



Title: The strength of love

Pastor: Heinrich Titus

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What a great love

1 John 3:1 (NKJV) “¹Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ’

A household built on love

Ephesians 2:19-20 ¹⁹Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone, “in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.’

Different roles, same Body

Ephesians 4:11-12 ¹¹And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ’

A clear instruction

Titus 1:4-5 (Amp) ⁴ To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace [inner calm and spiritual well-being] from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. ⁵ For this reason I left you behind in Crete, so that you would set right what remains unfinished, and appoint elders in every city as I directed you.

(Acts 20:17,28; 1 Tim 3:1-7; 1 Pet 5:1, 2). The words elder, overseer, and bishop are used interchangeably to indicate the spiritually mature men who were qualified and selected to serve as leaders and shepherds over the church of God.

Titus 1:6-7 (Amp) ⁶ namely a man of unquestionable integrity, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of being immoral or rebellious. ⁷ For the overseer, as God’s steward, must be blameless, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not violent, not greedy for dishonest gain (but financially ethical). ⁸ And he must be hospitable (to believers as well as strangers), a lover of what is good, sensible (upright), fair, devout, self-disciplined (above reproach – whether in public or private). ⁹ He must hold firmly to the trustworthy word of God as it

was taught to him, so that he will be able to give accurate instruction 9(b) in sound (reliable, error-free) doctrine and to refute those who contradict (it by explaining their error.

Bound together by a great call

Acts 20:28 (NKJV) Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

A great responsibility

Acts 20:29-30 (NKJV) ²⁹ 'For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. '

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Bound together by self-sacrifice

Acts 20:34-35(NKJV) ³⁴ 'Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' '''

Bound together by prayer and friendship

Acts 20:34-35(NKJV) ³⁴ ³⁶ And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷ Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, ³⁸ sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.