crete happened)
It's the Bible standard (back to Genesis)
– polygamy illustrates it is not good

It also detracts from the symbolism of
Christ and His Church Bride

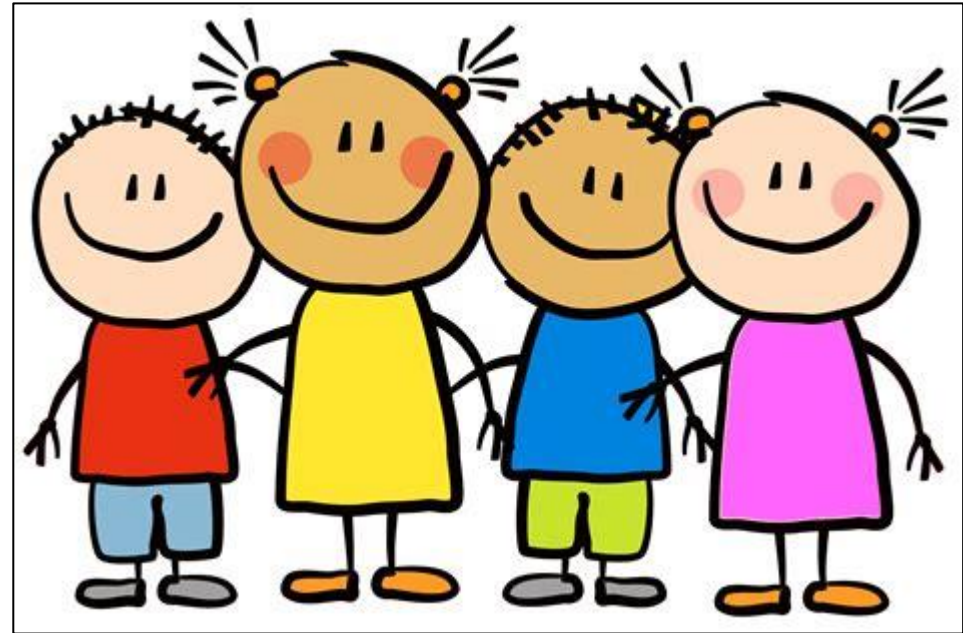


Family matters are considered before his role in the church

An **elder** must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.

His family life tells us a lot.

When the children are at home
– home rules apply!



It's an important job

Since an **overseer is entrusted with God's work**, he must be blameless--not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain.

Elder = Overseer – different aspects of the same job
'Entrusted' means a responsibility
for which he will have to answer to the Lord

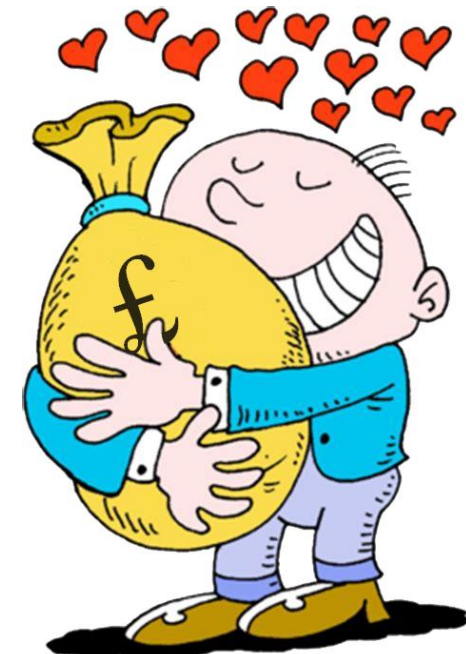
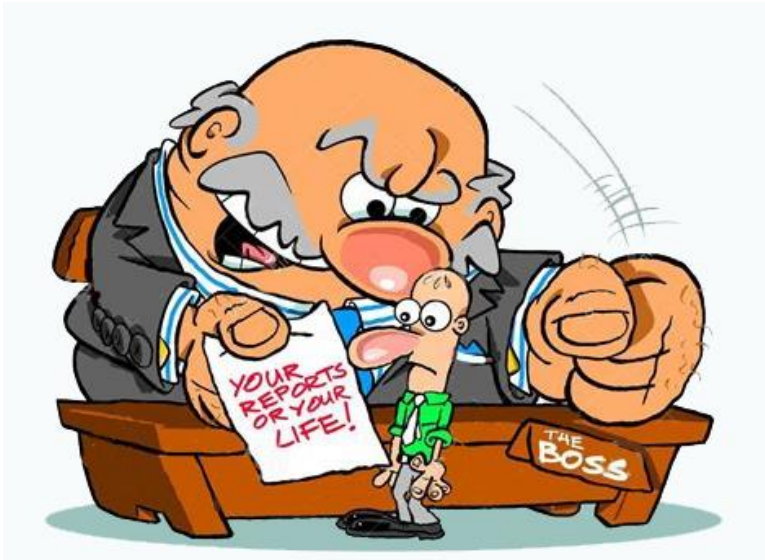
James 3:1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.



Character counts

Since an overseer is entrusted with God`s work, he must be blameless--not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain.

Our personal attitude in dealing with others graciously
We are not driven by selfish desires



Positive traits

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

Open to others

Under the Spirit's control

A leader in the church must be **upright** (right toward men), **holy** (right toward God) and **disciplined** (right toward himself)



He's been a learner too

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.

He should know the message and believe it!

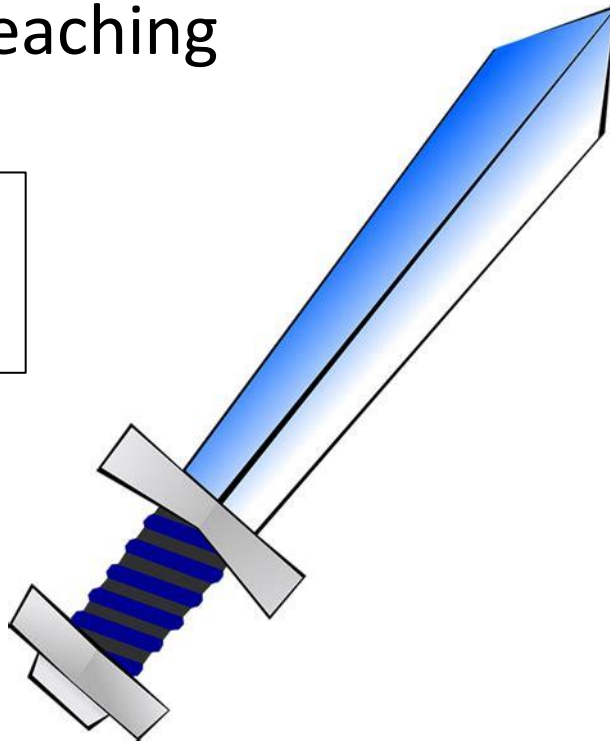


a 2-edged sword

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.

The right use of healthy teaching

helps learners/disciples
to grow



and exposes dangerous
teachers/teaching

A big challenge

For there are **many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers,** especially those of the circumcision group.

Rebellious? DIY Christians?
lots of talk and a cover for deception

1 Samuel 15:22-23 And Samuel said, “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry.”



Who are these people?

For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, **especially those of the circumcision group.**

Among them were some Jewish believers were wanting to impose their views on other believers.

Acts 11:2-3 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

Act 15:1 But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

They were concerned to continue the food laws, and ritual matters
It was seen as adding to the gospel. The danger was addressed in Acts 15

How do you stop them?

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

Make it clear to them and their audience their error



Our weapons are not the world's weapons!

The effects of their false teaching

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

The effect on others has been disastrous
– these are eternal consequences



What motivates them?

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

One of their driving motives is money!!

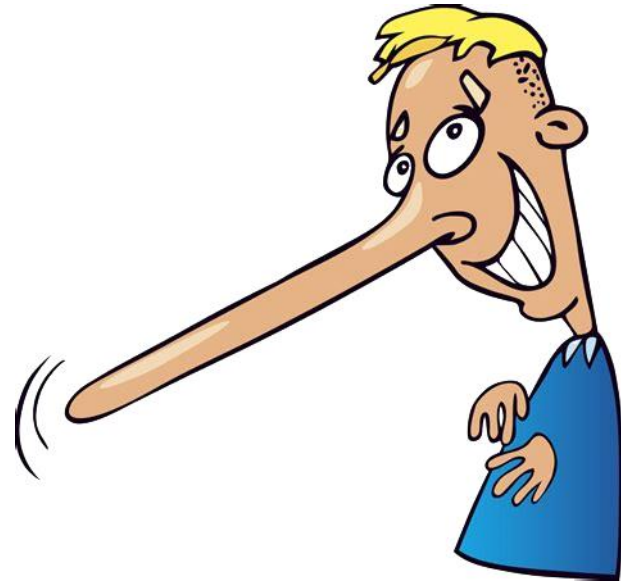
However, the dishonest gain that some seek from the gospel is emotional instead of financial. They serve for the sake of the gain that comes when others recognize or admire them as a spiritual leader.



Crete had a bad reputation – even by their own writers

Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." This testimony is true.

Of course it did not apply to all but it's a bad culture
Anything for the 'easy life'?



Paul experienced this in Crete.



No softly-softly here!

Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth.

It is for their good!
So that they may accept the true faith
And are not taken in by wild
speculations and pressurised by the
'commands' of the false teachers



The old Judaism got itself entangled in Greek ideas and ways.

In a bad way!

Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of **those who reject the truth.**

Some have heard and rejected the truth of the gospel message – a bad state to be in.



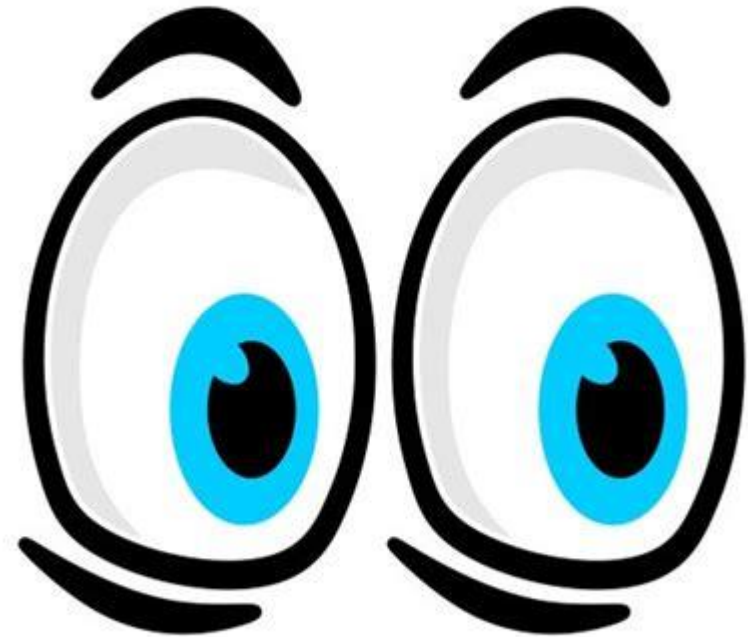
What condition is your heart in?

To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure.

The state of your heart determines how you see.

He is referring to things that are not wrong and sinful – marriage, foods, honest pleasures etc.
Enjoying the blessing of God!

Pure –the innocent vs. the cynic?



What condition is your heart in?

To the pure, all things are pure, **but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure.**

But a sinful heart twists everything and makes a prison for itself



Luke 11:38-41 The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner. And the Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you.

In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.

Thinking is damaged

Their moral compass distorted



Only words

They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him.

They claim a relationship on a false basis

If it were true godliness, the results would be different

The results speak for themselves



The test – cf Jesus' words 'by their fruit' ...

A rather brutal description – but true

They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

In their present state – they are dangerous people

Error in leaders is very dangerous



Two things to do

See the miserable state of hypocrites, such as have a form of godliness, but are without the power; yet let us not be so ready to fix this charge on others, as careful that it does not apply to ourselves. Matthew Henry

1 Timothy 2:1-4 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.