

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