

Connection to Titus 1

In the first chapter of Titus, Paul encouraged Titus to persevere in the truth. The church can move forward together and reject falsehood by being united in the gospel.

Introduction/Opening

Several companies offer kits where we can find out about our ancestors through DNA testing. In some cases, people are able to reconnect with long-lost relatives neither knew existed prior to the testing.

God has called the church together to live as a spiritual family, with ties that bind us much deeper than human DNA. We are bound together by the blood of Christ. In this text we see that by being together in community we can live well against opposition.

Outline

1. For the Sake of the Faith of God's People (Titus 1:1)
 - a) A Servant of God and Apostle of Jesus
Though he was quite accomplished in the church, Paul saw himself first and foremost as a servant of God.
 - b) For God's People
His service is also for the church. His desire is that the church would grow in their faith, their knowledge of the truth, and in godliness. His ministry is one that is focused on the benefit of others.
When we adopt an others-first attitude, the church's health improves and can be fruitful for the gospel in various circumstances.
2. A Shared Hope of Eternal Life (Titus 1:2)
 - a) The Hope
Hope means faith in that which is not yet seen. That is, it's something that is coming. You have confidence, not in your hope, but in the object of that hope. We aren't hoping in ourselves, but we are hoping in the promises of God with Christ's resurrection as the basis.
 - b) Promised by our Faithful God
For a moment here, we are allowed to glimpse the mysteries of the mind of God. Before the ages began (or literally before times eternal), God promised eternity to His people.

3. The Family the Gospel Creates (Titus 1:3-4)

Paul was entrusted by God to preach the gospel. During his ministry, he served as a spiritual father to many, including Titus, who he identified as his true son. The reason for their bond is not genetics but the “common faith.”

Paul and Titus were from different ethnicities, different parts of the world, and from different pasts, and yet he was as real a son to Paul as if he had been born to him. That is only something that the power of the gospel can make happen.

4. A Call to Healthy and Multiplying Churches (Titus 1:5)

Titus was in Crete to “set right” what was left to be done in the churches there, specifically appointing elders in every town. Crete had over ninety cities and was only about the size of Hawaii. The multiplication of the church on Crete is impressive since elders were needed in these towns. Paul demonstrated the importance of balancing healthy church leadership with the expansion of the gospel.

Through healthy and multiplying churches, the family of God grows and impacts more people for the gospel.

Conclusion

There is great value in living and serving in community. God ordained the church for our own good, and we miss out on its value when we neglect it in our daily lives. The church is really a miracle by which God calls people together with the shared hope of eternal life through Christ Jesus.

Jacob Dunlow is pastor of Vassar Road Baptist Church in Poughkeepsie, New York. He is a graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Ed.D, M.Div.) and Old Dominion University (BS). Jacob also serves as an adjunct faculty member at Liberty University and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. Jacob and his wife, Laura, have two children, Elijah and Marcy.

All Scripture quotations are taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2019 by Holman Bible Publishers.