

The Need for "Paul - Titus" Relationships Titus 1:4-5

Introduction:

1. You may get the false idea based on the size of this epistle that Titus was some obscure fellow in Scripture. Nothing could be further from the truth.
2. Let me take a few moments and introduce you to this man, Titus.
 - Titus was a Gentile Greek who apparently was saved through Paul's ministry.
 - He was the man of the hour at some crucial, key times in the Apostle Paul's life.
Galatians 2:1
 - He was a trouble-shooter, if you will, for Paul. When Paul had a tough task or a desperate situation that needed immediate attention, Titus was the man.
 - He is mentioned thirteen times, from the early part of Paul's ministry all the way to the end of Paul's ministry. **2 Timothy 4:10**
 - Titus was tough, ambitious, faithful, reliable, and zealous, not afraid of a challenge.
3. In this letter, we find that Paul was once again calling on Titus to help with a tough task (verses 4-5). Notice, Paul calls him "*mine own son.*" Titus was a spiritual son to Paul, and Paul was a spiritual father to him. What a special relationship they enjoyed.
4. Do you have a Paul in your life (someone who is a spiritual father to you)? Do you have a Titus (someone who you are spiritually investing in)?
5. I contend that we need more Paul-Titus relationships in the body of Christ. This is how we learn and grow and impact lives. You impress lives from a distance, but you impact lives up close and personal.
6. As I look into our text I find three key elements that are necessary to establishing these kinds of life-changing, mentoring relationships.

First, there must be a shared faith.

1. Paul says, "*Mine own son after the common faith.*"
 - "*Common*" does not mean "ordinary."
 - "*Common*" means "shared." The same word is used in **Acts 4:32** where they shared their possessions.
 - So the "*common faith*" is referring to the faith in Christ that is shared by all of the saints.
2. We all come from different backgrounds, different parts of the country or world, have different jobs, different economic status, but there is one thing we should have in common, our faith in Jesus Christ.
3. The only way Titus could be Paul's spiritual son was for Titus to be in the same faith.
 - It is so dangerous when believers yoke up with people who are not part of the faith. If they don't share a common faith, there is no basis for a Christ-honoring relationship.
4. Are you in the faith? Notice in verse 4 what God is offering to you - grace, mercy, and peace. This offer is based upon the work of a Savior, Jesus Christ.
 - Notice how God and Jesus are used interchangeably - 1:3, cf. 1:4, 2:10, cf. 2:13, 3:4, cf. 3:6
5. Jesus was not just a good man, He was God in the flesh and He came to deliver you from the penalty of your sin. Is He your Savior? He can be by simple faith. **Romans 5:1**
6. Paul and Titus had a life-changing spiritual relationship, but it began with a common, shared faith. When Paul led Titus to Christ, something special was set in motion.

Second, there must be a mutual trust.

1. Paul and Titus had been in Crete. Where is this located?
 - This was an island in the Mediterranean Sea.
 - Cretan life was known for its excesses. 1:12
2. Things were a mess, so Paul decided he needed to leave Titus on this island for two reasons:
 - First, *"to set in order the things that are wanting."*
 - *"Set in order"* means "to straighten further." What did he need to straighten out?
 - *"The things that were wanting"* - "Wanting" simply means "failing or absent."
 - In **Luke 18:22** the same word is used when Jesus said, *"Lackest thou one thing."*
 - If something is wanting, this is the opposite of "complete and sound." **James 1:4**
 - In **James 2:15** the same word is used, *"destitute of daily food."* The churches in Crete were spiritually lacking. Paul trusted Titus to stay behind and straighten things out.
 - Second, *"to ordain elders in every city."*
 - Elders were the spiritual leaders in the local church. The term is synonymous with the title "bishop" or "pastor."
 - This was the answer to the problem. They needed clearly defined, recognized, godly leaders. Obviously, the churches were lacking this. 1:12-14
 - Spiritual leadership is so important. Without it, things tend to drift off course.
 - So Titus had to get things in order in these churches by getting some godly leadership in place.
3. This was a daunting task for a young man, but Paul **trusted** Titus. Likewise, Titus **trusted** Paul's analysis and submitted to his counsel. Notice the end of verse 5, *"As I had appointed (to arrange thoroughly, prescribe) thee."* Paul clearly laid out his expectations.
4. What trust they had for each other. In **2 Corinthians 8:23** Paul calls him *"my partner and fellow-helper."* This is what all of us need in the body of Christ.
5. Someone you can trust will pray for you, will give you godly counsel when you need it, will tell you the truth even when it hurts, warn you when you are going astray, calm you down when things get rough.
6. Paul and Titus were not perfect, but they had a mutual trust for each other. You and I need relationships like this in the body of Christ.

Third, there must be a oneness of heart.

1. There were a few people in Paul's life who he knew he could trust because they had a oneness of heart with him. Example: Timothy as cited in **Philippians 2:19-22**
2. They thought alike; the Bible calls it being like-minded. This doesn't mean that a person loses his individuality. Timothy and Paul appear to be opposites in personality.
3. But when it comes to the things of God, there is a unity of mind and thought. How does this happen? Look again at **Titus 1:4**. How could Paul call him his son in the faith and trust that Titus would have a oneness of heart when it came to straightening out the things in Crete?
4. Very simply – they spent time together. They didn't get a oneness of heart by sitting together in a discipleship class. They got it by **living life together**. Example: **Titus 3:12** – Meet me in Nicopolis and we'll spend the winter together.

In Conclusion:

1. Do you know the best thing you could do for a new Christian? Just be there for him or her.
2. Yes, you may get started by taking them through some discipleship material, but then it turns into a friendship, a Paul-Titus relationship, where you have a shared faith, a mutual trust, a oneness of heart.
3. God wants you to be a Paul to somebody and a Titus to somebody else. This is precisely how the Christian life is passed on from generation to generation. **2 Timothy 2:2**