

ON BEING MEN OF GOD

Discussions with Tom Taylor at Camp Iroquoia Men's Retreat, March 12-13, 2004

I. General Introduction

The term "men of God" is used in a technical sense to describe those who are committed to the ideals and services of the Lord. Every born again man is a man of God in the sense that he belongs to God, is adopted into the family of God, and is recognized as a child of God. Our terminology, however, goes back to the reality that some in Scripture are addressed as a person of God in a particular way (1 Timothy 6:11) and our contention in these studies is that we should desire to be known in this way and have an apparent relationship with the Lord that will honor Him and extend His witness.

II. Some Standards for the Men of God.

Our general premise is this: While we are not all given the same gifts, personalities, abilities, etc., we are given the same general charge to be witnesses and servants of the Lord. The standards for this posturing are not called out in a directed listing under that title but they are given as guidelines in the description of those who will serve the Lord in particular "offices" in the New Testament. What is required for the "leaders" is obviously the standard to which each of us should aim to attain. That many do not measure up to the standard is not the problem: the problem is that many do not know what the standard is and consequently have no guidance or measuring tool for growth. We will look at the standards in a broad fashion and try to see them in the practicality of the life the Lord has given us. We find the standards given in Titus 1 and in 1 Timothy 3 in the most concise fashion.

A. Particular Standards for the Men of God in Titus 1.

1. A good reputation.....vs. 6-7

Five items are listed under this category

2. A biblically ordered family.....vs. 6-7

Two items are specified

3. A caring personality.....v. 8

Six items are appended

4. A student of truth.....v. 9

Two items are given stress

- B. The general concept may be compared with 1 Timothy 3:2-7. The items are not so specifically designated by the general issues are covered. The terms should probably not be treated in an "absolutist" fashion and I will try to discuss or explain this as we go,.
- C. But these are standards for the "men of God" and it would be a good idea to make a personal listing of them and have it handy to challenge us in performance. Remember that salvation is a gift of grace and we are not talking about how one becomes a child of God but about how one should live as a man of God. The need of growth and commitment is a major factor. In the words of many a parent..."What do you want to be when you grow up?"

III. Men of God in Performance

This is a general thing about how "men of God" order things day by day. There is an enormous amount of Scripture on this subject and I have chosen 2 Timothy 2 as the basic text for this part of our study. It is really the beginning of the study and not the ending but is about as far as we can go today. Our subject is the performance of the "men of God" and it proceeds thus:

- A. They will commit themselves to a life that is spiritually productive
2 Timothy 2:1-7
 - they will be strong, v. 1
 - sharing, v. 2
 - laboring, vs. 3-4
 - serving lawfully, v. 5
 - enjoying blessing, v. 6
- B. They will stand committed to the Gospel, trusting the Lord and teaching others. 2 Timothy 2:8-14
- C. They will grow in the knowledge of Truth
2 Timothy 2:15-21

- studying the Word, v. 15
- avoiding contrary (!) matters, v. 16
- honoring the call of God, vs. 19-20

D. They will give to helping others in spiritual growth and conduct
2 Timothy 2:22-26

These essentially spiritual matters establish a fundamental performance that will reach into many areas of life with powerful effects thereat.

IV. Men of God in the Ecclesiastical Relationship

The item under discussion is the role of the “men of God” in their respective fellowships. How they relate to the total company of believers is the point. I guess it would be easier to say....what is their role in the church or assembly of their fellowship?

A. They are the designated leaders in the governance of the fellowship.

--Titus 1

--1 Timothy 3

--1 Peter 5

B. They are not the only teachers (the sisters have a very important teaching role as well) but they are the instructors responsible for preparing the next generation cycle of leadership.

--Titus 2

--2 Timothy 2:1 ff

C. They are responsible for sensitivity in worship and ministry⁸

--1 Corinthians 14:26

--1 Timothy 2:8 ff

D. More items may be added but these teach the importance of one's

--presence

--growth (personal)

--participation

It almost goes without saying that, in the process of life, there are many Christian men who should consider carefully how to be "men of God."

V. Conclusion

Go Home and.....