

Don't Be That Guy...
(Character Traits Leaders Should Not Possess)
1 Timothy 3:3 / Titus 1:7
January 16, 2022
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Although God may not call you to a position of leadership in His church, every Christian should be striving to root out negative character traits.

Strong Christians should not be known for being...

I. Incautious about inebriants. (3:3a/1:7d)

Gr: paroinos <3943> (par'-oy-nos) (2x)

Lexicon: (not) given to wine, a drunkard (lit. one who stays near wine)

Then the LORD said to Aaron, "You and your sons are not to drink wine or other fermented drink whenever you go into the tent of meeting, or you will die. This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come, so that you can distinguish between the holy and the common, between the unclean and the clean, and so you can teach the Israelites all the decrees the LORD has given them through Moses." (Leviticus 10:8-11)

Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise. (Proverbs 20:1)

Who has woe? Who has sorrow?

Who has strife? Who has complaints?

Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes?

Those who linger over wine,
who go to sample bowls of mixed wine.

Do not gaze at wine when it is red,
when it sparkles in the cup,
when it goes down smoothly!

In the end it bites like a snake
and poisons like a viper.

Your eyes will see strange sights,
and your mind will imagine confusing things.

You will be like one sleeping on the high seas,
lying on top of the rigging.

"They hit me," you will say, "but I'm not hurt!
They beat me, but I don't feel it!

When will I wake up so I can find another drink?" (Proverbs 23:29-35)

Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine and champions at mixing drinks. (Isaiah 5:22)

But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who calls himself a Christian who is sexually immoral, or greedy, or an idolater, or verbally abusive, or a drunkard, or a swindler. Do not even eat with such a person. (1 Corinthians 5:11)

neither...nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 6:10)

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)

Therefore, let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. Therefore, do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall.

So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who does not condemn himself by what he approves. But whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin. (Romans 14:13-23)

Not: given to drunkenness (NIV), addicted to wine (NAS original), overindulging in wine (NAS), a drunkard (NET), **enjoying getting inebriated** (GH)

Stated Positively: sober (see 3:2), **clear-headed**

II. Prone to violence but gentle (3:3b/1:7e)

Gr: plektes <4131> (plake'-tace) (2x)

- Lexicon: 1) bruiser, ready for a blow
2) a pugnacious, contentious, quarrelsome person

Not violent (NIV, NET), pugnacious (NASB), a striker (KJV)

Positively: **Gentle**

Gr: epieikes <1933> (ep-ee-i-kace') (5x)

- Lexicon: equitable, fair, mild, gentle

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. (Philippians 4:5)

Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth... (2 Timothy 2:25)

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matthew 11:29)

III. Prone to disputes and quarrels (3:3c)

Gr: amachos <269> (am'-akh-os) (2x)

Lexicon: not contentious, abstaining from fighting

Remind the people to be ...not to be contentious, *to be* gentle, showing every consideration for all people. (Titus 3:2b)

Not quarrelsome (NIV), a brawler (KJV), **contentious** (NET, NASB)

Stated Positively: **peace makers**

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. (Matthew 5:9)

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, gentle, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness. (James 3:17-18)

IV. Full of himself. (1:7b)

Gr: authades <829> (ow-thad'-ace) 2x

Lexicon: self-pleasing, self-willed, arrogant

Self-willed (NAS, KJV), overbearing (NIV), **arrogant** (NET, ESV, NLT)

Stated Positively: **a humble servant**

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. (Romans 12:3)

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. (1 Corinthians 3:5)

All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because,

“God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble.”

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. (1 Peter 5:5b-6)

Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. (1 Peter 3:8)

A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. (Luke 22:24-26)

For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted. (Matthew 23:12)

V. **Quick to become angry. (1:7c)**

Gr: orgilos <3711> (org-ee'-los) (1x)
Lexicon: prone to anger, irascible

Irascible:

1. Prone to outbursts of temper; easily angered.
2. Characterized by or resulting from anger.
3. Prone to anger; easily provoked or inflamed

But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. (Colossians 3:8 see also Ephesians 4:31)

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. (Ephesians 4:26-27 NIV)

Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on the cause of your anger. (Ephesians 4:26 NET)

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. (James 1:19-20)

Not: quick-tempered (NIV, NLT), hot-tempered, short-tempered, a bully (combative) (NAS)

Stated Positively: long-suffering (long-tempered), **taking a long time to become angry...**

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience (long-suffering). Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Colossians 3:12-14)

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh (sinful nature); rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. (Galatians 5:13-26)

VI. Money grubbing (1:7e/3:3d)

Gr: aischrokerdes <146> (ahee-skhrok-er-dace') (2x)

Lexicon: eager for base (sordid) gain, greedy for money

In 1 Timothy 3 this word is a requirement for deacons but for the overseer, Paul uses a different word with a similar meaning:

Gr: aphilarguros <866> (af-il-ar'-goo-ros) (2x)

Lexicon: not loving money, not avaricious

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. (Ecclesiastes 5:10)

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. (Matthew 6:19-21, 24)

Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (1 Timothy 6:9-10)

Not: not greedy for gain (or money) (NET); **not pursuing dishonest gain** (NIV), not given to filthy lucre (KJV)

Not: **a lover of money** (most), covetous (KJV)

Stated Positively: **a wise steward** of God’s resources

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever.”

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:6-15)