

“Set in Order”

Intro: The Apostle Paul wrote Titus directing him to establish _____
_____ on the Isle of Crete. Let us consider the place and people, the purpose, and the pastors.

I. The place and people: _____.

A. As the Apostle states in the 12th verse, even among their own it is said that “_____ are always liars, _____ beasts, lazy gluttons.” Paul affirms this to be true writing, verse 13, “This testimony is true.”

1. Just as on the Isle of Crete our present world is filled with the lost who need to be evangelized. And being saved the believers need to be joined to a local church where God-ordained, biblically-qualified _____ lead by _____. The Cretans’ need was the same our present need!

2. It matters not whether it be the 1st century or the 31st. It matters not the hemisphere or whether the church be in the far eastern or western world. It matters not the race of the people who comprise the church, Jew or gentile. This _____ is superior for it is Christ’s Word for His church, and it is His Word _____ all peoples in all places for _____ times.

II. The purpose: _____ what remains.

A. Titus was to work to fully _____ the _____ by appointing elders in every city.

1. The primary directive in setting what remains in order consists of Titus _____ in every city. Without a biblically qualified eldership the church cannot be set in order. As Robert Kitchen writes, “The church can never truly be ‘_____’ without godly leadership.”

B. Heritage is set in order being an Elder-led church. This is something we must purposely determine to keep set in order – _____ - and _____ wherever we stray.

1. There will be those who come along and say that for expediency or some other pragmatic reason we must change from an elder-led church. But I say to you that God’s _____ concerning this matter is _____! As we set the church in order by appointing elders we must maintain this order.

III. The Pastors: _____.

A. An _____ an overseer is a _____ is a shepherd is a bishop is a presbyter. The variance of terms is due to the variety of translations, and whether it is the office or the work of the office that is being described.

B. If the church is to be set in order then elders are to be appointed in every church. Mark Dever writes, "The pattern ... and the evidence (is) overwhelming. ... the New Testament uniformly presents churches as led by a body of elders, _____ elder."

C. Since _____ alone is the singular _____ of the Church the elders serve in plurality, with not one greater than the other, nor seeking to be greater.

D. Elders are _____ according to their calling and gifting. In ordination we seek only to _____ what God has done.

E. From these _____ definitions and explanations we correctly learn that:

1. Elders _____ the church as pastors.
2. In the local church elders lead in _____.
3. Elders are called, gifted, and _____ for the position. They demonstrate God's calling by their life, meeting the biblical qualifications listed in I Tim.3 and Titus 1.
4. Elders are appointed.

Closing: It was for this reason that Paul left Titus in Crete: that he would set the _____ in _____, appointing elders in every city. And beloved, it is for this reason that God has us here today! We were born for such a time and work as this: that we would set the church in order by appointing _____ to _____ the church.

May we acknowledge that we are under God's divine rule. By faith in Christ and His Word, and for the salvation of souls and the spiritual life of the church may we set the church in order according to these Spirit-breathed Words.

By the authority of the Written Word of God and in the presence of _____ Jesus our Lord I charge the present elders and all future elders, all deacons present and future, along with the entire congregation, each member, to maintain the only form of church leadership modeled in the New Testament. In obedience to Christ set _____ in order and maintain that order by appointing elders as the Holy Scriptures prescribe.

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