

## **New Testament Letters Biblical Commands**

### **Commands from Titus**

- 1. Titus 1:13 In setting forth qualifications for Pastors, Titus is warned of numerous false teachers who would subvert his congregation. As Pastor he is to rebuke and reprove them sharply.**

*Titus 1:13 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, (NKJ)*

The false teachers had traits of rebellion against authority and introducing idle talk and subversive teachings into the congregation. Titus has pastoral authority and is not to stand for these persons. He is to rebuke them sharply and if continued remove them from the congregation.

- 2. Titus 2:1 Titus is commanded to speak to sound doctrine including illustrations and examples that uphold sound doctrine.**

*Titus 2:1 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: (NKJ)*

The ministry of Pastor-Teacher is to lead and feed the sheep. Sound doctrine is the spiritual food that is to be provided to the sheep. The pastor is also to lead in living and being and example of sound doctrine so that the sheep have examples in word as well as in deed.

- 3. Titus 2:6 The young men of a congregation are the future spiritual leaders. They are to be exhorted in a way that comes along side to teach, guide, and encourage.**

*Titus 2:6 Likewise exhort the young men to be sober-minded, (NKJ)*

The young men of a congregation have a need to become serious-minded about the Word of God and their position and calling to be spiritual leaders in their families and in the assembly of believers. Titus was to seek out the young men of his young congregation to come along side of them and encourage them in their becoming serious about their faith and callings to leadership in family and in the young church.

- 4. Titus 2:15a Titus is to speak forth in power with Godly authority given to him as pastor-teacher.**

*Titus 2:15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you. (NKJ)*

Four specific commands are presented in this verse covering the basic authority given to a pastor. This first one is to speak forth a clear gospel, basic doctrines of the faith, and Godly applications to all categories of the congregation: Old men, Old women, Young men, and Young women.

- 5. Titus 2:15b Titus is to exhort by coming alongside to help, guide and direct this youthful congregation.**

*Titus 2:15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you. (NKJ)*

The original word used here is PARA-KALEO meaning to be called alongside. Whether the exhortation is coming from the pulpit or literally alongside growing believers, the point is that of a, "Come on, lets do this together as I lead and you see my example."

**6. Titus 2:15c Titus is commanded to rebuke those in need of correction with strong language that grabs the attention and yet corrects in love.**

*Titus 2:15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you. (NKJ)*

Rebuke is not pleasant for either the communicator nor the recipients, but it is commanded here. Both pastors and congregations should know that when it is required, it is of the Lord. It is of the Lord if His Word is followed. It is of the Lord to feel scolded, to feel rebuked, and when it is specifically scriptural and "hitting home" to know it is from the Lord. It is not to be taken as the pastor down on you, but it is the Lord through His messenger that is scolding congregation members.

**7. Titus 2:15d Titus is commanded to be respected and specifically not to allow anyone to despise his authority nor his position as pastor.**

*Titus 2:15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you. (NKJ)*

The idea is to have those entertaining an opposing mind set that circumvents the (assumed) Biblical teaching of a pastor." The command here is also for the pastor. The pastor is commanded to NOT LET such opposition stand against the Biblical teaching of God's Word.

**8. Titus 3:1 This is commanded to remind and review the congregation in basic principles, basic laws of the Lord and basics in serving the Lord.**

*Titus 3:1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, (NKJ)*

The Lord has the Apostle Paul command Titus with this imperative. He is to "call to mind" and "put to remembrance" his congregation concerning certain basics in living in a relatively free society - the Roman Empire.

**9. Titus 3:9 Titus is commanded to avoid and go-around those things that cause fruitless discussions, arguments, and profit little in the end.**

*Titus 3:9 But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. (NKJ)*

Foolish or stupid questions are to be avoided. It was also a custom to dispute about the genealogical tables of the Old Testament. Both would be cause for wasting time and energy as well as entering into unprofitable debates.

**10. Titus 3:10 Titus is commanded to reject or ask to leave those opposing the clear teachings and applications of scripture after two strong warnings from scripture.**

*Titus 3:10 Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, (NKJ)*

The admonition is NOUTHESIA which is strong counsel from the scriptures, Those rejecting such counsel and persisting can legitimately be asked to leave by the pastor. Titus is actually commanded to pursue this course of action for the protection of the church.

**11. Titus 3:12 In the personal notes given to Titus he is commanded to be eager and hasten to take the winter off and spend it with the Apostle Paul.**

*Titus 3:12 When I send Artemas to you, or Tychicus, be diligent to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. (NKJ)*

Ministry is important, however, sometimes those eager to serve the Lord get caught up in it to the extent of overload and burn out. The Apostle Paul knew that Titus was such a person. He is insistent on the need for Titus to take needed time off for rest and refreshment with Paul himself.

**12. Titus 3:13 Titus is commanded to do all he can to help supply those who serve the Lord and send them on their way with provisions.**

*Titus 3:13 Send Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their journey with haste, that they may lack nothing. (NKJ)*

The command is to "send forth." Provisions were evidently made for the missionary journeys of these two believers from place to place. It was now the responsibility of Titus and the church in Crete to send these two to their next destination with both spiritual and physical blessings.

**13. Titus 3:14 Titus is commanded to teach on giving so that his congregation actually learns this is an import good work for the advancement of the ministry and growth of the believers.**

*Titus 3:14 And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful. (NKJ)*

The command addresses both the areas of giving as good works and personal preparation for urgent needs. Urgent needs should be prepared for personally as well as in a plan for giving so that when the clear urgent needs of another may be brought to light, help can be given.

**14. Titus 3:15 Titus is commanded to greet or salute close friends of the Apostle Paul on his behalf.**

*Titus 3:15 All who are with me greet you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen. (NKJ)*

Greeting others in the Lord is an important part of our "family relationship." When asked to pass on greetings, the request should be taken seriously and fulfilled. Titus was commanded to pass on the greetings of the Apostle Paul.

**Summary of Commands in 1 Timothy**

1. The pastor is given authority to rebuke those teaching false doctrine and out of line. #1, 6
2. The pastor is to speak Biblical truth and proper doctrine. #2, 4
3. The pastor is to use exhortation in teaching. #3, 5
4. The pastor is to be respected and not allow himself to be despised. #7
5. Pastors are to make use of review and continual reminding of Biblical Truths. #8
6. The pastor is to avoid and reject foolish things and, after warning, divisive persons #9, 10
7. Pastors are to be diligent in getting proper rest from ministry. #11
8. Pastors should help send missionaries on their way with sufficient supplies. #12
9. Pastors are to teach congregations about missions so they learn reach beyond the church. #13
10. Believers are commanded to treat and greet one another out of grace and love. #14