

Be a Man of God (A Father's Day Message)

1 Timothy 6:11-14 (NASB)

¹¹ But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, ¹⁴ that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

On Mother's Day this year we shared a message entitled; "*Rest for the Stressed*"... I said on that day that we were not going to consider a "typical" Mother's Day sermon... We did not focus on the character or responsibilities of the mother and the demanding role that she plays in the family... The reason – too many moms leave church on Mother's Day feeling even more stress and guilt than she did before she came... Rather, my goal then was is to address what every mom – in fact what every dad, child, grandparent and single person experiences most every day – and that is *stress*... And so we focused on the good news that there is *Rest for the Stressed*... Our main passage that day was [Isaiah 40:27-31](#)...

You may be wondering – is he going to preach the same message here on Father's Day... The answer is – no... However, if your life is characterized as stressed, may I encourage you to go online and listen to that message...

The goal then was to provide some great encouraging biblical truths for finding rest for those who are stressed... Today, is a different story...

Though we are most always in need of encouragement – sometimes what some of us need is an old-fashion kick in the pants... Please don't checkout and dismiss this appeal... The goal of this message is to offer a strong appeal for you and me to step up to our call and responsivity that God gives to every Christian – but especially to men of God.

We are living in a time and culture that is pushing for blurring of any distinctions between the binary definition of genders... The post-modern philosophy that is dominating our culture today argues that there is no need to distinguish between men and woman and for that matter to distinguish anyone male, or female as a person "of God" are fighting words as far as the secular

worldview is concerned... Biblical Christianity is evermore being attacked by the secular culture... So what should Christians do?... First and foremost – we get our definition, purpose and marching orders from Scripture – not the world...

Vince Miller – a contributor to DesiringGod.org – “Masculinity finds its definition in God alone — not the world, not culture, not the workplace. Ultimately and completely, masculinity is defined by the God who makes men.”

Today’s message is a call for the men of this church to be Men of God!... So what is it that you are being called to? Just what does it mean to be a Man of God?

1. A Man of God is a Man who is Fully Converted – “...man of God...”

He is a “saved man”!

This term – “man of God”, is a very common phrase in the O.T. – It is used first to refer to Moses (Deut. 33:1). It was also used to refer to Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, David, and a few other lesser known prophets and special messengers of God...

However, this phrase – “man of God” is rather uncommon in the New Testament... Timothy is the only person in the N.T. who is called “man of God” – and that is right here in our text...

There are two other times the phrase – “man of God” appears in the N.T. In 2 Peter 1:21 it is used to refer back to the O.T. men of God who were inspired by the Holy Spirit to give us Scripture...

2 Peter 1:21 (NKJV) “for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

In that text – we need to understand the phrase as a technical term for the authors of Scripture who were the spokesmen of God ... the holy men of God.

The one other time we find this phrase in the N.T. is 2 Tim. 3. And here – the phrase is used in its most generic sense... Here, it does not refer to a specific person, but rather to all of those who are caught, taught, stripped and equipped by the Word of God. Look at it we me:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Listen men – God is calling us to be “men of God”... Men who are being ever transformed by His Word and being conformed to His Son... The Apostle Paul is saying here that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God for the purpose of equipping, and maturing men of God...

So – what does a Man of God look like?... Well the short answer is – he looks somewhat like Jesus!... Isn't that what God is doing in the lives of His followers?

Romans 8:28-29 declares that truth:

Rom. 8:28-29 (NASB)

²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become conformed to the image of His Son*, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

We all love the promises found in verse 28, but in order to understand anything of the “good” in verse 28, we need to understand the “purpose” – stated at the end of the verse and explained in verse 29... God's purposed good – is to make you and me more like Jesus... I don't know any thinking-Christian who would deny that.

I'm going to jump ahead for just a moment – but think about what is involved for a Christian to become like Christ... What is necessary for that to happen?... Though there are a lot of godly disciplines to develop – there is none more important than simply spending time with the Lord.

Acts 4:13 (NASB) “Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and *began* to recognize them as having been with Jesus.”

John MacArthur gives 11 Biblical Tests of Genuine Salvation. That are 11 diagnostic questions we need to ask and answer ourselves:

1. Do you enjoy Fellowship with God and Christ?
2. Are you Sensitive to Sin in your Life?
3. Do you Obey the Scriptures?
4. Do you Reject this Evil World?
5. Do you Love Christ and eagerly await His Return?
6. Do you see a Decreasing Pattern of Sin in your Life?
7. Do you Love other Christians?
8. Do you Receive Answers to your Prayers?
9. Do you Experience the Ministry of the Holy Spirit?
10. Can you Discern between Spiritual Truth and Error?
11. Have you Suffered on Account of your Faith in Christ?

Are you a man of God?

2. The Man of God is a Man who Flees Contradictions – “... flee these things...”

Notice that the man of God will “...flee...” certain things... Those things that are contrary to Christlikeness...

What is it that Paul mentions that require such attention?

1 Tim. 6:9-10 (NASB)

⁹ But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

In verse 9-10 Paul warns Timothy about the dangers of an excessive attachment to material wealth and riches. He does not say that wealth is inherently evil – but he does say that to “love” riches opens us up to great

danger and even destruction!

But :11 says; “**But flee from these things, you man of God**”... That is a present tense command. It is a present imperative that emphasizes the ongoing, continual obedience to the command... “keep on continually fleeing”...

The word translated “flee” is from the same root word that we get “fugitive”... It pictures one who is running to escape a pursuer. It pictures one running from an angry dog – running from a poisonous snake... The man of God is a runner. The man of God does not play with such snakes – he is a runner...

1 Cor. 6:18 (NASB) “Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.”

1 Cor. 10:14 (NASB) “Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.”

2 Timothy 2:22 (NASB) “Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love *and* peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”

The man of God is always alert and avoid – and running FROM all kinds of corrupting things...

A man of God flees from sexual sin. He flees from having other gods in his heart. He flees from youthful lust. And here in this text he flees from the love of money.

3. The Man of God is a Man who Follows His Convictions –
“you man of God ... pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness.”

The man of God is simultaneously running *from* somethings and running *to* somethings... There is something behind him he that he must avoid – and there is something ahead of him that he must achieve...

Again – this it is a present imperative... There is a continual pursuit... In fact the primary focus and pursuit of the Christian is not so much on the negative things from which we flee – but the positive things for which we follow... We are not just running from what's wrong – we are running toward what is right.

We are also aware that for as long as we are in these bodies – living in this

fallen world – we can never stop running... Because if we stop running from what is evil – it will catch us. And if we stop pursuing that which is righteous – it will elude us. In this life – we will never be at the point where we have completely outdistanced what is wrong – nor will we ever be at the point where we will have completely captured what is right... So our whole life is in a pursuit of what is right and a fleeing from what is wrong.

Pro. 15:9b (NASB) “... (The Lord) loves one who pursues righteousness.”

A question we all need to ask ourselves – and constantly answer is – “What am I pursuing? What am I living for?”... The man of God is marked as one who pursues “righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness”...

Let’s take a quick look at these:

The first (**righteousness**) speaks to external behavior. The righteousness Paul has in mind here is not the *imputed righteousness* – that declared righteousness that you receive positionally in Christ in salvation... Here righteousness is speaking of a practical righteousness... Simply – the man of God has a conviction to DO that which is right... It basically means to do right. Do that which is right before people. Do that which is right before God – do right to people, do right to God...

The next word – **godliness** - addresses the internal attitude and motive... **Righteousness** has to do with behavior – **godliness** has to do with the attitude and the motive... This word reflects a worshiping heart... This is a person who not only does right but thinks right – who not only behaves properly but is properly motivated. His motivation is to please God...

Godliness, can be simply understood as “*Godlikeness*”. According to **1 Cor. 4:1-5**, there will be a day when God will reveal the secret things of the heart. He will expose the motives of the heart and reward those who have a heart toward godliness...

Brothers and Sisters – Watch your heart. Watch your motives. Watch your desires. Watch your conduct. Watch your behavior. Don't be an unsanctified Christian.

John Flavel, the Puritan writer, said – “It is easier to cry against a

thousand sins in others than to mortify one sin in ourselves.”

Is that not so? So let’s all be careful to not only speak against the thousand sins in the lives of others – but we must also deal with any sin within ourselves!

Notice further – the dominant internal virtues of **faith** and **love**...

Faith – is simply a confident trust in God for everything... It speaks to our loyalty to the Lord and unwavering confidence in God.

Our **faith** is coupled in this passage with **love**... The term translated “love” here is volitional love – which means this love – is a choice... It is a love to God, to people – believers and non-believers... It is a reflection of God’s love in us...

The last two words in this list of qualities are more external...

Perseverance – or “endurance” as depicted in some translations – is a word that literally means to “remain under”... Listen this word is *not* passive... it calls for a loyalty to the Lord in the middle of trials... That’s what it means – enduring trials – even severe troubles and difficulty – and never wavering or compromising – but always trusting, always believing whatever the circumstance...

The last term in this list of convictions of a Man of God is – **gentleness**. It too is a unique term stressing a gentleness expressed in humility. It is selfless and self-controlled...

4. The Man of God is a Man who Fights Courageously –

“Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

Look at the first word in verse 12... **“Fight”**... There comes a time in a Man of God’s life that he is called upon to fight... In fact – in a sense that “time” is “all the time”... The presence of the definite article **“the”** – seems to refer to the truths revealed by God – the doctrines of the faith and not just belief in God.

A Man of God is one who contends “for the faith” – as in the words of **Jude :3**

“contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints”

To quote Pastor Phil – we need to remember that we are on a battleship – not a cruise ship...

We battle the world. We battle the flesh. We battle the devil. We battle sin. We battle heresy. We battle error. We battle apathy and lethargy in our own lives and in our church... And so it is a severe and never ending battle.

And, again the word “fight” is a present imperative... Keep on continually fighting, be always battling.

Warren Wiersbe – “keep on fighting!’ It is a word from which we get our English word agonize, and it applies both to athletes and to soldiers. It describes a person straining and giving his best to win the prize or win the battle.”

Here’s a first – I’m going to quote someone who quotes someone who quotes someone – it’s too good not to share:

Gregory Brown quoted **Steve Cole** who describes many of the great men of God and their battles throughout history, when he quoted **J. Gresham Machen** –

“Tertullian fought Marcion; Athanasius fought the Arians; Augustine fought Pelagius; and Luther and Calvin fought the popes. He [J. Gresham Machen] concludes rightly, “It is impossible to be a true soldier of Jesus Christ and not fight” (cited in Fundamentalist Journal [3/83], p. 34). To persevere, we must flee worldliness; pursue godliness; and, fight the good fight of the faith.” (Article 19. Characteristics of the Man (or Woman) of God (1 Timothy 6:11-16), Bible.org)

This is not only true on the macro-level as we consider the fundamental doctrines of the faith but it is also true on any micro-level involving deception of Satan... When counseling or ministering to others, you must identify the lies that a person believes and insert the truth of God’s Word –

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NASB)

⁴ for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵ We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ

When the Apostle Paul was nearing the end of his life and ministry – he said in –

2 Tim. 4:7 (NASB) “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.”

The next phrase in :12 is “take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

What does he mean by that? In short it is “get a grip on eternal life”...

Colossians 3:2 (NASB) “Set your mind on things above, not on the things that are on earth.”

Phil. 3:20a (NASB) “For our citizenship is in heaven...”

Live your life with eternity in mind... The man of God fights for things that are eternal – the truth of God.

Notice that Paul says that Timothy has “... made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses”.

The man who has had an experience with God will want to let others know about what God has done for him – and equally important is this – Others will see the fruit of that man’s experience with God!...

John MacArthur writes – “...if a person is genuinely saved, his life will change for the better (2 Corinthians 5:17). He is saved ‘for good works’ (Ephesians 2:10), and there is no way he can fail to bring forth at least some of the fruit that characterizes the redeemed (cf. Matthew 7:17). His desires are transformed; he begins to hate sin and love righteousness. He will not be sinless, but the pattern of his life will be decreasing sin and increasing righteousness.”

5. The Man of God is a Man who is Faithfully Consistent –

Paul exercised his God-given authority and “charged” Timothy – actually “commanded” him... This is something he has done several times in this letter...

“¹³I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate,

The main thrust here comes in verse 14, ¹⁴ that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ

What does “the commandment” mean?... Some people say, “Well, it's the gospel”. Others say it's the teaching in this epistle. Others say it's the whole of the new covenant... Folks, simply it is the complete revealed Word of God, the commandment, this is the truth of God summed up in a singular word. It could be translated the Word, the revealed truth.

Paul says to Timothy – “keep it” What does that mean? Guard it. Guard it with your life... Guard the commandment from God, guard the truth, guard the sound doctrine, keep that which was committed to you.

The man of God is faithful to the truth no matter the cost ... no matter what the price.

Questions to Consider in CG:

- What are the qualities / characteristics of a man (or woman) of God are found in 1 Tim. 6:11-14?
- Why is it so important for the man or woman of God to flee sin? Are there any specific compromises that you are especially vulnerable to?
- If you had to pick one of the six character traits (in verse 11) to focus on in your spiritual life, which would you choose and why? (righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, gentleness)
- What is Paul referring to when he says, “Fight the good fight of faith”?
- What “truths revealed by God” do you believe to be most under attack

today? How do we counter that attack?

- What does it mean in verse 14 to “keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ”? Why focus on “the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ”?