

Leaders for a Fledgling Community

Titus

by Don Falkos

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The people of Crete were almost universally thought of as liars, evil brutes, and lazy gluttons. And it was true. But when these people heard the good news of salvation through Christ Jesus, some of them believed. A church was formed. But finding leaders who were of appropriate character and behavior was problematic.

People were needed who would proclaim the faith, teach others to know the truth, and show them how to live God-centered lives, leading to eternal life. But who among these Cretans would turn from their godless ways and sinful pleasures to live in wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God? Who would follow the self-sacrificial example of our savior Jesus Christ?

Jesus gave his life to free the world from sin, to cleanse those who believe and make them his own people, committed to doing good deeds. God gives all believers a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit, generously poured out on them through Jesus Christ.

A leader in the church oversees God's household and must live a blameless life – not arrogant or quick-tempered, not violent, not involved in dishonest financial transactions. But rather, hospitable, loving what is good, self-controlled and disciplined – one who would provide wholesome teaching.

Those who became leaders in this fledgling community faced a counter-cultural struggle. Being honest, pure, loving, and hard working was contrary to their nature. They needed to leave behind their self-centered, unproductive lives and learn to be devoted to doing good, meeting the needs of others.