

“THE CHARACTER OF A GODLY MAN”

I Peter 3:7-12

Message 1565

The Biblical ideal for man according to Genesis is the image of God. God contemplated with Himself and said, “Let us make man in our image.” No other creature has been designed like that. Only man experiences the uniqueness of being in the image of God. That has not fully gripped us in mind and heart.

Satan’s false claim in the garden has been repeated time without number: be like God. He distorted the actual reality because they were already in the image of God. Why then should they aspire to “be like God?” Today it has gone so far as “be God.” So there are those who promote the idea that we all are gods. We have made gods of ourselves.

Now to find the most rewarding place in life, it is highly important that we get back to the divine ideal, the Biblical ideal. Our society is coming apart because men have renounced their proper roles. This message explains the Biblical teaching on THE CHARACTER OF A GODLY MAN from I Peter 3:7-12.

7. “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

8. Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

9. Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

10. For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

11. Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

12. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”

With Peter’s words in mind, let me lead you to the CHARACTERISTICS which every godly man should develop.

HE SHOULD DEVELOP THE CHARACTERISTIC OF UNHINDERED PRAYERS. To do this he must establish compatibility with his wife. You notice that verse 7 begins “in like manner.” In other words, we are going back to what Peter had to say to the godly woman. He is now saying that to the godly man, “in like manner.”

No husband should rule with an iron fist. He should understand wifely strengths as well as frailties. He should be compassionate and tenderhearted. He should understand the rights she has as the weaker vessel. For a godly man to achieve and develop the characteristic of unhindered prayers he must establish compatibility with his wife and understand her.

He must assume responsibility for her well-being. God planned that husband and wife share together of His grace. That is an important fact to keep in mind. No one has an edge on God’s grace. Neither of the married partners has a corner on God’s favor, we might say. But they join and share together in the grace of God. Each was made to compliment the other. Consequently there is need for responsibility.

Somebody must take the lead and the husband, the godly man, is that person. Both have been adopted into the family of God and are therefore together heirs of the grace of life. There should be no distinction at that point.

A godly man needs to strive to develop his compatibility and his responsibility. By so doing, he will achieve the characteristic of unhindered prayers.

HE SHOULD DEVELOP THE CHARACTERISTIC OF UNSTAINED PRACTICE. The Apostle Peter says, "be of one mind." He will strive for unity. He will practice listening to his companion. He will not talk so much that he cannot hear. He will listen and consider his companion's condition as his own.

He will look upon his family, neighbors, and brothers with compassion, love, pity and courtesy. He will be concerned about the needs of others. He will enter into those experiences of need as one with his fellows. It will result in fellowship in his home, church and community.

He will not render evil for evil. He will not return railing for railing. A shouting match never solves a problem. All it does is stir up the adrenal gland and create more heat than light, like we say. As he enters into fellowship, the godly man will be understanding to soothe hurting conditions. We are all human enough to know that is not easy. Even people who are difficult usually respond to sincere understanding and effort to be helpful.

Godly men must attempt to develop the characteristic of unstained practice. Unity and fellowship are the important characteristics for the godly man to practice virtuous living.

HE SHOULD DEVELOP THE CHARACTERISTIC OF UNRUFFLED PEACE. This will raise him in the nobility of life. First of all he must control his tongue. He must refrain his tongue from evil. James describes the tongue as a world of iniquity. How many times conditions in a neighborhood or a family have been seriously provoked because some man lost control of his tongue. The godly man will control his tongue. He will speak kindly at all times. He will have a word of commendation instead of condemnation. He will offer positive suggestions.

He will eschew evil, that means avoid evil. He will seek to do good. He will seek peace and pursue it, that is chase after it. Thus he will be rising to nobility in life. He will develop the characteristic of unruffled peace by understanding accountability.

We are not a god ourselves. We are responsible to the God who sees and hears. We must be aware that God sees and remembers every individual in the world. God sees and observes our actions, deeds and thoughts. It baffles our minds, but the Bible presents this again and again. He hears and His ears are open unto all the prayers of all His children. That also is a mind stretching concept. The Mighty God of heaven and earth and of eternity hears our prayers when we pray as well as sees what we do. We can be assured that when we pray He does hear.

God opposes evil. His face is against them that do evil. His face is not against those that do well or those that know where to turn with their prayers.

In His presence there is peace. Yes, Amen. It is unruffled peace in the presence of God. The godly man will rise to nobility in life and understand accountability. By so doing he will reach unruffled peace, peace that cannot be stirred up or taken away.

So friend, we need a renewal of godly men. Today's man has come a long way from the ideal in which God created the first man. I urge you therefore, dear sir, to set your goal to develop these characteristics: strive for unhindered prayers, unstained practice, and unruffled peace. Be the kind of man that your descendants can rise up and praise God for you.