

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Timothy 3:1-7.**
- B. I continue my sermon series on the characters of the man of God as expressed in the characteristics (qualifications) of Elders.
- C. Tonight, I will talk about the qualities of being:
 - 1. Prudent.
 - 2. Respectful.
 - 3. Hospitable.

I. PRUDENT.

- A. **The man of God is to be sensible or prudent** (Rom. 12:3).
For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.
- C. Paul instructs that Xian men and women are to be prudent. Notice Titus 2:2, 4-6 and how three times this is to be taught.
 - 1. Older men are to be prudent (sensible).
 - 2. Older women are to teach the younger women to be prudent.
 - 3. Younger men are to be prudent.
- D. A prudent man...
 - 1. Is truly **a humble man** (Rom. 12:10).
Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;
 - 2. Has a proper view of the grace of God (Rom. 5:8; Titus 2:11-12).
But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
 - 3. Lives a **prudent, sensible life** (Titus 2:11-12).
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,
 - 4. Knows **how to pray** (1Pet. 4:7).
The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer.
- E. To have a correct perspective on our place in God's family does not mean that we are to be withdrawn and inhibited. It does not mean a lack of self-confidence and sense of worthlessness. True humility is not weakness (2Cor. 5:13).
For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you.
- F. Christians frequently go to two extremes. Either they see themselves as *nothing* or they are caught up with an *exalted* view of themselves. An immature person finds himself vacillating between these two attitudes.

II. RESPECTFUL.

- A. **God's man is respectful when he lives a well-ordered life.**
- B. The Greek, *kosmios*, means good behavior, well behaved or well-arranged.
- C. Paul uses the word in 1Tim. 2:9 to describe how a woman should dress. Her attire should be becoming and modest (1Tim. 2:10), which would be respectful.
- D. The verb form is even more enlightening (*kosmeo*). It is used by our Lord to describe:
 - 1. A "well-ordered house" (Mt. 12:44).
 - 2. "Decorated" tombstones (Mt. 23:29).
 - 3. "Well-trimmed" lamps (Mt. 25:7).
- E. The strongest use of the word for our purposes is probably found in Titus 2:9-10. Paul here treats obedience to those in authority as having a non-argumentative and honest relationship with people.

- F. The man who is respectable is a man who lives in such a way that his life-style adorns the teachings of the Bible. Whether it be his; *dress, speech, appearance of his home, office, or way of doing business*--all are to be in proper relationship to Biblical principles and doctrines.
- G. God is a God of order, and the man of God too should be orderly and proper. He is to be a Xian gentlemen in all areas of his life.

III. HOSPITABLE.

- A. **The man of God must be one willing to extend hospitality.**
- B. The concept of hospitality is not new. God called the Israelites to be hospitable. And the NT church was hospitable to those who stayed in Jerusalem after Pentecost (Lev. 19:33-34; Ac. 2:42-47).
(Lev. 19:33-34) ‘When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. ‘The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.
Acts 2:42-47
(Ac 2:47) And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together, and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions, and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.
- C. Christians, of all people, are to be hospitable. It is a true mark of Xian maturity. And most importantly, Xian maturity is not to be just a sacred responsibility or religious duty, but rather an act of Xian love. It is out of this motivation that we are to be hospitable men.
- D. To be hospitable means to serve and provide for others, sometimes at a moments notice. There are many passages that command us to be hospitable:
 1. Romans 12:13; 13:9.
(12:13) contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.
(13:9) For this, “YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET,” and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”
 2. Hebrews 13:1-2.
Let love of the brethren continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.
 3. 1Peter 4:9.
Be hospitable to one another without complaint.
 4. Galatians 5:14; 6:10.
(5:14) For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”
(6:10) So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.
 5. James 2:6-9.
But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called? If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law, according to the Scripture, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF,” you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.
- E. Three important things to remember about being hospitable:
 1. It is a mark of Xian maturity.
 2. It is a mark of a mature Xian home.
 3. It is a mark of a mature church.

IV. SOME PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- A. To become a man who is prudent (sensible):
 - 1. Monitor how you talk to yourself each day-is it too positive or too negative?
 - 2. Come to a deeper understanding of being saved by grace.
 - 3. Find ways to balance your interests and those of others.
- B. To become a man who is respectable:
 - 1. List things you can do in your business, social, and personal life to be well-ordered.
 - 2. Review your appearance, speech, and life-style to exhibit good behavior.
 - 3. Brainstorm thing you can do for the church that would promote respectability.
- C. To become a man who is hospitable:
 - 1. Do not wait for a desire to show hospitality, it may never come. Act now.
 - 2. Plan for opportunities to open your home to brethren and outsiders.
 - 3. List ways you can help outsiders by being hospitable in your home.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Three very important things for the man of God to be;
Prudent, Respectable, and Hospitable.
- B. Next lesson: Able to teach, Not addicted to Wine, and Not self-willed.
- C. To become a man of God, one must obey X.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.