

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 7 – The Attributes of a Leader

Lesson 27 - Attributes of a Leader Part 3

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 7: Not given to wine.

As much as I would really like to say that if you even have a sip of wine you're going to hell, I just can't say it and be biblically accurate. I can't say that, but I can say that there are some major reasons that we shouldn't be drinking today.

People say Jesus drank. We're not sure He did drink because the only thing we ever saw Him drinking was new wine; and there's a very good, valid argument that new wine was unfermented juice and was not alcoholic. Jesus turned the water into wine, but we don't see Him drinking it. We also see that the early church did not regularly drink, so much so that Paul had to tell Timothy to have a little wine for his stomach. The reason for that was because the water was so polluted that the alcohol in the wine would kill the bacteria in the water and keep him from getting sick. Paul was basically telling him to drink alcohol for medicinal purposes. The very fact that he had to tell him to have a little wine shows that he was in the habit of not having wine.

Science has proved that it takes a very small amount of alcohol to begin to affect you. Alcohol is an interesting thing, because the first thing alcohol does when it gets into your blood stream is it goes right to your brain. The first receptors it attacks is the receptors that give you the ability to say no. The first thing that alcohol shuts down is your inhibitions, your ability to resist temptation. This takes very little alcohol, and for most people it's equivalent to one to two liters of beer.

If a very small amount of alcohol causes your brain to be much less likely to be able to resist temptation, and we're living in a world that is flooded with temptation, why would you willfully give your body something that's going to make it harder for you to resist temptation? We've got enough devils and demons and temptations and flesh and carnality to deal with. Most of the major ministers that have fallen have all been drinkers; in fact usually it's the drinking that leads

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to the lowering of inhibitions that leads to the other what we call major sins. Alcohol lowers inhibition.

We don't live in a day medicinally where need alcohol and people are being knocked out left and right because of this. Maybe it would just be better to flee the very appearance of evil, maybe it would just be better to run from these things.

What are the gray zones Christians often talk about?

What we call grey zones, those things we're not so sure about because scriptures doesn't specifically forbid it, are often maturity issues or things that are not expedient for us to do.

There are four principles that are a great test in any area of your life where you're not sure whether its right or not. We can apply this to the subject of drinking alcohol, and if it fails the majority of these tests its something that you probably should not be doing no matter what it is.

Number one: the motive test. Ask yourself why do you want to do this. Why do you want to have this drink? Why do you want to go to that movie? Why do you want to go out to that club? Why do you want to wear this thing? Why do you want to get that piercing? What is the real motive, what's the real heart motive and does that line up with the heart of God? Does it line up with the principle that a Christian must deny himself, pick up his cross, and follow Jesus daily? Does it line up with the principle that says if any man sets his hand to the plow and looks back he's not counted worthy of the Kingdom? Does it line up with being crucified with Christ and us no longer living, and the life that we now live, we live by the faith of the Son of God? Does it line up with not our will, but His will be done? What is your real motive for doing those things? You have to be honest. Be willing to be honest before God and not just give yourself some justification.

If it fails the motive test, you shouldn't do it on that one alone. If anything you're doing fails the motive test you shouldn't do it.

Number two: profitability test. Is it profitable? There are some things you're going to do that are not what we would call profitable, but they're not sinful. They're not wrong and it's ok. But again these are multiple tests and if it fails most of these tests you shouldn't do it.

1 Corinthians 10:23 *All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.*

Is the activity you want to do profitable? Is it going to build up your spiritual life? Is it going to help other people's spiritual lives? Is there an eternal spiritual benefit to this activity? There are

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so many things we do that are not. Then what are you doing it for, why are we spending our time on that? Is the motive right and is it profitable?

Number three: Not a stumbling block to others. It might be something that is lawful for you, but it's a stumbling block for others.

Romans 14:13 *But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.*

You may be fine having a drink, but how will seeing you drink affect the one who just came out of a worldly lifestyle and is a baby Christian trying to figure out how to live a Christian life? Will it cause him to backslide or stumble? We have to look at how our lives are affecting somebody else. It might pass the first two tests, but it might cause a brother to stumble.

It isn't worth it to cause people to stumble. That's the context of when Paul said he became all things to all men. (1 Corinthians 9:19-23) He found out those things he was free to do which would cause them to be offended and to not receive the Word from him, and he chose to restrain himself from those things.

Is your action a stumbling block? Is it going to cause someone to fall? Then restrain yourself, act like a man or woman of God, and restrain yourself. Humble yourself for the sake of your brother, for the sake of their Christianity, and don't put a stumbling block before them. Does it pass the stumbling block test?

Number four: the appearance of evil test. Will it compromise your testimony?

Romans 14:16 *Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil;*

If it looks like it's bad, stay away and don't do it. Does what you're doing pass the motive test, the profitability test, the stumbling block test, and the appearance of evil test? If it doesn't pass those tests then don't be doing it. Avoid those things and stay away from them. That's not legalism; it's Christianity. It's called love, it's called preferring your brother above yourself. It's called choosing to flee the appearance of evil.

Attribute 8: Not a striker.

What does the word striker mean?

The word striker means one who is quarrelsome.

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Many Christians are disqualified right here. Some people love to argue, always quarreling or fighting about something. The Bible says they're disqualified from leadership. Leaders should not be given to quarreling and fighting.

Titus 3:9 *But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless.*

Some people just love to argue. No matter what you say they want to argue about it. A leader must not be one given to that.

2 Timothy 2:14 *Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers.*

Don't strive, don't be involved in quarreling; always arguing, always debating. People make a sport out of it today. That's not God's attitude. God's leaders are not to be quarrelsome.

2 Timothy 2:23 *But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.*

Avoid people with foolish and unlearned questions. Don't get into a big debate with them. There are people that will come up to you and just start challenging you. Avoid it; don't get into a debate.

1 Corinthians 1:10 *Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

Don't get caught up in all these ridiculous little petty arguments.

1 Peter 3:8 *Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous;*

Attribute 9: Not greedy for filthy lucre.

1 Peter 5:2 KJV *Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;*

What does the phrase “filthy lucre” mean?

The word filthy here means vile communication. Lucre speaks of substance. The phrase “filthy lucre” means the vile interaction with money.

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Money in and of itself is not filthy lucre. When you have an unholy desire for it, a vile interaction for it, when you're willing to do things that are not in the spirit of love and according to scriptures to get it, then it is filthy lucre. We see this in ministry, and we see this in the church. It is rampant. There are people out there that just want to get money and they'll stand up from the pulpit and mislead God's people with false words from God. They're going after filthy lucre. They were taking it for their kingdom, they were taking it for themselves, and it's become filthy lucre because they were taking it for wrong reasons.

Matthew 6:24 *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*

You cannot serve God and mammon. Mammon speaks of money; and Mammon was an ancient Philistine god of provision or the god of substance. There are two gods here. There's the god of money and wealth, and the Lord God Almighty. You cannot serve both.

Matthew 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

When you seek after things instead of God, you are going after the wrong things; you're going after the wrong god. You're not serving God, you're serving Mammon. You're serving the Philistine God of substance with your lust for things, instead of loving and coveting the presence of God. When you're coveting the presence of God, He'll give you things, but those things won't mean anything to you compared to Him. Like Paul we need to learn to be content in all things whether we abound or abase. (Philippians 4:10-12)

God says you can't love two masters; you can't love Him and love money. You will love one and hate the other. If you're going to be a leader you need to be delivered from the love of money.

What is the biblical perspective of our possessions?

[We are just a steward of them.](#)

We must have a biblical perspective of our possessions. One day you may be a steward of a half million dollars worth of stuff, and the next you're a steward of you're clothes. Whatever the circumstance, be a faithful steward of what you have. Learn to be content in whatever situation you find yourself. If we're going to be the end time leaders that God is going to use, we are going to have to be delivered from these filthy lusts for things, and not lust for filthy lucre.

Proverbs 1:19 *So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners.*

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God says if you're greedy for gain it will actually suck life from you.

Ecclesiastes 5:13 *There is a severe evil which I have seen under the sun:
Riches kept for their owner to his hurt.*

Micah 2:1-3 *Woe to those who devise iniquity,
And work out evil on their beds!
At morning light they practice it,
Because it is in the power of their hand.
2 They covet fields and take them by violence,
Also houses, and seize them.
So they oppress a man and his house,
A man and his inheritance.*

*3 Therefore thus says the LORD:
“ Behold, against this family I am devising disaster,
From which you cannot remove your necks;
Nor shall you walk haughtily,
For this is an evil time.*

God will judge those that are manipulating, that are doing things underhandedly because they have the love of money.

The love of money doesn't mean you're sitting around all day saying, "I love it. I love it. I love it." It means that money is what is driving you and motivating you; it is what you're seeking for; when you want it enough you will actually violate the Word of God, and will actually abuse the people around you to get it. You'll climb the ladder and back bite at the office so you get the promotion and they don't. You'll stand in the pulpit as the leader and you'll deceive the people. You'll tell them you going to give them a Word from God, but you just needed a big offering and all of a sudden you had a special Word. You want to rub shoulders with this person and that person because that will get you a bigger meeting and bigger offerings. Greedy, filthy lucre: God says you are disqualified from leadership.

For Further Study:

Leviticus 10:9-10 *Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations, 10 that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean*

Luke 16:11 *Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?*