

TITUS - A TRUSTEE WITH SPIRITUAL INTEGRITY

TITUS' JOB PROFILE

Titus was a trustee of money, God's messages and apostolic ministry. He was happy to work under authority and to exercise authority delegated to him.

He was a Gentile who became a Believer in Jesus, and travelled with Paul (Gal 2:1-3). That experience led the Apostle to trust him to visit the immature church in Corinth (2 Cor. 7:6-7, 8:6, 8:16).

Paul and Titus had been working with Timothy in Ephesus and then travelled on to Crete; where Paul left Titus with the responsibility for the emerging church.

This island bishop had to "straighten out" the church structure and appoint leaders (Titus 1:5). He had to instigate leadership training (1:9) and deal with rebellious people (1:10-12) and rebuke those in error. He was not to be sentimental about the disobedient (1:16).

In order to achieve this, Titus had to instigate discipleship training for all ages (2:1-8) and in the workplace (2:9-10). It would be a tough task but he had Paul's delegated authority which he would clearly need as it was likely that his leadership would be contested (2:15).

At the same time, the Cretan church had to be taught to be legal by obeying the local rules and to exercise Christian restraint in the face of opposition (3:1-2).

All this leadership was to be exercised as a consequence of the Gospel of Jesus (3:3-7) from which spiritual integrity should flow.

At the same time, both business and ministry was to be disciplined. Divisive people should not be given a hearing after a second warning (3:9-11). Also, those who were idle needed to be taught a proper work ethic.

Paul knew that Titus would need a break and wanted to send two other trusted workers so that Titus and he could spend a few months together in Greece (3:12).

Meanwhile Titus was not alone, he had the help of an evangelist-teacher, and even needed a lawyer because the people transformation work was still at an early stage, and they were not quick to change! (3:13-14).

None of this could happen without the two-way prayer support of ministry partners, and the grace of Christ (3:15).

TITUS' CHARACTER PROFILE

2 Cor. 2:13 *Required*

I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said good-bye to them and went on to Macedonia.

2 Cor. 7:6 *Reassuring*

But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus,

2 Cor. 7:13 *Refreshable*

By all this we are encouraged. In addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you.

2 Cor. 7:14 *Reliable*

I had boasted to him about you, and you have not embarrassed me. But just as everything we said to you was true, so our boasting about you to Titus has proved to be true as well.

2 Cor. 8:6 *Responsive*

So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part.

2 Cor. 8:16 *Receptive*

I thank God, who put into the heart of Titus the same concern I have for you.

2 Cor. 8:17 *Rejoicing*

For Titus not only welcomed our appeal, but he is coming to you with much enthusiasm and on his own initiative.

2 Cor. 8:23 *Representative*

As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow-worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honour to Christ.

2 Cor. 12:18 *Responsible*

I urged Titus to go to you and I sent our brother with him. Titus did not exploit you, did he? Did we not act in the same spirit and follow the same course?

Gal. 2:1 *Reaffirming*

Fourteen years later I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also.

2 Tim. 4:10 *Redeployable*

... Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.

Titus 1:4 *Reborn*

To Titus, my true son in our common faith:

Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour.

[All Bible references taken from NIV]