



TITUS

A STUDY THRU PAUL'S LETTER TO TITUS



The Elder's Habits - 1

Titus 1:8a-c

October 08, 2025



Why the Elder's Habits?

1. Because God cares more about holiness than about the title (1 Pet. 5:3)
2. Because it reveals the kind of Heart God blesses and the kind of life the gospel produces (Tit. 1:8)
3. Because it shows that God's grace takes a visible form (Tit. 2:11-12)
4. Because they point us to Christ, who alone embodies them perfectly (Rom.15:7; Acts 10:38)

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Lesson Theme:

Godly habits in an elder, display God's character and bring order in God's church.



The Elder's Habits

I. The Elder is Hospitable (8a)

A. What it Means

- φιλόξενος (philoxenos) – Philo (friendly, loving/loved) + Xenos (stranger/foreigner)
- The one who loves strangers



The Elder's Habits

I. The Elder is Hospitable (8a)

A. What it Means

B. Why it Matters (when Elders are NOT Hospitable)

1. It contradicts the character of God and Christ (Luke 15:2; Rom. 5:8, 15:7; Eph. 2:19)
2. It hinders shepherding and discipleship (1 Pet. 5:2)

C. How it Marks the Church (when Elders ARE Hospitable)

1. It displays the transforming power of the gospel (John 1:14; Rom. 5:12, 6:23; 2 Cor. 5:21)
2. It guards the body of Christ from coldness and formality (Matt. 25:35-40; Heb. 13:2)
3. It strengthens the unity and affection of the church (Acts 2:46-47)



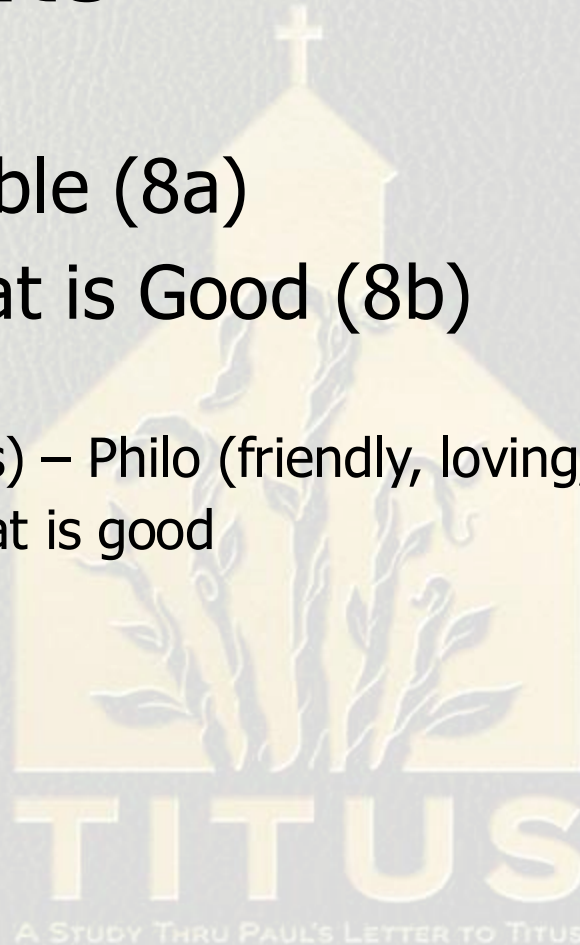
The Elder's Habits

I. The Elder is Hospitable (8a)

II. The Elder Loves what is Good (8b)

A. What it Means

- φιλόγαθος (philagathos) – Philo (friendly, loving/loved) + Agathon (good)
- The one who loves what is good



The Elder's Habits

I. The Elder is Hospitable (8a)

II. The Elder Loves what is Good (8b)

A. What it Means

B. Why it Matters (when an Elder does NOT love what is good)

1. He is drawn toward corrupt influences (Isa. 5:20; Heb. 3:12)
2. He becomes vulnerable to moral decay and hypocrisy (Rom. 12:9; 2 Tim 3:2)

C. How it Marks the Church (when an Elder loves what is good)

1. He exercises sound moral discernment (Phil. 1:9-10; Acts 11:23-24; Rom. 12:21)
2. He strengthens and beautifies the church' witness (Matt. 5:16; Rom. 15:12; 1 Thess. 5:15)
3. He becomes a stabilizing influence in times of moral confusion (Psalm 15:2; Isa. 5:20)

The Elder's Habits

I. The Elder is Hospitable (8a)

II. The Elder Loves what is Good (8b)

III. The Elder is Sensible (8c)

A. What it Means

- σωφρων (sophron) – Sozo (to save) + Phren (mind)
- The one who has saving thoughts
- The one who is thoughtful or has sober judgment.

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The **sensible** person is in command of his mind. He has control of the things he thinks about and does. He does not allow circumstances or the immorality or foolishness of others to distract him and gain his attention and interest. He not only does not become involved in things that are outright immoral and unspiritual but also avoids things that are trivial, foolish, and unproductive. He knows his priorities and is devoted to them.

John F. MacArthur Jr.

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The Elder's Habits

I. The Elder is Hospitable (8a)

II. The Elder Loves what is Good (8b)

III. The Elder is Sensible (8c)

A. What it Means

B. Why it Matters (when Elders are NOT Sensible)

1. He is ruled by emotion rather than truth (Prov. 29:11; 1 Pet. 4:7)
2. He loses the balance between truth and love (John 1:14; Eph. 4:15; Phil. 4:5)

C. How it Marks the Church (when Elders ARE Sensible)

1. It brings stability to the Congregation (Prov. 14:15; Prov. 16:32)
2. He provides wise counsel and guidance (Prov. 15:22)