SILENCING REBELLIOUS PEOPLE

Titus 1:10&11a For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced,

Review

One of the qualifications for an elder is (Titus 1:9), “He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.”

The primary group Paul was concerned about was the circumcision group that believed and taught (Acts 15:5b), “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.”

Their teaching was rejected based on how God saved the Gentiles in the house of Cornelius (Acts 15:11), “No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are,” and the fact that Amos refers to “the Gentiles who bear my name” in Amos 9:12. (Acts 15:17)

The Description of Those Who Must Be Silenced

Titus 1:10 For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group.

In the NIV, the word translated “rebellious” in verse 10 is translated “disobedient” in verse 6 in describing what an elder’s children must not be. Deviation from the truth of Scripture starts with an attitude of not submitting to the Word of God. The primary deviation is usually in adding some kind of law keeping or religious works to salvation by grace through faith. It is essentially a pride issue, “surely we cannot be so sinful that there is nothing we can do to help save ourselves.”

“Full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group.” I Timothy 1:5-7 The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm.

Why They Must Be Silenced

Titus 1:11 They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach – and that for the sake of dishonest gain.

The founders of cults almost always have a profit motive in addition to a desire to not believe that salvation is by grace through faith and not by works. Their message will appeal to many for the same reason, but the followers of the cult leader will not usually be motivated by “dishonest gain,” all “dishonest gain” goes to the leader and perhaps his close associates.

False teaching splits families, and many cults encourage separation from everyone who doesn’t follow their teachings.

The consistent teaching of sound doctrine by church leaders is the best antidote to false teachers.

The Character of the People of Crete

Titus 1:12&13a One of Crete’s own prophets has said it:” “Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.” This saying is true.

“Liars.” Proverbs 6:16-19 There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

In common Greek, “to act like a Corinthian” meant to indulge in sexual immorality; “to talk like a Cretan” meant to lie. (Vincent, New Testament Word Studies)

“Evil brutes.” The word translated “brutes” is used almost exclusively of wild beasts; it is used to describe the beast and the false prophet in the book of Revelation. The adjective “evil” strengthens the noun.

“Lazy gluttons” is literally “Idle stomachs.” Gluttony is simply overeating, eating more than is necessary, eating for pleasure even when overeating is harmful to one’s health.

Philippians 3:18&19 For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

Ezekiel 16:49&50 “’Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. They were haughty and did detestable things before me. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen.

I Corinthians 9:27(ESV) But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others, I myself should be disqualified.

I Timothy 4:8 For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things. Holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

Rebuke Them Sharply

Titus 1:13&14 This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth.

“Rebuke” is the same word translated “refute” in Titus 1:9. It is translated “expose” in Ephesians 5:11, “Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.” It is translated “convict” in John 16:8(ESV) “And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.”

It is also translated “rebuke” in Luke 3:19&20, “But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother’s wife, and all the other evil things he had done, Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.” “The Greek word implies a rebuke which carries conviction” (Vine’s).

“Sharply” is literally “in a manner that cuts” (Vine’s).

Why They Are to Be Rebuked

“So that they will be sound in the faith.” People who indulge in sinful behavior are much more open to false teaching because they are already not listening to the Holy Spirit.

“And will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth.” The “circumcision group” taught “Jewish myths” as commands from God, that is, they taught that the teachings of the Rabbis, the so-called “oral law” had equal authority with the Word of God.

Mark 7:6-8 And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me; teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.”

“Reject the truth.” Those who had rejected the truth that salvation was by grace through faith apart from keeping the law were not to be listened to.

Things to Remember

There were many people in Crete who had rebelled against the clear teaching of the Gospel, that salvation was by grace through faith.

These people were disrupting entire households with their teaching and making money off it.

The people of Crete were known for being “liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.”

These sinful lifestyle patterns were to be rebuked sharply so they would be sound in the faith and pay no attention to false teaching.