

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Timothy 3:1-7.**
- B. I continue my sermon series on the characteristics of the man of God as expressed in the characteristics (qualifications) of elders.
- C. Tonight, I will talk about the qualities of being:
 - 1. Not quick-tempered.
 - 2. Not pugnacious.
 - 3. Not contentious.

I. THE MAN OF GOD IS... NOT QUICK-TEMPERED.

- A. **The man of God doesn't have a short fuse** (Ti. 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. The Bible does not classify **all** anger as sinful. There is way to be angry and not sin (Eph. 4:26).
BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger,
- C. God gets angry when men/women sin against Him. Whenever there has been an injustice done, anger is justified.
- D. Three times when anger is sinful:
 - 1. Anger is sinful when it rises too soon. A Xian is not be "quick-tempered," that is, to allow himself to become *suddenly* upset and disturbed. This kind of man "flies off the handle." He is not in control of his own spirit. He is easily threatened and is quick to retaliate (Prov. 16:32).
He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.
 - 2. Anger is sinful when it is prolonged. Sinful anger is a "brooding" kind of anger. It continues to smolder and seeks revenge. It is characterized by bitterness. It is subjective and causes a man to lose perspective. It carries a grudge, looking for an opportunity to get even. This kind of anger leads a man to "pay back evil for evil" (Rom. 12:17; Eph. 4:26-27).
(Rom. 12:17) Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. (Eph. 4:26-27) BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.
 - 3. Anger is sinful when it is "man centered." This kind of anger takes the law into its own hands. He tries to play "god." It is impatient and revengeful. It is a selfish, "personal" reaction. This kind of anger, says James (1:20), does not "achieve the righteousness of God" (Rom. 12:17-21)
Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord. "BUT IF YOUR ENEMY IS HUNGRY, FEED HIM, AND IF HE IS THIRSTY, GIVE HIM A DRINK; FOR IN SO DOING YOU WILL HEAP BURNING COALS UPON HIS HEAD." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
- E. The maturing Xian man will put aside these kinds of anger (Col. 3:8).
But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.

II. THE MAN OF GOD IS... NOT PUGNACIOUS.

- A. **The man of God does not release his anger physically** (Ti. 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. The KJV translates this word as being a striker. (Humorous story of a man who thought it meant that one could not be a member of a union and go on strike.) Rather, this term means that a Xian man is not to allow his anger to get out of control to the point that he would become physically violent.

- D. The male, spiritual leader is to be mature in controlling his human spirit. He is not to engage in physical violence as a way to solve problems or deal with difficult situations.
- E. Some Bible examples:
 1. Cain. Rather than conforming to the will of God, his anger and hatred toward Abel and God culminated in murder (see Gen. 4:1-5).
 2. Moses. In anger he struck and killed the Egyptian. Later he threw the tablets containing the Decalogue on the ground shattering them to pieces. And still later, he struck the rock rather than speaking to it (see Ex. 32:19; 34:1; Num. 20:1-13).
 3. Peter. Took a sword and cut off Malchus' ear thinking that by violence he could right the wrong taking place in the life of Jesus. This was not so (see Jn. 18:1-27).
- F. Remember: God disapproves of uncontrollable anger that is motivated by personal vindictiveness.
- G. The spiritually-minded man of God must:
 1. Develop other ways of "striking out."
 2. Not use verbal abuse to effectively hurt others.
 3. Refrain from "getting even" by using gossip and malicious talk, especially when disguised as spiritual concern.

III. THE MAN OF GOD IS... NOT CONTENTIOUS.

- A. **The man of God is not a roadblock to consensus and progress** (1Tim. 3:2-3).
An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money.
- B. Simply put, to be uncontentious means not to be quarrelsome. This implicitly means that one respects and obeys authority.
- C. A contentious person sees most everything as a competition, whereas they must win! Instead of working with others the struggle is against them. They compete for position and praise. They debate and strain for approval of themselves and their ideas. Contentious people are folks who are always starting arguments, quarrels, and fights. They are frequently selfish and jealous people. They are motivated by "earthly wisdom" (Jas. 3:14-16).
- D. Contentious people are:
 1. Often insecure people. They cover up their insecurity by trying to control everyone else.
 2. Often domineering and authoritarian in their personality.
 3. Often characterized by selfishness, gossip, backbiting, and critical remarks.
 4. Often seen as violent people who completely dominate those they are around.
 5. Often have the "chip on their shoulder" attitude that affects many people.
- E. Yet, over and over and again the NT stresses the idea of unity in the body of X (see Mt. 5:9). Notice (Rom. 12:16, 18; 14:19; 15:5-6; Eph. 4:1-3).
(Rom 12:16) *Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.*
(Rom 12:18) *If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.*
(Rom 14:19) *So then let us pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.*
(Rom 15:5-6) *Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus; that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
(Eph 4:1-3) *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*
- F. This attitude of contentiousness is extremely dangerous when it comes to being a leader in the church, because these people will use this quality to achieve their own self-centered goals. They will interpret Scripture through their own psychological grid, and will take advantage of the spiritual position to lord it over others.

IV. SOME PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- A. To become a man who is *not quick-tempered*:
 - 1. Begin a program of regular physical exercise to relieve stress.
 - 2. Avoid situations that cause you to lose control of your temper.
 - 3. Learn to express your feelings in an objective and constructive manner.
- B. To become a man who is *not pugnacious*:
 - 1. Confess your sin to God so that He can forgive and heal.
 - 2. Write out some specific goals to help you overcome the tendency to get violent.
 - 3. Seek personal forgiveness from the ones you have hurt in the past.
- C. To become a man who is *not contentious*:
 - 1. Identify your reason(s) for being contentious; selfishness, jealousy, insecurity, or bitterness?
 - 2. Strive to be a person of consensus, looking for unity rather than your own way.
 - 3. Remember, that your status in the body of X is that of a slave (Rom. 6:17-18).
But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Three very important things for the man of God to be:
 - 1. Not quick-tempered.
 - 2. Not pugnacious.
 - 3. Not contentious.
- B. Next lesson: gentle, free from the love of money, and manages household well.
- C. To become a man of God, one must obey X.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.