

Titus 1:10-16 | Warnings against those who teach Jewish myths

¹⁰For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. ¹¹They 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. ¹²One of Crete’s own prophets has said it: “Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.” ¹³This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith ¹⁴and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth. ¹⁵To 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. ¹⁶They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

Look

Verse 10 - “Circumcision group”—These were Jews who seemingly had converted to Christianity but still insisted that the Gentiles follow Jewish laws and be circumcised before being admitted into the church.

Verse 12 - “One of their own prophets”—Paul quoted one of the Cretan prophets. This Cretan was speaking the truth about his own people. They had this reputation and deserved it. Paul felt it necessary to quote this passage to spur Titus to do the hard work of leading God’s people (with their own particular cultural sins and weaknesses) to shun false teachings and false teachers.

Thought Questions

1. According to verses 10 and 11, what was one of the main reasons Paul left Titus in Crete?

2. Paul told Titus that the false teachers had to be silenced. Try to put in concrete terms how Titus would silence these people.

3. Vss 10-16 - Who are the circumcision group? What was their contention and why is Paul so adamantly opposed to them?

4. Identify the chief error in the teaching of the Judaizers (circumcision group). How does that mindset creep into Christian churches today? How might it creep into our own thinking as well?

5. How do you understand this verse: "To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure" (verse 15)?

6. Why must those who oppose sound doctrine be called rebellious?

7. What is to be the purpose of rebuking opponents sharply?