

Sunday, June 19, 2022

THE MARKS OF A GODLY MAN (PERSON)

(Adapted from Developing a Faith That Works –
Part 1 of 15 James by Rick Warren. Saddleback Ministries)

Today is Father's Day across America. So today's message has a special application to all Fathers, but it is also applicable to all men, as well as all ladies and students. So, even though I may often reference fathers or men, the application is for everyone, because the key theme is that of being a Mature Disciple - A Godly Man or Person!

Let's 1st remind ourselves of **WHAT MATURITY ISN'T:**

- * It's not: AGE
- * It's not: APPEARANCE
- * It's not: ACHIEVEMENT
- * It's not: ACADEMICS

God says maturity is determined by ATTITUDE OR CHARACTER.

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT SOME MARKS OF MATURITY

1. A GODLY MAN (PERSON) IS POSITIVE UNDER PRESSURE

"Consider it pure joy, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know the testing of your faith develops perseverance and perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete not lacking anything." James 1:2-4

How do you handle trials? The first test of maturity is how do you react to problems?

Do you get nervous, uptight, negative? Do you grumble and gripe? How do you handle problems?

Christianity is a life. It's not a religion, it's a life. Jesus said, ***"I've come that you might have life."*** Life means problems, and part of life means solving problems and facing them with the right attitude.

What is your natural attitude, your natural bent when things don't go right and you're irritated? Are you negative or are you positive? Are you basically a supportive person or are you a skeptical person? Is your life filled with gratitude or grumbling? Are you affirmative or are you angry most of the time?

James 1:12... ***"Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him."***

You can be great in the knowledge of the Bible and be cantankerous as all get out! Are you positive under pressure"? (Rick Warren)

2 A GODLY MAN (PERSON) IS SENSITIVE TO PEOPLE

"If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbor as yourself' you are doing right." James 2:8

“Don't show favoritism, don't be a snob, don't look down on people, don't judge by appearance, don't insult people, don't exploit people. The second test of maturity is love: how do you treat other people? It's not how many Bible verses you knew, how many times you were in church, not how great a reputation you had as Christian leaders, but how we treated other people; that's how Jesus will judge us”. (Rick Warren)

3. A GODLY MAN (PERSON) HAS MASTERED HIS MOUTH

"We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check." James 3:2

“Self-control comes from tongue control. We get ourselves into so much trouble at what we say and what we think and what we speak. James 3 gives several illustrations. He says our tongue is like a rudder, a bit in a horse's mouth, a spark, a snake, a spring. He says that you put a little bit in a horse's mouth and that little bit can control the direction of the horse. A little rudder on a boat can control the direction of the boat. Your tongue, which, by size is very insignificant, controls your life. What you say directs your life, what you say can destroy your life. It can delight people's lives, it can discourage people's lives. Your tongue is a powerful force for good or for evil”. (Rick Warren)

"Do not let any negative talk come out of your mouth but only what is helpful for building up others according to their needs ..." Eph. 4:29

“Have you ever heard anyone say, "I just say what's on my mind." They're kind of proud of it. Being frank, up front, they say what's on their mind. Maybe there's not a whole lot on their mind. Maybe what's on their mind shouldn't be said. The Bible says, that that's not frankness, that's immaturity. A lot of people just need a large dose of tactfulness”.

(Rick Warren)

Ephesians 4:29 "Do not let any negative talk come out of your mouth but only what is helpful for building up others according to their needs.

IV. A GODLY MAN (PERSON) IS A PEACEMAKER NOT A TROUBLEMAKER

"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you?" James 4:1

Are you a peacemaker? Are you a troublemaker?
Do you like to argue? Are you a contentious person? Do you get my feelings hurt?
Do you get defensive easily? Do you hurt other people's feelings?
Are you a peacemaker? Or a troublemaker?

V. A GODLY MAN (PERSON) IS PATIENT AND PRAYERFUL

"Be patient then, brothers, until the Lord's coming ... As you know, we consider blessed those who persevere." James 5:7, 11

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16b

In chapter 5 'Patient' is used four times, 'Prayer' seven times. It seems evident that James is trying to teach us that a Godly person, a true Disciple is both patient and prayerful. They just go together, or they should!

James 5:16...gives us an OT example in Elijah
"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it wouldn't rain and it didn't rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed and the heavens gave rain and the earth produced its crop."

If anybody was patient it was Elijah. Elijah was patient and prayerful. That's a mark of maturity.

Let's Review the 5 Marks of Maturity Inspection Time

1. "How do you handle problems? Do you get uptight, negative, grumble, gripe, complain or are you positive under pressure?"
2. Are you sensitive to other people? Are you concerned about their needs, desires, cares, hurts, or do you only see yourself? Do you only pray for yourself or do you pray for others?
3. Can you manage your mouth? Have you learned to put a muzzle on it sometimes and just not speak? When you have a juicy tidbit of gossip and it's tempting because knowledge is power, do you share it -- "... so you can pray about it." You can damage people just by innuendo. Managing your mouth is a mark of maturity.
4. Are you a troublemaker or are you a peacemaker? Do you have a tendency to stir things up?
Do you have a hair trigger temper where someone can tick you off quickly? Do you carry a grudge? Do you find yourself nursing a bitterness? Or are you a peacemaker?
5. How long can you wait for an answer to prayer without giving up? Maybe God has every intention of giving it but He's waiting to teach you maturity". (Rick Warren)