

“O MAN OF GOD”

1st Timothy 6:11-16

The “*man of God*” is identified by what he flees and what he pursues (11), what he fights (12), what he lays hold of (12), what he confesses (13), and what he keeps (14).

I. THE “MAN OF GOD” IS IDENTIFIED BY WHAT HE FLEES (11)

A. He flees “*useless wranglings*” (3-5).

1. He does this because he loves “*wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and... the doctrine which accords with godliness*” (3).

a. **Matthew 28:18-20**

Our Lord Jesus Christ requires His words to be instilled in the hearts of all disciples.

b. **2nd Peter 1:2-3**

In the knowledge of Jesus is all that is necessary for godliness.

c. **2nd Timothy 1:13**

Wholesome words, or the pattern of sound words, must be held fast to.

2. The man of God recognizes the danger of “*teach[ing] otherwise*” (3).

a. **Hebrews 13:9_a**

Since we must hold fast to the pattern of sound words, it is imperative that we are not carried about with various and strange doctrines.

b. **Ephesians 4:14**

Paul puts it this way: “*we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine...*”

c. **2nd Timothy 4:3-4**

Sound doctrine is not often tolerated for very long.

d. **1st Timothy 1:3-4**

Timothy's primary purpose in the church at Ephesus was to charge certain ones not to teach otherwise.

e. **1st Timothy 4:6-8**

Instruction in truth is evidence of good ministry, but other stuff should be rejected. Only godliness is profitable in all things.

3. The man of God understands that those who teach otherwise do so from pride, though they are, in fact, ignorant (4).

a. **1st Corinthians 8:2**

Sometimes ignorance is proven in the amount of knowledge a person thinks he has.

b. **1st Timothy 1:5-7**

Some desert the truth for useless discussion, thinking themselves to be teachers, when they don't even understand what they're talking about.

c. **Galatians 6:3**

It is self-deception to think of oneself what is not so.

d. **Romans 12:16**

It is contrary to godly humility to be wise in one's own opinion.

e. **Proverbs 26:12**

Those who so think are practically hopeless.

4. The man of God seeks to avoid the strife engendered by disputes and arguments (4).

a. **2nd Timothy 2:14, 23**

Unprofitable words, ruinous to the hearers, should not be fought over.

b. **1st Timothy 6:20**

Profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge must be avoided.

- c. **1st Corinthians 3:1-3**
Envy, strife, and division among brethren prove them carnal, not spiritual.
 - d. **Galatians 5:15-26**
Infighting will consume brethren (15). The works of the flesh, the opposite of the fruit of the Spirit (16) includes hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, and envy (20-21). Godly behavior precludes envy and provocation (26).
 - e. **Ephesians 4:31**
Christians should behave better.
 - 5. He knows that both false teachers and divisive people ought to be withdrawn from (5). Although this sentence does not appear in every translation, the thought expressed is certainly present in the scriptures.
 - a. **Romans 16:17-18**
Those who introduce divisions by contradicting the doctrine of Christ must be taken note of and avoided.
 - b. **Titus 3:9-11**
Those who cause divisions by insisting on foolish disputes and useless contentions must be admonished and rejected.
- B. The man of God flees greed (6-10).
 - 1. He knows that true gain comes from “*godliness with contentment*” (6).
 - a. **Psalms 37:16**
Righteous men are satisfied with little.
 - b. **Hebrews 13:5**
In the comfort of the knowledge that the Lord is by our side, there’s no need to covet material wealth; we can be content with what we have.

2. The man of God understands that none of the wealth accumulated in this world will last (7).
 - a. **Psalm 49:16-17**

No one can take his worldly possessions with him when he dies.
 - b. **Job 1:13-21**

In his tremendous grief, having suffered devastating loss, Job proclaimed this truth.
 - c. **Luke 12:15-21**

It's more important to give attention to spiritual things.
3. The man of God knows to be content with the basics of life (8).
 - a. **Proverbs 30:8-9**

Our requests to God should be for just enough.
 - b. **Philippians 4:11-13**

Christians must learn contentment in all circumstances.
4. The man of God knows that the pursuit of wealth leads men to commit wicked acts (9-10).
 - a. **Joshua 7:1-26**

The ancient Israelite Achan helped himself to the spoils of war when God demanded such be destroyed. For his sin, he was executed.
 - b. **Acts 4:32-5:11**

At a time when Christians were selling their property to meet the needs of their brethren, Ananias and Sapphira defrauded the church, by lying about the amount. They lost their lives for that sin.
 - c. **Matthew 26:14-16**

Judas sold his soul to the devil for thirty pieces of silver when he betrayed Jesus.
 - d. **Matthew 19:23-24**

Jesus taught about the difficulty of keeping both material and spiritual riches.

II. THE “MAN OF GOD” IS IDENTIFIED BY WHAT HE PURSUES (11)

2nd Timothy 2:22; Luke 11:24-26

A. He pursues righteousness.

1. **1st John 2:29**

We must practice righteousness to prove our relationship with Christ.

2. **1st John 3:7**

Don't be deceived about this.

B. He pursues godliness.

1. **2nd Peter 1:2-3**

Godliness is available in the knowledge of Christ.

2. **1st Timothy 4:8**

Godliness is profitable in everything.

C. He pursues faith.

1. **Hebrews 11:1, 6**

Faith is trust in unseen things and is necessary to please God.

2. **Romans 10:17**

Faith doesn't come from anything other than God's word.

D. He pursues love.

1. **1st John 4:16**

God is love. He is the original source of love.

2. **1st Corinthians 13:1-8_a**

All the good deeds imaginable are worthless without love. The characteristics of true love are manifest.

E. He pursues patience.

1. **James 5:7-11**

This is endurance, or constancy, a little more like steadfastness than longsuffering, although that is included.

2. **Hebrews 10:36; 12:1**

This quality is needed to overcome hindrances.

F. He pursues gentleness.

1. **Matthew 5:5**

This gentleness is meekness, a combination of mildness and humility.

III. **THE “MAN OF GOD” IS IDENTIFIED BY WHAT HE FIGHTS (12)**

He fights the good fight of faith.

A. **2nd Corinthians 10:3-5**

This fight isn't physical, but spiritual in nature.

B. **1st Corinthians 9:24-27**

It isn't practice. This fight counts!

C. **Jude 3**

This is a fight “*for the faith*”.

D. **Ephesians 6:10-18**

It is a fight “*against the wiles of the devil*”.

E. **2nd Timothy 4:7-8**

Those who fight this fight will be rewarded.

IV. **THE “MAN OF GOD” IS IDENTIFIED BY WHAT HE LAYS HOLD OF (12)**

He lays hold of eternal life.

A. **1st John 2:25**

Eternal life is what God has promised to the faithful.

B. **Hebrews 6:18-19**

When we lay hold of this hope, it anchors our souls.

C. **Philippians 3:12-14**

We don't claim to have achieved the final goal yet, but we keep pressing toward it.

V. THE "MAN OF GOD" IS IDENTIFIED BY WHAT HE CONFESSES (12)

He confesses the good confession.

A. Philippians 2:9-11

God is glorified when Christ's lordship is confessed.

B. Romans 10:9-10, 13

By this confession, salvation is obtained.

C. Luke 12:8-9

By confessing Christ openly, the man of God receives Christ's approval in heaven.

D. Hebrews 10:23

This confession must be persistently adhered to.

VI. THE "MAN OF GOD" IS IDENTIFIED BY WHAT HE KEEPS (14)

A. He keeps the commandment.

1. Matthew 19:16-17

Commandments must be kept in order to obtain eternal life.

2. 1st John 5:3

By keeping God's commands, we prove our love for Him. When love is our motive, obedience is no burden.

B. He does so blamelessly until Christ's coming.

1. 2nd Peter 3:10-14

With the knowledge the world will end and Christ will judge every living soul, our goal must be to be found spotless and blameless.

2. 1st Thessalonians 3:12-13

One aspect of being found blameless at Christ's coming is abundant love among brethren.

3. **Philippians 1:9-11**

Besides abundant love, other aspects of spotlessness to be had on the day of Christ include knowledge and discernment, as well as fruits of righteousness.

CONCLUSION

A. **2nd Timothy 3:16-17**

The man of God attains completion in the scriptures.

B. **1st Timothy 6:11-16**

The “*man of God*” is identified by what he flees and what he pursues (11), what he fights (12), what he lays hold of (12), what he confesses (13), and what he keeps (14).