

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