

## 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. Not under reproach.
  - 2. Loving what is good.
  - 3. Just.
- D. Lord willing, I will conclude this series of lessons next Sunday morning.

### I. THE MAN OF GOD IS... NOT UNDER REPROACH.

- A. **The man of God is not criticized for ungodly behavior** (1Tim. 3:7).  
*And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*
- B. To be under reproach means to suffer shame, embarrassment, and guilt.
- C. The NT presents two perspectives on the concept of “being reproached.” On the one hand it deals with the inevitability and even the “blessedness” of a Xian being reproached. But on the other hand, as in 1Tim. 3:7, it deals with the inappropriateness of “being reproached.” How can these two ideas be reconciled?
- D. A Positive Perspective.  
Christians, should not be surprised when they are reproached by non-Xians (1Jn. 3:13). In particular situations and under certain circumstances it *will happen*. Since the world hated Jesus first (Jn. 15:18-20), we should not be surprised that it hates us also (Mt. 5:11; Lk. 6:22; 1Pet. 4:14; 2Tim. 3:12).  
**(Mt 5:11)** “Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me.”

**(Lk 6:22)** “Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and cast insults at you, and spurn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man.”

**(1Pet 4:14)** If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

2Timothy 3:12

**(2Tim 3:12)** And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

- E. A Negative Perspective.  
Reproach from non-Xians should **never** come from an ungodly lifestyle. Peter warns that Xians should not be guilty of having to suffer reproach that comes from doing wrong (1Pet. 4:15-16; 2:20a).  
**(1Pet 4:15-16)** By no means let any of you suffer as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.  
**(1Pet 2:20a)** For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience?
- F. To experience a persistent reproach that brings on depression, physical sickness, and despair might be called the “snare of the devil.” One can be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow (2Cor. 2:7). An immature, sinning Xian who is guilty and embarrassed will withdraw and retreat from his church family.
- G. The man of God, who truly desires spiritual things will live in such a way that any reproach that he feels will come from doing what is right.

### II. THE MAN OF GOD IS... ONE WHO LOVES WHAT IS GOOD.

- A. **The man of God desires to do good** (Ti. 1:7-8).  
*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, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,*
- B. To “love what is good” means to desire to do good, not evil. There are a number of things that the NT

classifies as *good*. It is that which is useful, salutary, pleasant, agreeable, excellent, upright, and honorable (Phil. 4:8; Ti. 1:15-16).

(**Phil 4:8**) Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.

(**Ti 1:15-16**) To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled. They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient, and worthless for any good deed.

- C. To “love what is good”—and to “do what is good” is not automatic. It is part of the process of becoming mature, of becoming more and more like X (Eph. 2:10).

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- D. Three scriptural prerequisites for doing good:

1. An Act of Commitment.

The man of God who learns to “love what is good” must first of all be a man who loves God, for God is good. He must be a man who desires to turn everything over to God and walk consistently day by day in His will (Rom. 12:1-2).

I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

2. A Knowledge of God’s Word.

The man of God who learns to “love what is good” must love God’s word and seek to know His will through its inspired teachings (2Tim. 3:14-17).

(**2Tim 3:14-17**) You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them; and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

(**2Tim 2:15**) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

3. Pray for Godly Wisdom.

The man of God will use prayer as the key that unlocks the Word of God and opens the eyes and heart to see God more clearly (Col. 1:9-10; Jas. 1:5).

(**Col 1:9-10**) For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

(**Jas 1:5**) But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

### III. THE MAN OF GOD IS... JUST.

- A. **The man of God is wise and discerning, making proper judgments** (Ti. 1:7-8).

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, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled,

- B. To be just in the sight of God is to be justified, to be in a saved relationship with God via JC. However, there is a practical side to be just that seems to be more in view here. To be just means one who can make mature judgments. The just man of God has a mature viewpoint on life and its many variables and circumstances. He is a man of wisdom and understanding (Prov. 1:1-7).

The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

To know wisdom and instruction, To discern the sayings of understanding,

To receive instruction in wise behavior, Righteousness, justice and equity;

To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion,

A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,

To understand a proverb and a figure, The words of the wise and their riddles.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- C. Developing into a wise and just man takes two things:

1. Spiritual maturity.

Daniel had four things going for him that made him spiritually mature.

- a. He had a great attitude (Dan. 6:3).
- b. He was faithful in his work (Dan. 6:4).
- c. He had great personal purity (Dan. 6:5).
- d. He had a consistent walk w/God (Dan. 6:10).

2. Psychological maturity.

Again, we come back to the concept of being balanced. Look again at the list of characteristics found in 1Tim. 3 and Titus 1. Many are psychological in nature showing that spiritual maturity is partially developed in having a psychological maturity.

- D. Just men, are men who are spiritually and psychologically mature, which enables them to make good, sound, scriptural judgments about life and people.

#### IV. SOME PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- A. To become a man who is *not under reproach*:

1. Ask yourself these questions:

- a. Do I do all things without grumbling or disputing?
- b. Am I cautious about my speech?
- c. Is my social/entertainment life a good testimony before non-Xians?
- d. How do I react when falsely accused?

2. Lay specific goals that will help you in each of these areas.

- B. To become a man who *loves what is good*:

1. Learn to make the most of every opportunity to do good.
2. How do I talk about other people--building them up or tearing them down?
3. Do I have a good conscience about my behavior?

- C. To become a man who *is just*:

1. Do you take failure well, and learn from it?
2. Are you open to suggestions, correction, and guidance?
3. Are you able to see things from others' point of view?

#### CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Three very important things for the man of God to be:

1. Not under reproach.
2. Loves what is good.
3. Just.

- B. Next (last) lesson: devout, not a new convert, and (seven good resolutions).

- C. To become a man of God, one must obey X.

- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.