

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Timothy 3:1-7.**
- B. Today, I begin a new sermon series designed to help the men of our congregation grow spiritually. I will be taking the qualities found in 1Tim. 3 as applied to elders and showing that every Xian man should be doing these 20 things.
- C. There seems to be a tremendous void of Male leadership in the denominational world due to the popularity of *Promise Keepers*. To help us in the spiritual maturity of the men of our congregation, I will present the following lessons:
 - 1. 7-05 AM Above, reproach, husband of one wife, temperate.
 - 2. PM Prudent, respectful, hospitable.
 - 3. 7-12 AM Able to teach, not addicted to wine, not self-willed.
 - 4. PM Not quick-tempered, not pugnacious, not contentious.
 - 5. 7-19 AM Gentle, free from the love of money, manages household well.
 - 6. PM A good reputation, loving what is good, just.
 - 7. 7-26 AM Devout, not a new convert.
- D. I have come to realize there is no quick shortcut to "becoming a man of God." Note, too, that in this entire list there is no reference to spiritual (miraculous) gifts.
- E. Paul did not say look for men w/the gift of preaching/teaching, or the gifts of administration, helps, or exhortation. In fact, there is very little reference to ability or skill. Rather, out of the 20 qualifications listed, 19 have to do with a man's ethics, morality, temperament, habits, and his spiritual and psychological maturity.
- F. Think about it: isn't it easier to work w/someone who is qualified spiritually and psychologically than one who has lots of skill and is yet carnal?
- G. Why the characteristics from 1Timothy?
 - 1. They appear to be normative for spiritual leaders today. They are spoken regarding men who are to function at the local church level.
 - 2. They are qualities that every Xian--particularly every Xian man--should strive for.
 - 3. They are qualities enumerated by Paul that from a composite profile that is complete and comprehensive.

I. ABOVE REPROACH.

- A. **The man of God has a good reputation** (1Tim. 3:2 and Titus 1:7).
 - (**1Tim. 3:2**) An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,
 - (**Titus 1:7**) For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain,
- B. When the "deacons" were selected to take of a problem in the church, the apostles looked for men of "good reputation" (Ac. 6:3).
- C. Timothy was "well spoken of" in Ac. 16:2 by those in Lystra and Iconium. Notice three things here:
 - 1. People were talking about Timothy--positive feedback.
 - 2. More than one person who was doing the talking--unprejudiced feedback.
 - 3. People were talking about him in more than one location--home and abroad.
- D. Recognizing a man with a good reputation means you will hear and say:
 - 1. He is a lovable guy.
 - 2. He is honest, I'd trust him with my money.
 - 3. He is a sensitive person.
 - 4. He radiates X.
 - 5. He is a good father.
 - 16. He doesn't use people for his benefit.
 - 17. He knows where he is going, he plans.
 - 18. He is thoughtful and cordial.
 - 19. He is fair.
 - 20. He is a good steward of time and talent.

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| 6. He loves people--wife, family, others. | 21. He doesn't lose his cool. |
| 7. He works hard. | 22. He is consistent. |
| 8. He is a humble individual. | 23. He recognizes and respects authority. |
| 9. He keeps his word. | 24. He hangs in there; perseveres. |
| 10. He is not selfish or conceited. | 25. He admits error when he is wrong. |
| 11. He makes you feel comfortable. | 26. He is teachable. |
| 12. I can recommend him for most any task. | 27. He doesn't have a martyr complex. |
| 13. He doesn't let you down. | 28. He is an honest person. |
| 14. He won't take advantage of you. | 29. You know what he is thinking. |
| 15. He is not an opportunist. | 30. He uses discretion in what he says. |

II. THE HUSBAND OF ONE WIFE.

- A. **The man of God must be loyal to one woman** (1Tim. 3:2).
- B. The Corinthians were tolerating and even bragging about a man who was having a sexual relationship with his step-mother! Therefore, it should not be surprising that Paul made sure that Xians knew that a man of God must be married to one woman and that he was to be loyal to her and her alone.
- C. Xian morality extends its boundaries beyond the physical act of sexual intercourse (Mt. 5:27-28).
"You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY'; but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.
- D. "To lust for her" means to greatly desire a sexual, physical relationship. To be tempted in this way is not necessarily sin, but it definitely leads to sin.
- E. Any man who secretly and deliberately enjoys an illegitimate sexual relationship with a woman in his mind has, in God's sight, already committed an immoral act.

III. TEMPERATE.

- A. The man of God **has a clear perspective and a correct spiritual orientation** (1Tim. 3:2).
- B. Temperance usually means that one doesn't drink alcoholic beverages, or that the person is moderate in indulging the appetite. But to the Xian it means much more.
- C. A man who is temperate does not lose his physical, psychological, and spiritual orientation. He remains stable and steadfast and his thinking is clear.
- D. We might say, "He is calm, cool, and collected" in most situations. He doesn't lose perspective because of false security (1Th. 5:6).
so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.
- E. A mature Xian man has a correct view regarding the "temporariness" of this life and everything in it. He does not allow himself to get caught up in the "false security" of what appears to be human progress.
- F. Notice, that the man of God is one of faith, hope, and love (1Th. 5:8).
But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

IV. SOME PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- A. To become a man who is above reproach:
 1. Get positive feedback from your wife, children, and close friends.
 2. Ask yourself, "Do my relationships with people grow deeper as a result of how they get to know me?"
 3. How many times have you let others down on a job you said you would do?
- B. To become a man who is devoted to your wife:
 1. Develop good communication skills (talking and listening) with your wife.
 2. Do not put yourself into situations that deliberately expose you to temptation.
 3. Avoid unnecessary idleness of mind and physical work--stay busy.
- C. To become a man who is temperate:

1. Make a personal mission statement of your values and beliefs.
2. Continue to grow in faith and hope by a regular study of God's word.
3. Gauge your life of love against 1Cor. 13:4-8.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Three very important things for the man of God to be:
 1. Above reproach.
 2. The husband of one wife.
 3. Temperate.
- B. Next lesson: Prudent, Respectable, and Hospitable.
- C. To become a man of God, one must obey X.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.