

## PRESERVING THE CHURCH'S TESTIMONY

### INTRODUCTION

Two kinds of people in the church which require discernment regarding the appropriate manner to deal with each one.

In **Titus 3:9-15**, Paul presents 2 classes of people that require our attention and care in order to preserve the good order of the church.

1. People to Distance from (9–11)
2. People to Dignify (12–15)

### 1) PEOPLE TO DISTANCE FROM (9–11)

“good and profitable” vs “unprofitable and worthless”

#### [VERSE 9]

“foolish controversies” =

“genealogies” =

“strife and disputes about the Law” =

We should not only avoid people who engage in such foolish speculations, but we should prevent ourselves from becoming such people.

#### [VERSES 10–11]

“reject” (v. 10) vs “avoid” (v. 9)

“factious man” =

“after a first and second warning” =

An exception to Matthew 18:15–18?

Why?

“knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.”

## 2) PEOPLE TO DIGNIFY (12–15)

### [VERSE 12]

“Artemas or Tychicus”

Acts 20:4; Col 4:7; Eph 6:21; 2 Tim 4:12

### [VERSE 13]

“Zenas the lawyer and Apollos”

“lawyer” = civil law or Mosaic law?

Acts 18:24–25; 1 Cor 16:11–12

“help/send...on their way” =

### [VERSE 14]

“learn to engage” = planned and prompt generosity

### [VERSE 15]

“those who love us in the faith” =

## CONCLUSION

### Chapter 1: Assessing the Church's Leadership

- 1) "Do our leaders have the biblical qualifications to occupy the position they occupy?"
- 2) "Are our leaders aware of the doctrinal dangers of our time?"
- 3) "Are our leaders courageous and firm to face threats to our church?"

### Chapter 2: Assessing the Church's Relationships

- 1) "Are our older men and women setting an example of maturity and service?"
- 2) "Are our older men and women teaching and encouraging younger people in their responsibilities?"
- 3) "Are our young people being discerning, seeking wisdom and respecting older people?"
- 4) "Are our leaders setting an example of good works and showing integrity in teaching?"
- 5) "Do the employees in our church give good testimony of Christ to their employers through their diligence and respect?"

### Chapter 3: Assessing the Church's Testimony

- 1) "Are our church members known as people who respect authority?"
- 2) "Are our church members known for cooperating for the good of our community?"
- 3) "Are our church members known as people who are peaceful and careful in how they talk about other people, or as quarrelsome and gossipy?"
- 4) "Is our church giving due attention and care to people who threaten the unity of the church and promote divisions?"
- 5) "Is our church demonstrating dignity and generosity toward faithful men who work in God's work as ministers or missionaries?"