A Picture of the Maturing Man of Christ

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I. Introduction
II. Key Thought – 1, 2 Timothy and Titus give a picture of the attributes and character traits of the man of Christ at several stages of maturity.

III. Youth
   a. Titus 2:6 – Exhort the young men to be sober-minded
      i. Sensible; self-controlled
   b. 1 Peter 5:5 – Submit to your elders
   c. 1 Jn. 2:13-14 – overcome the wicked one, strong, the word of God abides in you
      i. Victory over temptation – Unlike Cain – Gen. 4:4
      ii. Relationship w/ God – You have known Him who is from the beginning
   d. 2 Tim. 2:22 – Flee youthful lusts, pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart
   e. 1 Tim. 4:12 – Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

IV. Servant/Deacon – 1 Tim. 3:8-13
   a. The word deacon simply means servant or minister.
      i. The NT describes a specific office within the church called deacon
      ii. Those who fill this office must possess these qualifications
   b. However, most of these qualifications are things that all Christian men should possess or be working toward
      i. To the extent that we as Christian men possess and cultivate them, we will grow more and more effective as a servant of the Lord in every realm of life
      ii. For this reason, these characteristics present a picture of a Christian man at a level of maturity beyond that of the young man we looked at previously
      iii. And, if the Lord wills, we will be prepared to serve as deacons within a local congregation
   c. The characteristics
      i. Reverent
         1. Dignified, honorable
         2. Has more to say about the character and demeanor of the person
      ii. Mistakes others make
         1. Not double-tongued
            a. Saying one thing to one person and another thing to someone else
            b. Also refers to one who talks too much in a more general way
2. Not given to much wine
3. Not greedy for money

iii. Holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience
iv. Tested, and found blameless

v. Family life
   1. Husbands of one wife
   2. Ruling their children and houses well

V. Elder – 1 Tim. 3:1-7;
a. Titus 2:2 –
   i. These are instructions to older men generally,
   ii. not directed at those having the office of elder.
   iii. Yet notice how similar these expectations are to the qualifications of an elder.
   iv. Instructions
      1. Sober – same as young men
      2. Reverent – same as the servant of God
      3. Temperate
      4. Sound
         a. in faith
         b. in love
         c. in patience
   v. More qualifications are specified for those who serve as elders, but most of
      them fit into one of these categories expected of all older Christians
   vi. Titus lists the qualifications of elders in Titus 1:5-9

b. 1 Tim. 3:1-7 – Bishop’s qualifications
   i. Blameless
      1. Tit. 1:6,7
   ii. Husband of one wife
      1. Tit. 1:6
   iii. Temperate
   iv. Sober-minded
      1. Tit. 1:8
   v. Of good behavior
   vi. Hospitable
      1. Tit. 1:8
   vii. Able to teach
      1. Titus 1:9 – holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he
         may by sound doctrine to both exhort and convict those who contradict
   viii. Mistakes others make
      1. Not given to wine
         a. Tit. 1:7
      2. Not violent
         a. Tit. 1:7
3. Not greedy for money
   a. Tit. 1:7

ix. Gentle
   1. Tit. 1:7 – not quick-tempered
   2. Tit. 1:8 – self-controlled
   3. Not quarrelsome

x. Not covetous

xi. Family life
   1. Already stated - Husband of one wife -
      a. Tit. 1:6
      b.
   2. Rules his own house well
   3. Submissive and reverent children
      a. Tit. 1:6 – faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination

xii. Not a novice

xiii. Having a good testimony with outsiders

c. Titus 1:5-9
   i. A steward of God
   ii. Not self-willed
   iii. A lover of what is good
   iv. Just
   v. Holy

VI. Conclusion
   a. Where do qualified elders and deacons come from?
      i. From men of Christ developing the character and qualities of servants and shepherd throughout their lives
      ii. We are blessed to have qualified men to serve in these roles in our congregation
      iii. Their work here is a testimony to years of walking with the Lord and imitating Him, with the result that they possess the qualities that fit them for this service
      iv. Each Christian man should assess where he is in the process of developing full maturity in Christ and deliberately make progress
      v. In doing so, he will be drawing closer to God, become a more effective servant in His kingdom, and being a source of blessing to his family, his congregation, and his world.

b. We need men like this
   i. Young men starting on their walk with Jesus who are fully committed to developing the character of Christ
   ii. Christians in the prime years of manhood whose top priority is their Savior and serving Him and His kingdom
   iii. The aged and mature in faith and spirit, with wisdom and experience as the crown of a diligent and faithful lifetime of service to the King of Kings
iv. Where are you on this path, man of God?

c. INVITATION