**Having Believing Children**

**Titus 1:5-9**

**Blameless** in **proven** **spiritual leadership = “**husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination” **v.6**

**Blameless** in **proven character** = “not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled” **v.7-8**

**Blameless** in **proven** **competence** = “holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.” **v.9**

Having faithful children is in the **CONTEXT** of **proven** **spiritual leadership**

**Character** is inherent in **godly** **leadership**

**Competence** is necessary in **leadership**

“Having **faithful** children” does mean children who are believers **1 Tim. 6:2**

Does “having believing **children**” exclude men with **one** **faithful** child?

Grammar: **plural** vs. **singular** matters **Galatians 3:16, Matt. 16:18**

**Single** subject (one) with **plural** object (children) **1 Tim. 3:4**

**Plural** subject (deacons) with **plural** subject (children) **1 Tim. 3:12**

**Does “children” always mean children?**

“Yes. The Bible means what it says.” **Deut. 23:18**

**“No. “Children” can** refer to **one child.”**

**Plural** of **class Eph. 6:1**

**Usage in Hebrew**: **Gen. 21:7** "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse **children**? For I have borne him a **son** in his old age."

**Usage in Greek**: **2 Cor. 12:14** For the **children** ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the **children**.

**1 Tim. 5:4 single** subject (widow) with **plural** object (children)

Children in **v.4** & **9** are **singular** in **v.16**

**Usage in English**: “Parents with children entering first grade must pre-register their children by August 1.”

**Usage in 1st Century Roman law**: “A person is not without children if he or she has one son or daughter, for this expression, “he has children,” “he does not have children” is always used in the plural number, as are notebooks and writing tablets…**For if we cannot say that a man is without children, we have to say that he has children.**” Gaius, *Digest* 50:16:149

The plural vs. singular is not the emphasis in the passage but the man’s ability to lead. Number is not material in **Matt. 10:21** (plural and singular are used interchangeably in **Luke 20:29-31**)

TEKNON “offspring” is used, not PAIDION “child”

He is still leading a plurality of souls in his family.

**Application** (context) vs. translation (grammar rules)

Allowing (usage) vs. requiring (plural of class)

“Let’s be safe.”

Is it safe to refuse to appoint qualified men according to the terms in Titus 1 where God commanded it (not suggested it), not respecting God’s allowance of one child where “children” is used, Is it safe to have God’s organization for the church, with men qualified in every way fulfilling God’s plan?