

## **Filled To The Brim With The Fullness Of God**

Acknowledging, Analyzing, & Applying God's Power For The Church

### **Silencing Deception By Speaking The Truth**

Titus 1:7–2:1

A Supplement To **Encourage** Additional Study  
& **Enrich** Our Understanding Of God's Word

#### **Some Relevant Statements & Quotations About Godly Leadership**

“The fact is, the higher up we find ourselves in terms of power, influence, and wealth – the more people look up to us – the more vulnerable we are to pride and self-deceit, and the more prone we are to be blind to our spiritual needs and deficiencies.” —**Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth**

“The primary role of godly leadership in the Church is to re-enforce the truth of God's Word; to resist, rebuke, reprove, & restrain false teachers; and to remind God's people to remain faithful to God's truth! When that's not taking place, it's very likely that the Church will be drawn into the deception of our society & will lose its ability to be an influence for the cause of Christ.” —**GAD**

“They are not leaders because of brilliancy...but because, by the power of prayer, they could command the power of God.”

—**Oswald Chambers & E. M. Bounds**

“Leaders who want to show sensitivity should listen often and long, and talk short and seldom. Many so-called leaders are too busy to listen. True leaders know that time spent listening is well invested.”

—**Oswald Sanders**

“Any church that softens its stand theologically and alters Scripture to fit the style of our contemporary culture, will lose its power.”

—**Chuck Swindoll**

“Christian leadership models itself after our Lord Jesus Christ. One of the paradoxes of His ministry was that although He was so obviously the leader, He was conspicuously the servant. He illustrated and underlined this truth when He washed the disciples' feet (John 13). We are spiritually effective as leaders as we follow His example. Although leaders, we are first and foremost servants” —**Alistair Begg**

“A Christian leader is spiritual when he sees everything from God's viewpoint.” —**A. W. Tozer**

“Someone has said that the marks of a strong church are wet eyes, bent knees, and a broken heart. We'll never be powerful until we let God be God and jealously guard His honor.” —**Erwin Lutzer**

“A leader should be able to communicate in a non-argumentative, non-defensive and non-threatening way, demonstrating gentleness, patience and teachability without compromising the message of the Word of God.” —**Gene Getz**

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#### **—Some Additional Thoughts to Help Introduce This Week's Study:**

Our series of studies = “What Is The Church & Why Does It Exist?”  
*Over the past few weeks, we've been trying to highlight some typical concerns that impact the ministries of The Church & can cause some unexpected problems that are difficult to address before they happen. So far we've focused attention on Spiritual Warfare, Idolatry, & Church Discipline. This week's study touches on **the vital importance of godly leadership**. To prepare for this devotional, please read carefully what Paul wrote in Titus 1:5–2:8; Hebrews 13:17; Jude 1–4, 17–25; 2 Timothy 3:1–13; and any other passages listed with each question.*

—**1**— In Titus 1:5–9 Paul lays out the qualifications for those who have the responsibility of guiding & guarding the ministries, & the message of the Church. This list, along with what Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 3:1–13, is a specific description of the character qualities & traits of those who will be accountable to the Lord for the role they've been given. Please notice what Hebrews 13:17 says about this. ***What personal thoughts come to your mind when you read these passages of Scripture? These guidelines appear to be fairly strict & rather rigid. Do you believe there is any “wiggle room” in how we should apply this in our selection of Church leaders? If you were asked to single out one of these qualifications as the most important for church leadership, which one would it be? Why? In our society today, it seems as if some churches sometimes choose pastors & Church leaders similarly to how Americans choose their political leaders: personal charisma, popularity, sentimentality, & dynamic vision. How does this match up with what Paul seems to be saying in Titus & 1 Timothy? Considering other aspects of what's involved in properly applying these biblical guidelines, what should a church member do if he/she becomes aware of an elder who violates one or more of these qualifications? Last questions: What difference does this make & why is it important?***

—2— In Titus 1:9–16, we find a vivid portrait or description of people who were either false teachers or unqualified leaders and caused problems during Paul’s ministry. Please carefully observe what Paul wrote about them. Here are some explanations about this based on the words used in the biblical text:

—There were **many** of them. Simply stated, this wasn’t an isolated event!

—They were **manipulative!** Their **rebellious actions** displayed the idea that they were unwilling to submit to biblical authority! They were **empty talkers**: in other words, they had a lot to say, but it had no substance!

They were **deceivers**: crafty people who play mind games with others in order to impress them into believing what’s actually false! In Paul’s day, they were pushing the idea that obeying the Jewish Law would gain God’s approval. For us, that’s trying to earn salvation by good works.

—They were **misleading!** They used a *divide & conquer* strategy; they also distorted & perverted the Truth!

—Finally, their **motives** were corrupt & controlling! They pretended to trust in the Lord, but in reality, they rejected God. They sought dishonest gain, seeking money & power.

*In Paul’s day, these false teachers & unqualified leaders had a major impact on the culture. We need to remember that the Church has always been set apart from the cultural norm. The secular culture has always pushed an anti-Christian agenda, rejecting & resisting biblical truth.*

**From your perspective, how much influence does our secular culture have on the Church? What are some of the most pressing issues that faithful followers of Christ need to recognize in order to maintain a close walk with the Lord? What are some of the ways that cultural ideas have crept into the Church & potentially hindered our effectiveness in reaching the lost with the Gospel? Jude 1–4 & 17–25 exhort us to deal with this problem by contending earnestly for the faith. Where is the line that distinguishes between contending for the truth & becoming contentious? How can we do the former without the latter?**

—3— In Titus 1:9–16, we find three specific exhortations teaching us how to deal with the creeping corruption of our culture that invades the Church. In the sermon notes they were described using **R-words**: **1) they need to be REBUKED (or refuted & reproved {2 more R-words}); 2) their false teaching should be RESTRAINED (or silenced); 3) they need to be REMOVED if they can’t be silenced!**

Jesus warned His followers that being faithful to Him will cause the society will reject us because of what we believe. Paul, Peter, & John wrote several times in their letters to the Churches that difficult times will come during the last days. Please realize that this isn’t a negative perspective, but it is a realistic viewpoint based on biblical truth.

**How can you know whether or not a theological, biblical, behavioral, or personal issue is worth bringing up for discussion? What guidelines should govern our decision? How or why should sound doctrine be the foundation for practical Christian living? Since unity in the church is very important, how can we properly take a stand for biblical truth & also preserve unity when we discuss beliefs that might seem to become controversial?**

—4— Here are the applications provided with this study. For each one, please try to define some personal & practical steps to consider how they relate or apply to us.

### **1 The GOAL of godly leadership:**

- Glory to God in all things
- Guard the faith & guard the flock
- Growth = helping promote a healthy/sound faith

### **2 The ROLE of godly leaders:**

- Re-enforce the truth of God’s Word
- Resist, rebuke, reprove, restrain false teaching/teachers
- Remind God’s people to remain faithful to God’s truth

### **3 Hebrews 13:17 = (Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account (to the Lord). Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.)**

The sequence of **accountability** between Church leadership & the congregation makes godly leadership an **essential part of effective ministry**. **Church leaders are accountable to God for the way they lead & the congregation is accountable for the way they follow.**