

A Common Faith for Uncommon People

The qualifications for the office of elder laid out in Titus 1 end with the only positive requirement for office coming in at the very end: the elder must hold firmly to the trustworthy word as taught. The remaining six verses of Titus 1 underscore the need for elders to be able to teach and rebuke in accordance with sound doctrine. But these verses also give us a rationale for both why and how the elders were to govern in apostolic times.

The elders in the church were to be active in teaching and rebuking because...

1. Problems exist in churches!
 - a. Numerically significant: “Many” insubordinate people
 - b. Substantially serious: Are troubling “whole” households
2. “Bad theology always leads to bondage”
 - a. The circumcision group and “the pure”
 - b. Faith and works are distinct, yet inseparable
3. People need correcting!
 - a. The methods of the elders include silencing and sharp rebuke
 - b. The goal is a sound faith and a genuine profession

Application:

1. Do you think biblically about what your elders are called to be and do?
2. Are you careful to maintain the vital connection between faith and works in your life?
3. Do you see and hear the church calling you to soundness in faith as you are invited to repent of your sins and believe in Christ?