

TOUGH GRACE IN DIFFICULT PLACES: A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF TITUS

WHEN DOING WHAT'S HARD IS BEST

1 TIMOTHY 5:20–21; TITUS 3:10–11



The Heart of the Matter

God's work is sacred. So when a person engaged in ministry repeatedly defies God's high and holy standards, Paul's judgment and command are uncompromising: that individual is "perverted" and must be removed. The very reason God's work is holy is because He is holy. Those who minister will never do so without some failures, because they are not holy as He is. God's grace, however, is sufficient to forgive those frailties. But those who cover up a lifestyle of sin behind the facade of sacred ministry must be confronted and removed.



Discovering the Way

1. From Tabernacle to Temple to Hearts

In His infinite creativity, God has varied the method by which His sacred work has been performed, but His standard has never changed: He requires holiness from those who serve Him.

2. When a Leader Is Accused (1 Timothy 5:19–22)

At times in the life of a church, an accusation comes against one of its spiritual leaders. Paul instructed Timothy to act only on hard evidence accompanied by provable facts.

3. When a Leader Falls (Titus 3:10–11)

If a leader continues in his or her sin—continues to cover the stench of his or her sin under the perfume of sacredness—and causes factions in the church, what are you to do?

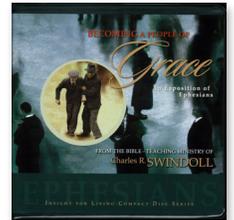


Starting Your Journey

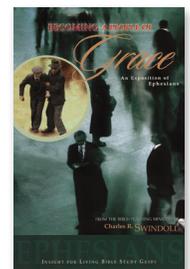
Confronting ongoing sin in a leader should never be taken lightly. Begin the process with the facts in hand and the good of the ministry in view. And only discipline a leader in a spirit of love and after much prayer, with restoration as the goal.



Tools for Digging Deeper



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