



Titus 1

A Church of Good Order



Bible Word Stats

Book	Word Count	Unique Words	Most Used Word		Longest Word	
Bible	721,570	14,099	people	2204	incomprehensible ¹⁶	1
Old Testament	547,364	12,323	people	1810	incomprehensible ¹⁶	1
New Testament	174,206	6,513	jesus	1270	insurrectionists ¹⁶	1



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Titus	1,005	383	good 8	controversies ¹³ 1

- 1:8 Rather, he must be hospitable, one who **loves what is good** ...
- 1:16 They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for **doing anything good**.
- 2:3 Likewise, teach the older women ... to **teach what is good**.
- 2:7 In everything set them an example by **doing what is good**.
- 2:14 ... a people that are His very own, eager to **do what is good**.
- 3:1 Remind the people ... to be ready to **do whatever is good** ...
- 3:8 ... be careful to devote themselves to **doing what is good**.
- 3:14 Our people must learn to devote themselves to **doing what is good**.

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The main message in Titus is teaching us to do good. What is the “good” we should do?

- That which God desires
- Therefore that which is best for us

good	8
teach	7
must	7
self	6
because	6
things	6
savior	6
faith	6
controlled	5
christ	4



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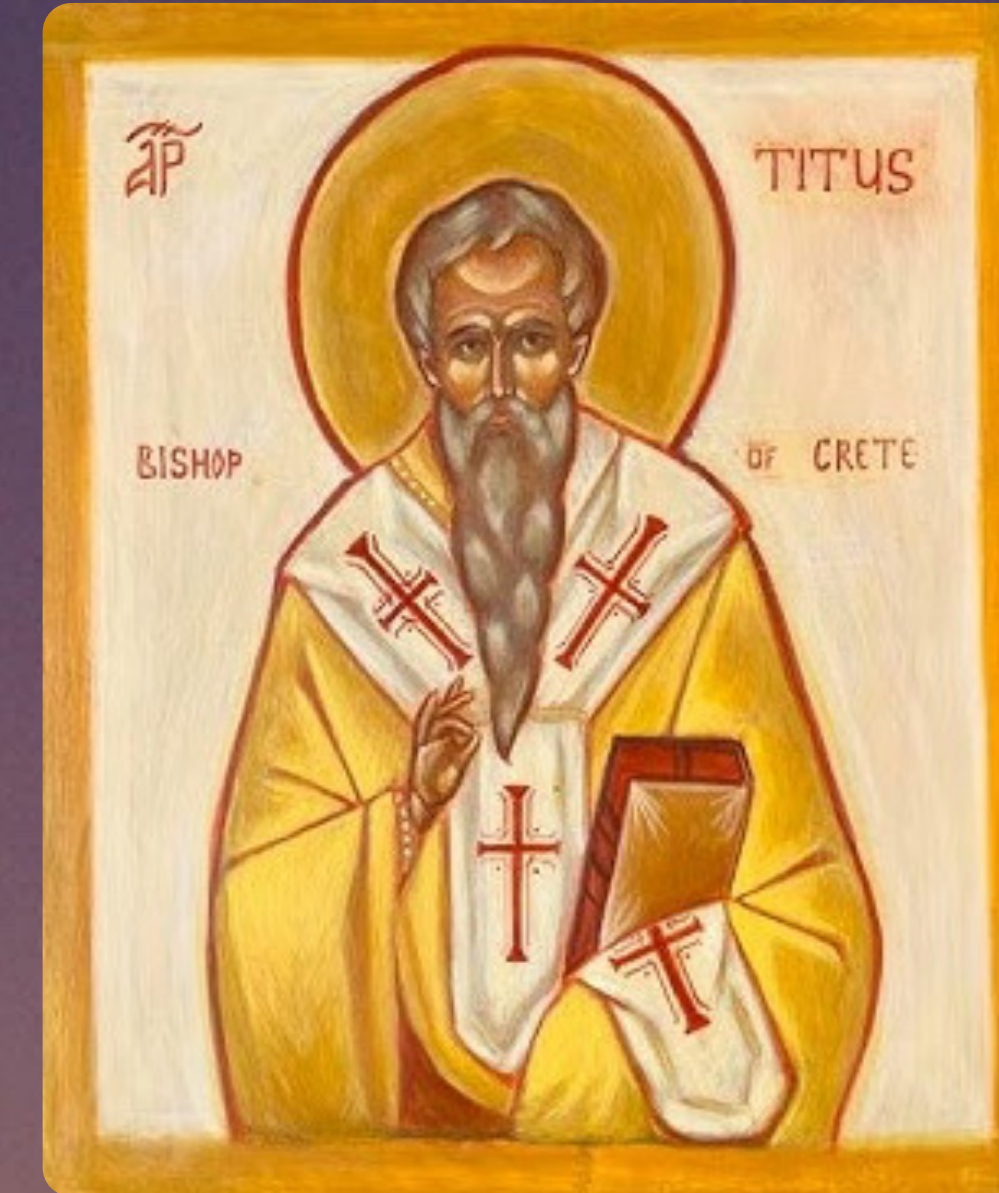
TITUS 1 A Church of **Good Order**

TITUS 2 A Church of **Good Doctrine**

TITUS 3 A Church of **Good Deeds**

Who was Titus?

- A Greek Gentile Christian, likely converted and discipled by the Apostle Paul.
- Followed Paul to Jerusalem; Corinth; Rome; and Dalmatia (now Croatia).
- **He also led the church in Crete, which this epistle addresses.** He would later be known as the Bishop of Crete.
- **Paul's letter to Titus is known as one of the three "Pastoral Epistles"** (including 1 & 2 Timothy), as they are the 3 NT letters sent to individuals who oversaw churches.



Titus 1:1-4 • What it takes to be godly

- 1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness—
- 2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,
- 3 and which now at His appointed season He has brought to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Saviour,
- 4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith:
Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour.

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What does godliness require?

God's **GIFT/PROMISE** of the Truth

➡ Our **KNOWLEDGE** of the Truth

➡ Through the **PREACHING/TEACHING** of the Truth

➡ Godliness = our **RESPONSE** to the Truth

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What does godliness require?

**APART FROM HIS GIFT OF GRACE,
GOD ALSO GIVES THE GIFT OF GUIDES
WHO GUIDE US INTO KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH**

**The knowledge of Christ is taught to us by faithful men and women whom
He has **appointed**, **entrusted** and **commanded** to preach/teach the truth.**

Intentional disciple-making = Reproducing **true sons with a **common faith**.**

***As a **Priesthood of all believers**, we are ALL called to guide and influence,
formally or informally! This role is NOT limited to only Elders and Pastors!***

A photograph of a church service, dimly lit with a teal overlay. A pastor in a dark suit is on the left, gesturing with his right hand. A large, diverse group of people, the congregation, is on the right, many with their hands raised in praise or prayer. The scene is captured from a low angle, emphasizing the scale of the gathering.

Titus 1:5-9 • What it takes to be a godly leader

- 5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.
- 6 An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.
- 7 Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain.
- 8 Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.
- 9 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.

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πρεσβύτερος (*presbuteros* 4245)

elder [noun] -s [KJV]

(comparative of πρέσβυς (*presbus*) old, which Döderlein derives from πρέπω, πρέψω (*prepō, prepsō*) and so strictly, one that is conspicuous or distinguished), older, that is to say elder. In plural aged men, elders, just like Anglo Saxon aldermen, that is to say eldermen. The word always implying dignity and wisdom.

A photograph of a church service. In the foreground, a pastor in a dark suit is seen from the side, gesturing with his hands. Behind him, a large congregation of people is standing and raising their hands in prayer. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light emanating from the stage area. The background shows the interior of a modern church with large windows and a high ceiling.

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How does the world appoint its “elders”? (eg Boards)

- Standing in the industry = **FAME**
- Successful track record = **FORTUNE**
- Shared connections, networks = **FRIENDSHIP**

Should a church appoint leaders on the same merit?

A church service scene. In the foreground, a pastor in a dark suit is seen from the side, gesturing with his hands. Behind him, a large congregation of people is standing with their hands raised in prayer. The scene is dimly lit, with a blueish tint. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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HOW DO YOU LEAD YOUR FAMILY?

Biblical leaders named in Hebrew 11 who were not “blameless” fathers:

- Moses
- Isaac
- Jacob
- David
- Samuel

A photograph of a church service, overlaid with a dark teal tint. In the foreground, a man in a dark suit (the pastor) is seen from the side, gesturing with his right hand towards the congregation. The background is filled with a diverse group of people, mostly women, who are standing and raising their hands in a gesture of praise or prayer. The lighting is soft, and the overall atmosphere is one of active participation in a religious gathering.

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HOW DO YOU LEAD YOUR FAMILY?

While we do our best to conform faithfully to Scriptural exhortation, we understand **the place of grace in the church.**

Has a leader faithfully tried his best to be a godly parent? Then apply **wisdom with grace.**

A photograph of a church service. In the foreground, a man in a dark suit (the pastor) is seen from the side, gesturing with his hands. Behind him, a large group of people (the congregation) are standing with their hands raised in prayer. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light emanating from the stage area. The background shows the interior of a church with pews and a large window.

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HOW DO YOU LEAD YOUR FAMILY?

But at the same time, we must be careful not to let this devolve into **permissiveness**.

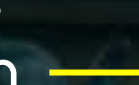
Ultimately, God spells out these standards for a reason.

And as far as possible, we hold tightly to the Word of God.

A photograph of a church service. In the foreground, a pastor in a dark suit is seen from the side, gesturing with his hands. Behind him, a large congregation of people is standing with their hands raised in prayer. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light emanating from the background, creating a spiritual atmosphere.

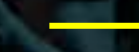
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**HOW DO YOU LEAD
YOUR FAMILY?**

7 Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain.



**DO YOU HATE
WHAT IS BAD?**

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



**DO YOU LOVE
WHAT IS GOOD?**

9 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.



**DO YOU KNOW
AND LIVE OUT
THE WORD?**

A photograph of a church service. On the left, a pastor in a dark suit is seen from the side, gesturing with his right hand. In the center and right, a diverse group of people, mostly women, are standing and raising their hands in praise. The scene is dimly lit with a teal/blue color cast. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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Christlike
CHARACTER

Christ-given
COMPETENCE

Christ-glorifying
CHEMISTRY

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1 Timothy 3:2-10 • Qualifications for Overseers

- 2 Now the overseer is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,
 - 3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.
- 4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect.
 - 5 (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)
- 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.
- 7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.
- 8 In the same way, deacons ... must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

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How does this inform how BBTC views leadership?

1. We take Scripture as Ordinance, not Optional

- What the Bible says, we take as Command/Decree/Regulation.
- We take seriously the call to appoint elders/leaders (v5). We take seriously the criteria for appointing elders/leaders (v6-9).
- So anyone intending to serve or lead in BBTC must observe a period of first being **plugged into body-life** and thereafter **probation within the ministry**, for us to observe first-hand your character, competence, and chemistry.
- We do not place human emphasis where the Bible does not. (Note what is *not* listed. Eg wealth? Job title? Powerful network?)

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2. We take Scripture as a Standard, not a Stick

- Qualifications for leaders are to ensure a church of good order, of a **high and holy bar**. “*Be holy, like your Father in heaven is holy.*”
- We hold leaders accountable to this high standard in a **loving posture** – always with the heart to help them succeed.
- Scripture is meant to be **useful** (2 Tim 3:16), not harmful. Don't *weaponise* Scripture. Don't use it as a way to criticise leaders.
- Allow the Word itself to pierce the soul and discern a leader's heart (Heb 4:12). We do not need to add **human judgmentalism** to this.

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3. We take Scripture as an Encouragement, not an Excuse

- The qualifications are there **not to disqualify people**, but **to spur us towards those qualities**.
- The Bible has many examples of overseers who **did not** fulfil every criteria. Yet they were appointed and anointed. Wisdom + grace!
- **Do not use these passages to disqualify/excuse yourself!**
If you are approached to lead, don't be quick to reject. Take it as encouragement by your leader that they see the potential in you.

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- And on that note ... we encourage you to consider stepping up as leaders. *(Remember, leadership is about being a servant, not boss!)*
- Firstly, in whatever ministry or cell you are currently in.
- But three ministries in ministry are in great need of more leaders:
Children. Youth. Young Adults. Shaping the future starts now.
- Interested? Email Children's Pastor Samuel Goh • samuelgoh@bbtc.com.sg
Youth Church/Young Adult overseer DSP Kok Guan • kokguan@bbtc.com.sg

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LET'S TAKE A MOMENT TO PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS

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Titus 1:10-16 • Why we need good leaders

- 10** For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group.
- 11** They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain.
- 12** One of Crete’s prophets said: “Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.”
- 13** This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith **14** and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth.
- 15** To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.
- 16** They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny Him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.
- 2:1** You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine.

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- 13** This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith **14** and will pay no attention to Jewish myths, to those who profess to know God, but deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.
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- As the early church grew, some zealot Jewish believers insisted that the Gentile converts would have to be circumcised like them.
 - In Acts 15, the Jerusalem Council decided that Gentile converts **would not need to observe every Jewish law, including circumcision.**
 - Paul had to deal with this issue often. In Rom 2, Phil 3 and Col 2, he wrote about how it should not be viewed as physical, but **spiritual circumcision – "circumcision of the heart"**.



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"In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted."

What is the root of such rebellion?

- **Human influence – tradition, interpretation, preferences.**
We follow what others have always done, without checking the Word. *eg candles.*
Our human experience may cause us to reject the Truth. *eg cessationism.*
- **Corrupted minds and consciences.**
An untruth must take root, be watered, before eventually bearing fruit.
Corruption takes time. Lesson: Constantly check ourselves with fear/trembling.
Is my mind pure? Are my actions in line with God, or do they deny/defy Him?
- **Unsound doctrine.**
"If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words ..." 1 TIMOTHY 6:3-4



Titus 1:10-16 • Why we need good leaders

- 10 For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group.
- 11 They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain.
- 12 One of Crete's prophets said: "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons."
- 13 This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith 14 and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth.
- 15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted.
- 16 They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny Him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.
- 2:1 You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine.

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

No one ever thinks they are being rebellious. We discern them by their fruit.

- **Deceptive talk.**
Persuading others contrary to the Word of God.
Deception is subtle, eg using the Word in a manner it is not intended to be used.
- **Disruptive influence.**
Their actions divide, not unite; cause fights within family.
- **Dishonest gain.**
A. Financial gain. Hence BBTC prohibits "business talk" in church or Cell.
B. Other gains. They may seek power, control, influence, adulation, etc.
- **Disobedience.**
They may feel justified; they may interpret Scripture to validate disobedience.
But the proof is in the manner of disobedience. Rude or respectful?



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So if this is a picture of “rebellious” members.
then we should strive for the opposite:

- ~~Deceptive talk.~~ → **Edifying talk.**
“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths ... only such as is good for building up ... give grace to those who hear.” EPH 4:29
- ~~Disruptive influence.~~ → **Be peace-makers and unity-builders.**
Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. EPHESIANS 4:3
- ~~Dishonest gain.~~ → **Care for others.**
“Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” PHIL 2:4
- ~~Disobedience.~~ → **Obedience. Alignment. Submissive & Teachable.**
“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls.” HEBREWS 13:17



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SO WHAT?

- Every church will have its fair share of “Cretans” – **deceptive, disruptive, dishonest** and **disobedient** members – the result of **unsound doctrine**.
- **This is why we need more good leaders!**
- **We need more leaders to teach/guide/influence other believers “what is appropriate to sound doctrine” (2:1)**
- **Sound doctrine** will turn “Cretans” towards Christlikeness: **Edifying, peace-loving, unity-building, caring, obedient, submissive ...**
- Have you been impacted by a good leader/mentor/teacher? Then perhaps it’s time to **pay it forward** as a leader!





JOURNEY OF A DISCIPLE



Titus 1:1-4 • What it takes to be godly

- 1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness—
- 2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,
- 3 and which now at His appointed season He has brought to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Saviour,
- 4 To Titus, my true son in our common faith:
Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour.

Titus 1:5-9 • What it takes to be a godly leader

- 5 The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.
- 6 An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.
- 7 Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain.
- 8 Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined.
- 9 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.

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What does it take to be godly?

**It starts with us knowing the truth of God's goodness
enough to want to respond with godly lives.**