

Sermon Title: “Why do we need Church Leaders?”

Primary Text: Titus 1:10-16

As our study in Titus continues, we saw on Sunday not just the “what” elders are (Knights of the Realm who teach and defend), but **why** we need elders. Paul begins his letter by giving the requirements for an Elder, and as we moved into verses 10-16 we could see *why* those requirements are there in their lives at home and in public.

We often think of false teachers as clearly identified charlatans, the “snake-oil salesman” of the religious world. In reality, like the Tiger illustration that began Pastor Zach’s message, Paul’s greatest concern for the early church was that false teachers would rise from *within* the church. False doctrine, which leads to ungodly living, isn’t always big and obvious – nor is always 100% wrong. False doctrine often disguises itself as being *nearly* right – for instance, Obedience to God’s commands as *justification* instead of *joyful response* to the saving work of the Cross.

Because the danger is significant, God has designed leaders for the church whose primary role is to safeguard right belief by devoting themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word. While the teachers in **Titus 1:10-16** serve as a type of “anti-Elder,” a near-mirror-image of the Godly requirements for leaders, Elders show their understanding and *transformation* in their lives through right belief so that they can call each member of the church to a restored relationship with Jesus Christ.

Beyond our main text, Pastor Zach referenced these passages:

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Questions to Consider this week:

- What do you think of when someone says “Church Leader” or “Elder?” Did that image change after Sunday’s message?
- Think of the influences in your life and behavior – including Social Media and entertainment. Are there “teachers” in your life that you need to silence, limit, or remove? (i.e. YouTube channels, podcasts, books/authors, etc.) Are there areas you’ve “accidentally” added to the Gospel?
- God has charged the Elders at FaithEFC to watch over, care for, pray over, instruct, and shepherd the people who call Faith their home. Take a few minutes to pray for the elders.
- What ways can you encourage the Elders and other leaders at Faith this week?
- This week, commit to reading through **Titus 1:5-16**, praying for the church that all who attend and call Faith their church home might grow into the men and women of character described in this passage.

Prayer

*Lord Jesus, we know it is easy to be swayed by winsome arguments and convincing personalities... particularly in an era where ideas have so many ways of being communicated right into our own homes. Thank you for the leadership you have provided and continue to prepare for the sake of our spiritual health. Show me the areas in my own life where I need to examine my own heart and beliefs, and give me discernment so that I can see the difference between what is **true** and **mostly true**. -AMEN*

Song for Personal Worship

“Christ Our Hope in Life and Death” (Matt Bosewell, Matt Papa, Sing!)

<https://youtu.be/FvwLwL1FUEg?si=et5rAzkRIjR0glGM>