

The Pastoral Epistles

Titus 1:5-9 – “⁵This 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— ⁶if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. ⁷For 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, ⁸but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. ⁹He 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.”

Paul reminds Titus of his primary tasks as a pastor leader in Crete, to “put what remained into order,” and to “appoint elders in every town as I directed you.” The understanding seems clear, Titus was the go-to guy on Crete, leading the church at large by his involvement with local church in their doctrine and polity.

What is polity?

EWFC polity might be well summarized in our “Statement of Faith,” and our

* ARTICLES OF FAITH – Why do we have a statement of faith?

The Scriptures

Sanctification

The True God

The Perseverance of Saints

The Fall of Man

The Local Church

God’s Purpose of Grace

Christian Baptism

The Way of Salvation

The Lord’s Supper

Regeneration

Civil Government

Repentance

The Righteous and the Wicked

Faith

The Return of Christ and the Resurrection

Justification

Marriage and the Family

Adoption

Missions

The Grace of Giving

* CONSTITUTION – Why do we have a constitution?

Article 1 – Name

Article 2 – Purpose

Article 3 – Doctrine

Article 4 – Associations

Article 5 – Membership

Article 6 – Ordinances

Article 7 – Officers and Boards

Article 8 – Finances

Article 9 – Missions

Article 10 – Auxiliary Organizations

Article 11 – Committees

Article 12 – Business Meetings

Article 13 – Amendments

Part of ordering any church is to establish leadership. For the church that leadership is given by God and is ordered by His Word. God, through apostolic leadership saw to it that the church installed pastors to shepherd each flock, and that they would be assisted in ministry by others as lay leaders. In God's Word there are three terms that clearly appear to reference the same office: pastor, elder, and bishop. In the context of Titus 1, the elder is to be understood as the pastor. His character is sketched in the passage in view.

He is above reproach

He is the husband of one wife

His children are believers, and are not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination

He must not be arrogant

He must not be quick-tempered

He must not be a drunkard, or violent, or greedy for gain

He must be hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, disciplined

He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught

Why?

Instruction

Correction