

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 7 – The Attributes of a Leader

Lesson 26 - Attributes of a Leader Part 2

1 Timothy 3:2-7 KJV *A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;*

3Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

4One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

5(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

6Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

7Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

Attribute 3: Be sober.

1 Thessalonians 5:6 KJV *Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*

How else can we define sober?

[The definition of sober means to be moderate as to opinion or passion.](#)

We are to be vigilant and watching and looking, but also to be sober. He's not talking about alcohol here, he's not talking about physical sobriety in relation to drugs or alcohol.

A leader must not be given to extremes. We find that those that are given to extremes, whether young or old, are actually exercising spiritual immaturity. Most church splits come over some group taking a doctrine or taking a truth and running to an extreme with it. They think that one truth, one doctrine, or one thing is so important that they have to push away everything else, that they have to split the church; they go into an extreme. Every major realm of abuse in the body of Christ is because someone takes a truth or principle and runs it to an extreme. The Bible says a leader must not be given to extremes; extremes of doctrine; extremes of emotion; extremes of any area.

When we go to extremes it opens the door for the enemy. Don't be given to extremes, be vigilant, looking on all sides for the enemy. Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary the devil walks around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8) The devil attacks you when you're too high, or if you're too low. A lot of you get hit when you get down real low, and the enemy comes in and leads you into temptation. Sometime when people get too high they get giddy, they get stupid, they get sloppy, and they let their guard down.

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The devil looks for those that are at the extremes to pick them off. It's just like in the natural; all truth is parallel. When a lion is hunting he doesn't attack the animals in the middle of the pack. He goes to the extremities; he goes to those that are outside of the core. They are the vulnerable ones that he gets to pick off. That's exactly what the devil does to us when we allow ourselves to get too high and when we allow ourselves to get too low.

It's not just extremes of emotion; he's saying don't live your life in extremes in any area. Today we have many Christian young people and Christians in public positions pushing the extremes of society believing they are free in Jesus to do these things. But the Bible says to be sober. And if you're not being sober, you're disqualified as a leader. Be modest, I'm not saying you have to dress like a monk, cause that's also another extreme. Don't go to the extremes of being totally worldly, and don't go to the extreme of being completely exclusive. Understand that's where the devil picks people off. Don't go into extremes. Be modest in everything.

Attribute 4: Be of good behavior.

Do you know how many restaurants I go into that the waiters and waitresses hate the Christians that come in there? They hate when Christians show up because they come in with such attitudes, barking orders, and complaining about everything. They claim that because they are a child of God they deserve to be treated a certain way. What they deserve is to grow up. The Bible says to be of good behavior.

At so many conferences the convention centers and hotels hate the Christians that come in, and a lot of times they're from the Pentecostal Charismatic circles. People barge in, and make the bellmen carry all their bags, and then they tip them fifty cents if they tip them anything. They go in the restaurants and leave a track instead of a tip. They're not acting in good behavior sitting, there always demanding this and demanding that; complaining about this, complaining about that. Some hotels refuse to have Christian groups anymore because of the way they act. What an unholy, ungodly, ridiculous, testimony that we are! God says to be of good behavior.

Psalms 101:2 *I will behave wisely in a perfect way.*

Oh, when will You come to me?

I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.

1 Corinthians 13:5 *does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil;*

How we are seen and viewed is vitally important. It's an incorrect statement for people to say we shouldn't judge them based on what they do or how they dress but only based on their heart. With all do respect, that's just dumb. If I stood up here and dressed like a satanist with a pentagram, and acted like a satanist, and start doing satanic prayers, you're right to judge me as a satanist. It's just ignorant to sit there and think people shouldn't judge you based on how you

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dress, or how you act. Yes we should, because out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks; out of the abundance of the heart you act. God says we should be acting in such a way that if people look at us they see kindness, gentleness, peacefulness, and see that we are Christians.

I know of a man who was in line and there was a major problem with the airport. Everyone was running late. He was getting ready to check in after waiting in a long long line and he was going to miss his plane. Then a lady came barging in screaming and yelling, demanding everyone move so she could get on the plane. Finally, she came up right against him. Everybody was getting mad at her, and she's ready to plow through. This man gave her his spot and went and stood in the back of the line; telling her she obviously needed to get on this plane more than he did. He went and stood in the back of the line. He wasn't going to catch the plane. The whole place went silent. The line that was ready to start a riot with this lady just went silent, because he acted of Christ-like, good behavior.

A leader needs to have good behavior, and that applies to every aspect of our lives. Your actions will always speak louder than your words.

Philippians 2:15 *that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,*

Titus 3:8 *This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.*

1 Peter 2:12 *having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

We need to live with such good behavior that they can't even bring up reproach against you because you're in such constant good behavior.

Attribute 5: Given to hospitality.

What does hospitality mean?

[Hospitality means to give generous reception to strangers.](#)

Before we ever bought our first home God told us to remember to show hospitality; remember to take care of people; remember to open your home; remember to embrace people. Demonstrate a

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life of hospitality and taking care of people to your children. God says the leader must be this way.

In our American culture and in our American ministry culture, when people get big enough in leadership they stop being hospitable; they stop opening their door to just anybody. They want to be private, desiring to protect their private time. They become exclusive. It's hard enough to talk to most pastors of a church of any decent size that it's often easier to get a hold of your government representative than it is the pastor of most average churches. We've lost the intimacy of the body of Christ. We've lost the intimacy of connecting. We've lost the intimacy of shepherding, and we've definitely lost the intimacy of discipleship.

Jesus was so intimate with the ones He disciplined that John even laid his head against His breast. They got that close to Him; that intimate with Him. The number one complaint I get from youth pastors is that their pastor never even talks to them; he doesn't pour into them; he never opens his life. If you're going to be a leader, you must be hospitable. You're going to have to learn to open your door, and embrace people and serve. And your serving does not stop as you get higher up the ladder. Your serving increases the higher up the ladder you go. Whoever's to be the greatest among you must be the servant of all. (Matthew 23:11)

Romans 12:13 *distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.*

Titus 1:8 *but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled*

1 Peter 4:9 *Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.*

Hebrews 13:2 *Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.*

Attribute 6: Apt to teach.

A leader must be apt to teach.

What does “apt to teach” mean?

The phrase “apt to teach” means a leader must have the ability and tendency to teach God's Word.

Exodus 4:12 *Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.*

Deuteronomy 4:14 *And the LORD commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that you might observe them in the land which you cross over to possess.*

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Job 27:11 *I will teach you about the hand of God;
What is with the Almighty I will not conceal.*

Psalms 34:11 *Come, you children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.*

Psalms 51:13 *Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
And sinners shall be converted to You.*

Matthew 28:19 KJV *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

Acts 5:42 *And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*

God wants us to teach the Word. A leader must be apt to teach. I'm always teaching, always looking for an opportunity to teach the Word, the principles of God, teach the heart of God.

It takes time to develop the habit of always teaching the principles of the Word of God. Teach the ungodly. Teach the transgressors His ways. Be a non stop teacher; one that opens the Word and teaches. Teach the Word; all things whatsoever God has commanded.

Hebrews 5:12 *For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.*

It's one thing to preach at people, it's another thing to teach them the ways of the Lord. I love a good preach, but when you're preaching you better preach a teaching. Teach them how in the name of Jesus under the power and authority of the Word to use the Word; how to war; how to wrestle the forces of the enemy; how to tear down strongholds; how to overcome temptations; and how to live a life of holy, Godly victory. You have to teach them the ways of God.

One of the reason we have preachers and people in the church falling left and right is because we've been preaching a bunch of inspirational, positive, feel good messages, but we haven't been teaching them the fear of God. We haven't been teaching them the holiness of God. We haven't been teaching them God is not only a God of love and mercy, but a God who we should tremble before His presence. He's not only a God of forgiveness, He's a God of judgment.

We must teach the Word. A truly biblically qualified leader is one that is apt to teach. If you're not teaching the Word, you're not a qualified leader. God, I pray You use these principles to raise up a generation of real spiritual leaders not just personalities.

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For Further Study:

Exodus 18:20 *And you shall teach them the statutes and the laws, and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do.*

Deuteronomy 5:21 *You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.*