



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Titus 1: A Church of Good Order

SPEAKER

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THEME Titus

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The main message in the book of Titus is teaching us to do the good things that God desires us to do. For the first chapter of Titus, DSP Edric unpacked for the congregation what it means to be a church of good order in the context of being godly, being a good leader and a good member.

A CHURCH OF GOOD ORDER

(1) What it takes to be Godly (Titus 1:1-4)

Godliness requires us to first focus on God's gift of the promise of the truth - Jesus Christ who came to save us from our sins. Next, we need to grow our knowledge of Christ through faithful teachers/preachers whom God has appointed, entrusted and commanded with the truth. Godliness is then our response to the truth with godly lives.

(2) What it takes to be a good leader (Titus 1:5-9)

Just as Titus had Paul as mentor, every church needs to appoint good elders and leaders. Contrary to how the world appoints leaders which are based on reputation, achievements and networks, the church appoints its elders and leaders with the following spiritual qualifications:

- How They Live out Their Faith at Home - Whether they are good spiritual leaders to their spouses and children.
- Hate What is Bad (Titus 1:7) - Not being overbearing, abusive or violent.
- Love What is Good (Titus 1:8) - Be hospitable, love the Word of God, are self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.
- Live Out the Word (Titus 1:9) – Hold firmly to the truths of God so they can encourage others in faith accurately and correctly as the Word is taught.

A good leader should have most importantly Christ-like character, followed by Christ-given competence to handle and teach the Word of God correctly, and Christ-glorifying chemistry to interact with and encourage others and refute those in opposition.

(3) What it takes to be a good member (Titus 1:10-16)

Titus 1:10-16 talks about a group of zealot Jewish believers who insisted on physical circumcision for Gentile converts, thus causing disputes in the church and confusion for new believers. The root of such rebellion is due to:

- **Human Tradition/Interpretation/Preferences:** Allowing past tradition and experiences to shape our thinking and behaviour without checking the Word and putting on the mind of Christ.
- **Corrupted minds and consciences:** Letting the seed of untruth take root and grow in our minds over time.
- **Unsound doctrine:** Not following what the word of God says but what man says and what we want

We can discern a rebel by the **fruits** of their actions. We should strive for the opposite in a church that God wants to see.

Bad Fruits	Good Fruits
Deceptive talk - Teaching something contrary to the Word of God	Edifying talk – Building and lifting people up with our words (Ephesians 4:29)
Disruptive influence - Causing fights within the church family by their actions	Be peacemakers and unity-builders – Making effort to keep peace and bond of unity (Ephesians 4:3)
Dishonest gain - Seeking financial gain or power, control, influence, adulation etc	Care for others - Looking out for the interests of other people, not just our own benefits (Philippians 2:4)
Disobedience - Feeling justified and interpreting Scripture to validate disobedience.	Obedience – Learning to be aligned and submissive to our leaders (Hebrews 13:17), and be teachable

As members of the church, we must constantly check ourselves with fear and trembling to see if we our belief and actions are producing Good Fruit.

CONCLUSION

A church of good order requires godly individuals, good leaders, and good followers.

Scripture is an ordinance from God. We use it as a standard for godly living but not as a judging stick to put down people we do not like or disagree with us. Scripture is meant to be an encouragement, not an excuse. As we read the word of God, let us have an honest self-assessment about what scripture is speaking to us about where we are on the path to godliness, what it means to be a good leader, and what the fruit of our membership say about us as members of the church.

All this starts with us knowing the Truth of God's goodness enough, to want to respond with godly lives.

QUESTIONS

1. What does a church of good order look like? How have you personally been blessed by godly and good leaders and members?

2. How do you think we can balance the standards of being a good leader against the grace that DSP Edric described? How can we encourage more members or be ourselves encouraged to step up as leaders?

3. What are some ways members can unknowingly disrupt the unity of the church and how can church members contribute to a healthy spiritual environment? How can we pray for them?