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## PROFILE OF A GODLY CHARACTER – PART 2 (Titus 1:7-9)

*Last week, we began a two-part study in Titus on what traits will show up in the life of a person who has godly character. In Part 1, the text focused on three things that should be in order: your public reputation, your marriage, and your family.*

*Today, we'll continue the list Paul gave in this passage, which includes things to avoid, things to embrace, and how to approach the Scriptures. I hope this will be an encouragement to you.*

*Keep in mind that Paul has left Titus on the isle of Crete (famous for producing Cretans) to set the new churches straight on doctrine and behavior. The young pastor must have taken a deep breath when he read this letter, knowing he had a difficult job before him. But for churches, communities, and families to function correctly, these character qualities need to be developed by those who lead.*

**Titus 1:7-9 - For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.**

### FIVE THINGS TO AVOID (v. 7)

Don't be overbearing. This describes a person who is overly dominant, arrogant and self-interested. They will use influence as a bully with little thought of how it affects others. In the high-powered world of politics, it's easy to see how this trait can bubble to the surface. We must do all we can to eliminate our tendency to proudly and selfishly step over others without considering their well-being.

Don't be quick-tempered. This is a person with a short fuse, known for being easily provoked to anger. We've

all seen how a quick-tempered individual can escalate a situation – never for the better.

*James 1:19, 20 - Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, **slow to anger**; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

Don't be characterized by drunkenness. The idea here is to be intoxicated by the effects of wine. Literally, it means "to be continually beside, or in the presence of, wine." This isn't a prohibition to any alcohol, but a warning not to be under its influence.

*Ephesians 5:18 - And **do not get drunk with wine**, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,*

Don't be violent. A person who is physically or verbally abusive is the one referred to here. It literally means "a fist fighter." Clearly, a person with the problem of lashing out against others cannot have the kind of character to be emulated.

Don't be dishonest. The original idea here is "shameful gain." The Bible is full of warnings to the person who will cheat others to get ahead.

*Proverbs 11:1 - **A false balance** is an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is his delight.*

In the days of the prophet Isaiah, there is a sobering description of the ruling class in Israel. Dishonesty was rampant and the most vulnerable and powerless were the ones who suffered.

*Isaiah 1:23 - Your princes are rebels and companions of thieves. **Everyone loves a bribe** and runs after gifts. They do not bring justice to the fatherless, and the widow's cause does not come to them.*

## SIX THINGS TO EMBRACE (v. 8)

Be hospitable. This is one who gives help to anyone in need, friend or stranger, believer or unbeliever. A heart that serves others is always worth cultivating.

*Galatians 6:10 - So then, as we have opportunity, let us **do good to everyone**, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

Be a lover of good. Our world is overflowing with every kind of degradation and filth. What a blessing it is when we come across a person who not only knows how to identify what is good, but also loves it and promotes it to others.

Be self-controlled. This person is sensible, sober-minded, and cool-headed, possessing discernment.

*2 Peter 1:5, 6 - For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with **self-control**, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness*

Be upright. The idea here is one who is just, who prioritizes fairness.

Be holy. This is a devout person who has a true divine direction in life. “Holy” doesn’t mean perfect; actually, in the Bible the word means “different” or “set apart.”

Be disciplined. A disciplined person will live an exemplary and sincere life, guided from the inside out by the Holy Spirit of God. He monitors life in obedience to the Scriptures.

## HIGH VIEW OF THE SCRIPTURES (v. 9)

Love the Scriptures. Our text says a godly person “must hold firm to the trustworthy word”. For that to happen, he will spend great time reading and meditating on the Bible for guidance in all aspects of life. The affection and commitment we should have to God’s revealed Word should drive us to its pages several times a day to be truly shaped by the truths found in it. It must be loved as a blueprint for pleasing God.

You can measure a person’s opinion of God by his or her opinion of God’s Word. That’s why a person who loves God loves His Word, and the person who hates God rejects what God has spoken. God’s Word is an extension of Himself – His identity, purposes, affections, and power.

- Jonathan Leeman -

Encourage obedience to the Scriptures. We have scores of people who we influence regularly. To give instruction to others about how to live, both in word and action, it’s a prerequisite that we know what the Scriptures say (sound doctrine) so we can be sure to pass along accurate information.

God’s Word originated with him and we cannot improve on it. In fact, there is great danger in trying to apply our own wisdom to our lives or anyone else’s, apart from God’s direction.

We must make a great difference between God’s Word and the word of man. A man’s word is a little sound, that flies into the air, and soon vanishes; but the Word of God is greater than heaven and earth, yea, greater than death and hell, for it forms part of the power of God, and endures everlastingly. - Martin Luther -

Defend the Scriptures. There will never be an end to those who defy and mock the Bible. That’s one of the proofs that God revealed it; how else would a book last through the centuries through constant attack?

Godly character produces an ability and willingness to stand up to the ridicule thrown at the Scriptures. The Word of God is powerful, but should also be held to strongly by those who claim to follow Christ. In a hostile world, there will be times when a solid defense of the faith is required.

### BIBLE STUDY

Legislators and Staff (During Session)  
Thursdays, 8:00 a.m.  
Room 153, House Office Building