



1.23.11/Titus 1:4-9

Opening Activity

Ask children if they've ever been part of a line at school or a summer program. Were they ever the line leader? If there's a line, it's important to have a line leader, or the line doesn't know where to go! But what about if there's a line leader, but no line? It's not much good to have a line leader without others to go along. In Titus 1, we see where Paul asks Titus to start a church, but Titus can't do it by himself. He has to ask for other men and women to step up and help out.

Read Titus 1:4-9

To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

Discussion

Last week we talked about the church and how its members are like different body parts. Each body part has a special job to do in order for the body to function like it should. Members of a church are just the same—they each have a special job to do. This week we see a practical example of this in action! Titus was sent by Paul to start a church. He knew he couldn't do it by himself, so he looked for other capable men and women to help him. In this passage, we see Paul's description of what kind of people make up the members of the church—specifically the leaders that would help Titus. They have characteristics like Jesus because they love Him and model themselves after His example.

Question 1

Why is it important for leaders of the church to have all these characteristics?

The leaders of the church were given the special job of instructing and taking care of the other members of the church. Kind of like sometimes when an older brother or sister takes care of a younger brother or sister, church leaders take care of members. They have the special responsibility of guiding the other members, and in order to do a good job of it, they need to have special characteristics that help them do this.

Question 2

Should the other members work to have the same characteristics?

Yes! The character traits that Paul describes in Titus 1 reflect Jesus. The more we grow and learn about His love for us as we grow in love for Him, we become more like Him. Although it's very important for the leaders to be like the people Paul describes in this chapter, it's healthy for EVERYBODY who follows Jesus to be like that, too!

Question 3

How do they get the strength to do follow the example Jesus set?

In a letter that Paul wrote to the church members in Corinth, he explained where he gets his strength and where followers of Jesus can get strength. In Corinthians 12:9, he tells them what Jesus said to him, and what he will do:

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."



We aren't strong enough to follow the example of Jesus on our own! Jesus never meant for us to follow a set of guidelines and try to do things on our own. If we see where we are weak and rely on the strength of Jesus instead of our own strength, we can do anything He asks us to do!

Wrap-Up

If you have accepted the gift of salvation from Jesus, you are part of the church body! If you haven't done this and would like to, you can talk to a parent or someone you trust about doing so. If you have accepted Jesus, do you know what your special job is in the church body? Let's pray that Jesus shows us what our special job is, and how we can use our gifts and talents to glorify Him and build His kingdom. We can't become godly people on our own, but through the love, faithfulness and strength of Jesus, we can grow to be more like Him!