

# Letters From Readers: Paul Did Not Say “Follow Rules and Regulations”

Anonymous



Today I read an article in *Tianfeng* titled “**The Era’s Demand for Comprehensively and Strictly Governing the Church.**” (Screenshot, transcription, and translation are attached as below)

The article cites Chapter 1 of the Book of Titus and discusses how Paul instructed Titus to select co-workers for the church in Crete: **holding firmly to the true doctrine, possessing moral character that wins people’s respect, and following rules and regulations.** The first two are Paul’s words. The third is not.

Yet the article places the three side by side, and later fills the content of “following rules and regulations” with state laws and regulations such as the *Regulations on Religious Affairs* and the *Rules and Regulations of the Christian Church in China*, calling them “**the lifeline and firewall of Christianity in China in the new era.**”

After reading it, I had only one question:

**Who established these “rules”?**

The ones who established them are a regime whose ideological foundation is Marxist atheism. It does not believe in the existence of God. It manages religion not because it believes religion has ultimate value, but because it regards religion as a social phenomenon that needs to be governed. This is not my judgment; it is its own position, written in its own documents.

An authority that does not believe in God has formulated a set of “rules” for people who do believe in God. Then a publication issued in the name of Christianity uses Paul’s words to require believers to regard this set of “rules” as the **“lifeline”** of their faith.

This is not interpreting Scripture. This is using Scripture to negate Scripture.

The co-workers Paul requires to be selected in Titus have only one core standard: **loyalty to the “trustworthy message” (1:9)**. The problem with the false teachers in Crete was that they **“paid no attention to the truth”** and corrupted people’s hearts with lies. Their sin was not that they violated Roman law, but that they betrayed the gospel. Paul never said that whether a person was loyal to Caesar could be used as a measure of whether he was loyal to Christ.

In fact, Paul himself would never have passed such a standard. He was flogged in Philippi, wrote letters in prison, and was beheaded in Rome. According to the logic of today’s *Tianfeng*, Paul himself would probably have been judged as someone who **“does not follow rules and regulations,”** and therefore unfit to serve as a responsible co-worker in the church.

At the end of the article, voices that do not cooperate with the current system are placed alongside heretical groups such as “Almighty God” and “Shincheonji.” The boundaries of this list are open. Today it points to heresies; tomorrow it can point to anyone who refuses to place state authority above the sovereignty of Christ. This is not contending for the truth or defending the faith; it is using the label of heresy to clear obstacles to obedience to state authority.

I am not writing a political commentary.

I am saying that when an article uses the language of the Bible to systematically equate a person’s loyalty to the state with that person’s loyalty to Christ, that act itself is precisely the kind of **“empty talk”** warned about in the Book of Titus.

Paul did not say **“follow rules and regulations.”**  
He said **“hold firmly to the true doctrine.”**

In some eras, these two things are the same.

In other eras, they are the opposite.

Which kind of era we are living in—I do not need to say. The readers themselves know.

## Screenshot

19:09

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## 【有声天风】全面从严治教的时代要求

原创 李雪雷 天风 2026年3月8日 18:04 109人

☆ 星标

坚持全面从严治教，关系到我国基督教的整体形象和健康传承，是深入推进基督教中国化的重要内容。坚持全面从严治教，至关重要的就是谨慎遴选符合时代要求的教会负责同工，正如使徒保罗曾经对提多提出的要求一面对假教师对当时克里特教会<sup>Q</sup>的搅扰，保罗要求提多务必遴选坚守真道、品德服众、**遵章守纪**的教会负责同工，以坚固教会根基（参《提多书》1章5节至9节）。保罗列出的遴选教会负责同工应具备的条件，与今日教会依法依规遴选合格负责同工的条件有异曲同工之处。



天风

👍 36

🔗 121

❤️ 27

💬 写留言

## Transcription

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原创 李雪雷, 天风 2026年3月8日

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## Translation

【有声天风】全面从严治教的时代要求 by 李雪雷, published in 天风 on March 8, 2026:

Adhering to comprehensive strict governance of the church is closely tied to the overall image and healthy transmission of Christianity in our country; it is an important component of deeply advancing the Sinicization of Christianity.

The most crucial aspect of adhering to comprehensive strict governance of the church is to prudently select church leaders who meet the requirements of the current era. This is just as the Apostle Paul once instructed Titus—facing the disturbance caused by false teachers to the church in Crete at that time, Paul required Titus to carefully select church leaders who steadfastly uphold the true doctrine, possess exemplary moral character that commands respect from the congregation, and strictly **follow rules and regulations**. The purpose was to strengthen the foundation of the church (see Titus 1:5–9).

The qualifications Paul listed for selecting church leaders are remarkably similar in essence to the conditions that today's churches use, in accordance with laws and regulations, to select qualified leaders.