

Message #36

I Timothy 6:11-12

Leadership is responsible to care for God's flock. It is responsible to see to it that the flock is taught. It is responsible to look into the spiritual and physical needs of the church of God. Leadership is a heavy load to carry. But there is one other area that leaders must always keep in constant check, and that is the area of one's own life.

Regardless of what other people are or are not doing, God expects a leader to continually take care of his own spiritual life.

REGARDLESS OF WHAT OTHERS DO, THE MAN OF GOD HAS BEEN COMMANDED BY GOD TO CONTINUALLY MAINTAIN GOD-HONORING MOVEMENT IN HIS OWN LIFE.

Many may move into false doctrine. Many may move toward an area of conceit and proud rebellion. Many may move toward loving money more than God.

Now the words "man of God" are only used here in the New Testament. The words "man of God" are words rooted in the O.T. and when Paul used them in regard to Timothy, he wanted him to realize that by this classification, he was in some weighty company.

The words "man of God" were used in reference to Moses (Deut. 33:1); to the angel of the Lord (Judges 13:6, 8); to O.T. prophets (I Sam. 2:27); to Samuel (I Sam. 9:6); to Elijah (I Kings 17:18, 24); to Elisha (II Kings 4:7ff); and to David (Neh. 12:24-36). The Apostle Peter, in reference to the men who wrote the Scriptures, referred to them as "men of God" (II Pet. 1:21). In every instance, these words refer to one who has been singled out by God as a leader and who represents God by proclaiming His Word.

A man of God, by Biblical definition, is not every man who is saved; it is one who is saved and one known for standing up for and giving out the true Word of God. This is a man of God. Just because a Christian is masculine in gender, does not mean he is a "man of God" by Biblical definition.

What a wonderful heritage one is connected to if, by Biblical definition, one can be classified as a "man of God." A man of God will be one who is saved and defends God's Word in any given situation. Timothy was a "man of God" for the church of Ephesus.

In the original text, the "But you man of God" is very emphatic. In direct contrast to how some (v. 10) are living their lives, you, O man of God, you in the direction of godliness.

Now in these two verses, there are four commands of movement that Paul gives Timothy. Here is what it Biblically means to act like a man of God. All of these commands in the original are imperatives. These are not nice little suggestions of movement for the "man of God"; these are commands.

COMMAND #1 – The man of God must flee certain things. **6:11a**

The verb “flee” means to flee something or take flight (G. Abbott-Smith, p. 468). The present tense indicates that this is to be a continual fleeing.

Area of Flight #1 - The man of God must flee sexual immorality. I Cor. 6:18

Nothing can do as much damage to a “man of God” any quicker than sexual immorality.

Area of Flight #2 - The man of God must flee idolatry. I Cor. 10:14

Idolatry is the continual habit of putting something as a priority over God.

Area of Flight #3 - The man of God must flee youthful lust. II Tim. 2:22

Fleshly lusts can topple a man. Any man who ends up in sin did so because he didn’t flee some youthful lust.

Area of Flight #4 - The man of God must flee a love of money. I Tim. 6:10

This, quite frankly, is the context of this command. No leader can ever be in ministry just for the money.

COMMAND #2 – The man of God must pursue certain things. **6:11b**

Spirituality doesn’t just run from things, but it also pursues certain things. The verb “pursue” is one that refers to following after something with great speed (Smith, p. 119). The present tense indicates this is a continual pursuit, a continual chase. To state the point clearly, the man of God has been commanded by God to chase after certain qualities continually with great intensity and speed. These are qualities that should be cultivated in one’s life as fast as possible.

Quality #1 - The man of God must pursue righteousness. **6:11b**

The word “righteousness” is one that means the man of God must follow after with great speed, righteousness that conforms to the Word of God (Smith, p. 116). One who pursues righteousness is one loved by God (Prov. 15:9). The man of God must always be concerned with squaring his own life with God’s Word.

Quality #2 - The man of God must pursue godliness. **6:11c**

This is a unique Greek word that refers to a reverence and piety toward God (*Ibid.*, p. 189). This word is used some ten times in the Pastoral Epistles. A man of God must be one who has deep reverence and piety for God. He should pursue this with great speed.

Quality #3 - The man of God must pursue faith. **6:11d**

The idea here is that the man of God must pursue a complete belief, trust, and confidence in God and His Word. He must demonstrate an unbending and unwavering confidence in God. Men of God believe God. They believe the Bible.

Quality #4 - The man of God must pursue love. **6:11e**

The type of love the man of God must pursue is not the worldly emotional or sensational love, but a love that chooses to love in conformity with God's Word (*Ibid.*, p. 3).

Quality #5 - The man of God must pursue perseverance. **6:11f**

What this means is the man of God will continue to patiently endure and wait on God no matter what is happening. The man of God will wait on the Lord and remain faithful to God with a "won't quit" determination (*Ibid.*, p. 462).

Men of God don't quit; they persevere. They stick to the Word and stay focused on God's will no matter what surrounds them.

Quality #6 - The man of God must pursue gentleness. **6:11g**

The man of God will pursue a meek and gentle spirit. The world is hard and most people are harsh. The man of God will try to demonstrate a kind and gentle spirit, even in the face of satanic opposition (II Tim. 2:24-26).

COMMAND #3 – The man of God must fight a good fight. **6:12a**

The verb "fight" is present, middle imperative. What all of this means is that the man of God has been commanded by God to continually fight a good fight, in and of himself. In other words, the man of God is responsible himself for fighting a good fight.

Now the word "fight," which is used two times here, is one that refers to a fight or striving or contention with a prize in view (*Ibid.*, p. 8). In other words, God wants His men to fight to win. He wants them focused on the prize, which will be a reward someday in heaven.

Now what we all need to see here is that the Christian life, which God will classify as good, is a fight! It is a battle! It is a war!

Frankly, the Word of God demands men of God to be good soldiers (II Tim. 2:3). Just before Paul was executed, he was able to say of his own life and ministry, "I have fought the good fight" (II Tim. 4:7).

COMMAND #4 – The man of God must take hold of eternal life. **6:12b**

The idea here is not that Timothy needs to be saved again. In fact, the relative clause makes it clear that Timothy was called by God and made a good confession in the sight of many witnesses.

Paul is saying that it is the responsibility of the man of God to grip tightly to a focus on things that really matter for eternity. The man of God must grab hold of eternal things.

These are not suggestions; these are all commands! God demands that His men move their lives this way. Those who purpose to obey will be blessed in many ways; those who don't will lose when they get before Jesus Christ. By Biblical classification, are we a "man of God?"