



**The Need For
Qualified Elders In
The Church**

Titus 1:5-9

Presented by Eric Douma
September 27th, 2009



Titus Tasked To Establish Order

Titus 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete,
that you would set in order what remains
and appoint elders in every city as I directed
you,



The Qualification of Elders

Titus 1:6 namely, if any man is above
reproach, the husband of one wife, having
children who believe, not accused of
dissipation or rebellion.

What Is A "One Woman Man"?

1. Paul: Elder must be a "one woman man"
Does not say: "having been married once"
2. Present Tense "**is** a one woman man"
Does not say: "always **has been**..."
3. "having been married once" would disqualify even widowers from being elders which is not sinful (1 Corinthians 7:39)

The Qualification of Elders

Titus 1:6 namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion.

Indicators of a New Cretan Church	
<p><u>Ephesus</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deacons 1st Tim. 3:8 2. Elders not to be new converts 1st Tim. 3:6 3. Removal of bad elders was an issue 1st Tim. 5:19 	<p><u>Crete</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Didn't need any 2. No such prohibition 3. No elders existed yet

What An Elder Must Not Be

Titus 1:7 For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,

Terms Used For Church Government

Elder
Bishop
Presbyters
Pastors

→ Used Synonymously

Deacons: A sub-unit in church government. These men must hold the same moral standards as elders, but don't have the requirement of being "able to teach" (1st Timothy 3:8-13).

What An Elder Must Be

Titus 1:8 but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,

 **The Primary Role Of Elders**

Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

 **Application**

1. The doctrine given to the church must be held firm, not “reimagined.”
2. Contrary to popular belief, all believers can and must **REFUTE THOSE WHO CONTRADICT**

 **1. Our Doctrine Is Not Evolving**

Books out today claim the Christian message can change, has changed, will change, must change, was lost, or was misunderstood:

The Lost Message of Jesus (Steve Chalke)
Reimagining Christianity (Alan Jones)
A New Kind of Christian (Brian McLaren)
The Secret Message of Jesus (Brian McLaren)

1. Our Faith: Held Firm, Not “Reimagined”

Titus 1:9a holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with **the teaching**...

2nd Thessalonians 2:15 So then brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.

2. We All Must Refute Those Who Contradict

1st Peter 3:15 ...always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you...

Jude 3b I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was **once for all** handed down to the saints.

2. The Bible Has No Contradictions!

❖ Contradictions are logical absurdities:

1. Hell exists and does not exist
2. Jesus was crucified and not crucified

❖ Contradictions are not:

1. Unique Events: (Jesus being fully God and fully man)
2. Paradoxes: Matthew 10:39 He who has found his life will **lose it**, and he who has lost his life for My sake will **find it**.
