

## Order in the Church

Titus 1:5-9

*Paul's Letter to Titus*

**Theme:** The JESUS SEED produces the GOSPEL FRUIT of *Order*.

### **Introduction:**

Verses 1-4 set the tone and establish the melodic line; Jesus *works*. Verse 5 says there is disorder in Crete and the false teachers are contradicting this theme. The answer to the problem is establishing elders who in their character and conduct (vv. 5-9) can refute and silence the false teachers (vv. 10-16).

It appears because of the house church context, entire households were in disorder. This chaotic existence must be stopped and set straight by appointing leaders who live orderly lives.

### **Outline:**

- I. The problem in Crete (v. 5) – the church is in disorder
- II. The solution of appointing Elders – putting in play orderly people (vv. 6-9)
  - A. They are “ordered” in their personal life (vv. 6-8)
    1. The first category speaks to his married life and family (v. 6) and accents how he relates to other.
    2. The second category addresses his personality or temperament (v. 7) and accents how he relates to himself.
  - B. They are “ordered” in their pastoral function (v. 9)

The reason why they must be *ordered* theologically is “**so that.**” Two reasons are offered and this will play out in the following paragraphs.

1. The first reason is to **instruct** others in this *ordered* theology [positive – apologetic].
2. The second reason is to **refute** those who contradict this *ordered* theology [negative – polemic].

### **Does this Really Matter?**

Those who occupy the office of Elder are those who understand the necessary link between one’s profession of faith in Christ and the resultant fruit or obedience that follows. You cannot have the one without the other and you must not reverse the order. Elders are to be those whose life and theology align. There is harmony between the two. And the reason why such is necessary is because of the responsibility they have to the truth and to the church family. Why? Because “ordered leaders lead ordered churches.”