

“DENYING GOD BY DIRTY DEEDS”
PUTTING A MUZZLE ON FALSE TEACHERS
TITUS 1:10-16
Pastor Keith E. Gephart

INTRODUCTION

It is easy to “talk the talk” but difficult to “walk the walk.” In just a few moments we can undo more good by our ungodly behavior than we can build up in weeks and years of effort. **It is vitally important that we believers be consistent in our walk with God, and be a good example to the world around us—and to each other!**

In Titus 1:10-16 Paul deals again with false teachers and their negative influences upon the church and upon believers. In this passage Paul tells us 1) What they are, 2) What they do, 3) Why they do it, and 4) What the Gospel preacher and church must do.

YOU MUST BELIEVE GOD’S WORD, LIVE GOD’S WORD, AND STOP THOSE WHO OPPOSE GOD’S TRUTH.

But first, a few comments about the meaning of v. 15a: “To the pure all things are pure.” [Commentary—I Tim. 4:3-5;] Can’t be used to describe “situation ethics”!

- I. WHAT FALSE TEACHERS ARE
 - A. Rebellious—cf. v. 6 of “children” (10)
 - B. Empty Talkers
 - C. Mind-Deceivers
 - D. [In Crete] Mostly Jewish—of the circumcision (v. 10); Jewish myths (v. 14); Cretans (v. 12)
 - E. Liars [quotation by Epimenides—6th century BC; v. 13—a **true testimony!**]
 - F. Evil Beasts
 - G. Lazy Gluttons—lazy bellies! [“Obtruding on the beholder and a burden to the possessor!”]
 - H. Defiled (15)
 - I. Unbelieving (15)
 - J. Nothing pure—everything they touch is defiled (15)
 - K. Minds & Consciences are defiled—thus nothing else can be pure (15)
 - L. Abominable (16)—abhorrent to God
 - M. Disobedient/ disbelieve (16)
 - N. Worthless—tested and rejected (16)

- II. WHAT FALSE TEACHERS DO—“No good deeds”/ contrary to II Tim. 3:17—thoroughly furnished unto all good deeds
 - A. Profess to know God (16)—cf. Dt. 6:4; Rom. 9:4-5
 - B. Deny God by their deeds (16)
 - C. Upset entire families (11)
 - D. Teach things they ought not teach (11)
 - E. Follow commandments of men—not the pure Word of God (14; externalism, ceremonialism; good works approach to salvation, and even antinomianism)
 - F. Turn away from the truth (14)

III. WHY THEY DO WHAT THEY DO—“for the sake of sordid gain” (11)

IV. WHAT THE CHURCH (Titus) MUST DO

A. Muzzle Them (11)

B. Reprove them severely

1. That they may be “healthy” in the Faith—cf. v. 9 “healthy doctrine”
2. That they may not pay attention to myths and human commands of those that turn from truth.

Although this passage does not give steps in the process of correcting false teachers, Scripture guides us.

- 1) At first a false teacher(s) “should be tenderly admonished so that he may be won for the truth.” Involved would also be “logical refutation of their views” (Hieb. 432). But, if he resists, then
- 2) He must be sharply reprimanded and told to desist and refused opportunity to spread his teaching. But if he still persists, then
- 3) He must be shunned by the church and disciplined; such discipline may lead to
- 4) Excommunication in order to safeguard the church and in order to bring the sinner to repentance. Hendricksen is correct to say that “in the church of God there is no such thing as ‘freedom of *misleading* speech.’”

CONCLUSION

Toleration is what God expects in churches today, right?

God will not tolerate error; neither should we!

Neither will God tolerate hypocrisy—those who profess to know God but deny Him by their works.

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