

TITUS - THE TROUBLESHOOTER

Scripture References: 2 Corinthians 7:5-16; 8:16-24; Galatians 2:1-3; Titus 1:1-16; 2 Timothy 4:10

If Timothy was Paul's "beloved son," then Titus was Paul's "reliable fixer." When Paul had a difficult situation that needed to be handled, he sent Titus. When a church was in chaos and needed strong leadership, he sent Titus. When a mission required toughness, wisdom, and diplomacy, he sent Titus. Titus was the troubleshooter of the early church.

We don't know as much about Titus as we do about Timothy. Titus is never mentioned in the book of Acts, which is strange considering how important he was to Paul's ministry. What we do know from Paul's letters is that Titus was one of Paul's most trusted and capable co-workers.

We first encounter Titus in Galatians 2, during a crucial moment in church history. Some Jewish believers were teaching that Gentile converts had to be circumcised and follow Jewish law to be saved. This was a direct attack on the gospel of grace. If they were right, then Jesus' death wasn't enough - you needed Jesus plus the law.

Paul knew this was wrong. So he went to Jerusalem to meet with the apostles, and he brought Titus with him:

"Yet not even Titus, who was with me and was a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised, even though some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves." (Galatians 2:3-4)

Titus was a Greek - a full-blooded Gentile. And Paul used him as a test case. If the gospel was truly by grace through faith alone, then Titus didn't need to be circumcised to be saved. The apostles agreed. Titus remained uncircumcised, proving that Gentiles could be fully accepted in the church without becoming Jews first. Titus' very presence was a declaration: The gospel is for everyone, and it's by grace alone.

Paul's relationship with the church in Corinth was complicated. He loved them deeply, but they had major problems - sexual immorality, divisions, pride, false teaching, and rebellion against Paul's authority.

At one point, Paul wrote them a very harsh letter (sometimes called the "painful letter,". After sending it, Paul was filled with anxiety. Had he been too harsh? Would the Corinthians reject him completely?

He was so worried that he couldn't focus on his ministry. He traveled to Macedonia, hoping to meet Titus and hear how the Corinthians had responded, and when Titus finally arrived, he brought good news:

"But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever." (2 Corinthians 7:6-7) Titus had gone to Corinth and delivered Paul's letter. And instead of rejecting Paul, the Corinthians repented. They grieved over their sin.

They longed to see Paul again. Titus had accomplished what seemed impossible - he had restored a broken relationship between Paul and the church.

How did he do it? By being both firm and compassionate. Titus didn't sugarcoat the truth, but he also didn't beat the Corinthians over the head with it. He loved them, challenged them, and called them back to faithfulness. And it worked.

After the Corinthians repented, Paul gave Titus another difficult assignment - Organize a collection for the poor believers in Jerusalem. This wasn't just about money. It was about unity. Paul wanted the Gentile churches to support the Jewish believers in Jerusalem as a sign of their connection and mutual love. Fundraising is hard. It requires tact, persistence, and the ability to inspire people to give generously. Titus was perfect for the job.

Paul writes:

"But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same concern I have for you. For Titus not only welcomed our appeal, but he is coming to you with much enthusiasm and on his own initiative." (2 Corinthians 8:16-17)

Titus didn't just obey Paul's instructions. He was enthusiastic about it. He cared about the Corinthians and wanted to see them grow in generosity. Under Titus' leadership, the Corinthians gave generously to the collection.

Later in Paul's ministry, he sent Titus to the island of Crete to "straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town" (Titus 1:5). This was no easy task. Crete had a reputation for being a difficult place. Even one of their own prophets said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons" (Titus 1:12). The churches in Crete were young, disorganized, and surrounded by a pagan culture that valued dishonesty and immorality. False teachers were causing trouble. The believers needed strong leadership. Paul sent Titus—his most reliable troubleshooter.

In his letter to Titus, Paul gives him clear instructions:

- Appoint qualified elders in every church (Titus 1:5-9)
- Silence false teachers (Titus 1:10-16)
- Teach sound doctrine to different groups—older men, older women, young men, young women, slaves (Titus 2:1-10)
- Remind believers to live godly lives and do good works (Titus 3:1-11)

Paul trusted Titus to handle all of this - and more. Titus wasn't just a messenger. He was a leader, an organizer, and a teacher in his own right.

The last time we hear about Titus is in 2 Timothy 4:10, when Paul writes from prison:

"Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia."

Some people read this and think Titus abandoned Paul, just like Demas did. But that's not what Paul is saying. Demas "deserted" Paul because he "loved this world." But Titus simply "went" to Dalmatia. There's

no condemnation, no criticism. Titus was likely on another mission assignment, continuing the work Paul had given him.

Titus remained faithful to the end—serving the churches, spreading the gospel, and troubleshooting problems wherever he went. Titus never wrote a book of the Bible (though he has a letter addressed to him). He's never mentioned in Acts. He's not as famous as Timothy or Peter or John, but Titus got things done.

He restored broken relationships. He organized campaigns giving. He appointed leaders. He silenced false teachers. He established churches in difficult places.

Titus was the kind of person every movement needs - someone who's reliable, capable, and willing to do the hard work that others avoid. He wasn't flashy. But he was faithful. And that's what mattered most.

In discipleship, one of the most important qualities you can develop is reliability. Showing up. Keeping your word. Following through. Doing what you say you're going to do - even when it's hard. Titus was reliable. Paul could count on him to handle difficult situations, deliver hard messages, and complete tough assignments. If you want to be used by God in powerful ways, if you want to be trusted with greater responsibilities in the Kingdom, start by being reliable in the small things.

Show up to church. Keep your spiritual disciplines. Follow through on your commitments. Do what you say you're going to do. It might not be glamorous. It might not get you recognition, but it will build your character and position you for greater ministry.

Discipleship is often measured not by dramatic moments but by consistent faithfulness over time. God is looking for people He can count on - people who will serve faithfully whether anyone notices or not, who will finish what they start, and who will remain steady through trials.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - CHAPTER 11: TITUS

1. Titus was Paul's "troubleshooter", the person he sent when things were difficult or complicated. What qualities do you think made Titus effective in this role?
2. Titus was used as a "test case" for the gospel during the Jerusalem Council. How did his presence prove that salvation is by grace alone? Why was this so important for the early church?
3. Titus successfully restored the relationship between Paul and the Corinthians. How did he do this? What does this teach us about conflict resolution and reconciliation?
4. Paul sent Titus to Crete—a notoriously difficult place—to organize the churches. Have you ever been given a difficult assignment that felt overwhelming? How did you handle it?

5. Titus was reliable and consistent, even when the work was unglamorous. How does reliability and faithfulness build trust in relationships and ministry?

6. **DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS:** Titus was known for doing the hard work that others avoided. In discipleship, there are often difficult steps we need to take—having hard conversations, addressing sin, serving in unglamorous ways. How can Titus' example inspire you to do the hard work of following Christ, even when it's uncomfortable.

Gracious Lord,

Thank You for Titus, the reliable troubleshooter who could be trusted with the hardest assignments. Thank You for his ability to bring order to chaos, reconciliation to broken relationships, and maturity to struggling churches. Thank You that he didn't shrink from difficult tasks but fulfilled them with grace and wisdom.

Father, forgive us when we avoid hard conversations and difficult assignments. Forgive us when we create more problems than we solve, when we stir up conflict rather than bring peace. Forgive us for being unreliable when others need us most.

Give us Titus's character—trustworthy, mature, and capable. Help us to be peacemakers and problem-solvers in our families, churches, and communities. Give us wisdom to handle sensitive situations with grace and truth. Make us people others can depend on when things get tough.

Help us to see difficult assignments not as burdens but as opportunities to serve You and grow in faith. Give us courage to speak truth in love, even when it's uncomfortable. May we be instruments of Your reconciliation and restoration in broken places.

Make us reliable, Lord—people of integrity who finish what we start and can be trusted with what matters most.

In Jesus' name,
Amen.



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