

Introduction: Stereotypes

- A stereotype is "a widely held but fixed and oversimplified _____ or _____ of a particular type of person or thing."
 - ⇒ They tend to be associated with aspects of our _____ that are either positive or negative.
 - ⇒ Although we may not be accurately described by our cultural stereotypes, there is usually a degree of _____ to them.

Key Points: (1) The truths of Scripture help us to recognize the ways that our culture demonstrates the fact that we are that we are made in God's _____.

(2) The truths of Scripture help us to recognize the ways that our culture demonstrates the fact that we are prone to sin against both _____ and _____.

The Importance of Doctrinally Sound Elders

Titus 1:10-13a—¹⁰For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. ¹¹They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach. ¹²One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons."¹³ This testimony is true.

- There were *false teachers* present among the believers on the island of Crete.
 - ⇒ General characteristics of the false teachers are given:
 - "insubordinate"
 - "empty talkers"
 - "deceivers"
- Many of these false teachers were *Jews*.
 - "those of the circumcision party"
- Because of the danger their teaching posed, it was necessary for the elders to *silence* them.
 - "silence"—ἐπιστομίζω (*epistomizō*)— To silence...bridle, hinder, prevent.
- Their false teaching was already *damaging* the believers of Crete.
 - "upsetting"—ἀνατρέπω (*anatrepō*)— To jeopardize someone's inner well-being. Upsetting the faith of, ruining.
 - ⇒ The way in which they caused damage was by teaching false _____ for the purpose of enriching themselves at the expense of the believers of Crete.

Key Point: It was not only the responsibility of an elder to give _____ in sound doctrine, but he must also be both willing and able to guard the church by _____ those teaching false doctrine.

Stereotyping the False Teachers

1. In their actions, these false teachers reflected those of the _____ of the ancient world.
 - "teaching for shameful gain"
 - ⇒ These people were not necessarily heretics, but spreading empty teaching for the sake of personal _____.

2. In their character, these false teachers reflected the _____ of those from the island of Crete.

“One of the Cretans, a prophet of their own, said ...”

⇒ The quote is attributed to a Cretan ‘prophet,’ making the statement all the more _____.

“Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.”

⇒ Two primary areas of Cretan culture are critiqued:

(1) Cretan _____ → *“liars”*

(2) Cretan _____ → *“evil beasts, lazy gluttons”*

⇒ By affirming the truth of this statement, the apostle is warning both the false teachers as well as the _____ in the churches of Crete.

Key Point: The false teachers reflect the _____ aspects of Cretan culture and therefore those who are influenced by them will as well.

Concluding Thoughts

1. The truths of the Gospel confront our culture generally and us _____. We must therefore be willing to examine ourselves, considering where we tend to reflect the sinful aspects of our surrounding culture.

Titus 2:11-14—¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

2. Because the Gospel confronts our culture, those who _____ and _____ the church must be those characterized more by the truths of Scripture than they are the sinful aspects of their culture.

⇒ These are the people who should be placed in positions of leadership and who should be _____ by the people.

3. Paul’s characterization of the false teachers intentionally _____ with his description of the qualifications of an elder.

Overseers (1:6-9)

False Teachers (1:10-16)

Their character:

Their character:

Their teaching:

Their teaching:

Questions for Reflection:

1. What are the stereotypes associated with my culture? In what ways do I reflect both their positive and negative aspects?
2. Who are the people that influence you the most? What aspects of the gospel do they reflect? What aspects of the culture do they reflect?