

Titus 1:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

Analysis

Whose mouths must be stopped—ἐπιστομίζειν (epistomizein, to muzzle/silence) is strong language requiring decisive action. The verb suggests restraining animals; false teachers endanger the flock like wolves. This isn't mere disagreement but spiritual warfare requiring forceful response. Modern tolerance has little place for Paul's militancy, but souls' eternal destiny requires it.

Who subvert whole houses (οἵτινες ὅλους οἴκους ἀνατρέπουσιν, hoitines holous oikous anatrepousin)—the verb ἀνατρέπω (anatrepō) means "overturn/destroy/ruin." False teaching doesn't merely err intellectually; it destroys families, marriages, and household churches. **Teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake**—their motive is αἰσχροῦ κέρδους χάριν (aischrou kerdous charin, for shameful/dishonest gain). They exploit people financially through false doctrine, the original prosperity gospel.

Historical Context

First-century house churches meant false teachers could corrupt entire households at once. Without church buildings, theological disputes happened in domestic spaces, involving whole families. The profit motive suggests these teachers charged fees for their "superior" Jewish wisdom, commercializing spiritual truth—a persistent temptation in Christian history.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Does your church practice the biblical pattern of silencing false teachers, or does misguided tolerance allow error to spread unchecked?
2. How has false teaching "subverted whole houses" in your observation—destroying families or churches you've known?
3. What financial motivations corrupt modern ministry—book deals, platform building, or prosperity teaching?

Interlinear Text

Ἄντει δεῖ ἐπιστομίζειν οἵτινες ὅλους οἴκους
Whose must be stopped who whole houses
G3739 G1163 G1993 G3748 G3650 G3624

ἀνατρέπουσιν διδάσκοντες ἀ μὴ δεῖ αἰσχροῦ
subvert teaching Whose not must filthy
G396 G1321 G3739 G3361 G1163 G150

κέρδους χάριν
lucre's for
G2771 G5484

Additional Cross-References

2 Timothy 3:6 (Parallel theme): For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

Romans 3:19 (Parallel theme): Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

1 Timothy 6:5 (Parallel theme): Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

Psalms 63:11 (Parallel theme): But the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped.

Titus 3:10 (Parallel theme): A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;

Psalms 107:42 (Parallel theme): The righteous shall see it, and rejoice: and all iniquity shall stop her mouth.

Micah 3:5 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him.

Titus 1:9 (Parallel theme): Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Titus 1:7 (Parallel theme): For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

Jeremiah 8:10 (Parallel theme): Therefore will I give their wives unto others, and their fields to them that shall inherit them: for every one from the least even unto the greatest is given to covetousness, from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.