

# Spiritual Subversion

Titus 1:9-14

## Introduction:

- A. Subversion concerns nations, companies, organizations and even the church.
  - 1. Aimed at upsetting or overthrowing its object from within.
    - a. Latin “sub” (up from under) “vertere” (turn) – hence to upset.
    - b. Greek “Ana” (up) “trepo” (turn), hence overthrow (cf. John 2:15; 2 Tim. 2:18).
  - 2. Text explains why elders must be faithful to the word, stop mouth’s of subverters.
- B. Subversion of the Lord’s Cause takes on many faces

## Discussion:

### I. Deception (v. 10)

- A. Sound doctrine is the only antidote for deception (cf. v. 9)
  - 1. Soundness means “holding fast the faithful word...”
  - 2. Soundness means not “giving heed to ... fables and commandments of men” (v. 14)
  - 3. Soundness means more than “professing to know God (v. 16)
- B. Teachers of unsound doctrine must be firmly dealt with (vv. 11, 13; cf. Rom. 16:17-18)

### II. Insubordination (v. 10 -NKJ)

- A. One who despises government (cf. 2 Pet. 2:10) – refused to be subordinate to anyone or anything.
  - 1. Will not submit to God and His word.
  - 2. Will not submit to elders (Heb. 13:17)
- B. One who usually will not even submit to self-discipline.

### III. Vain Talk (v. 10)

- A. Subverts with the *quantity* of words (Prov. 10:19)
- B. Subverts with the *quality* of words.
  - 1. Lying/deceptive words (vv. 10, 12; cf Rom. 16:18).
  - 2. Unneeded and unwanted words (cf. Lev. 19:16)
  - 3. Misdirected words (cf. Matt. 18:15-18) – At least give opportunity to correct before publishing.

### IV. Covetousness (v. 11)

- A. The best teachers that money can buy.
- B. Uses religion for personal gain.
  - 1. Material gain – “good for business.”
  - 2. Social gain
  - 3. Political gain

### V. Laziness (v. 12 NKJ)

- A. Laziness often begets other sins (2 Thess. 3:11)
- B. Laziness hinders the church.
  - 1. A bad influence.
  - 2. Burdens others with one’s share of the work (cf. Eph. 4:16 NKJ, NIV)
- C. Laziness is without justification, but still justifies itself (Prov. 26:13; Matt. 25:25-26)

## Conclusion:

- A. Let each of us take stock – Do we subvert or build up the Lord’s Cause.
- B. Let each avoid anything that might tend to undermine the Lord’s work here.