



Characteristics of a Leader in the Church
**Lesson 3: Not Self-Willed, Not Quick Tempered, Not Violent,
Not Quarrelsome & Gentle**

1. Introduction / Review

When Paul looked for leaders in the early church, he looked for a certain kind of person.

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Titus 1:5-10

These are qualifications for leaders. However, they are also character traits that every Christian man should possess.

- Above reproach / Blameless
- Husband of one wife
- Temperate
- Sober-minded
- Respectable / Of good behavior
- Hospitable
- Able to teach / Holding fast the faithful Word as he has been taught
- Not given to wine
- Not self-willed
- Not quick-tempered
- Not violent

- Not quarrelsome
- Gentle
- Free from the love of money / Not covetous
- One who manages his own household well
- A good reputation with those outside the church
- Love what is good
- Just / Holy
- Not a new convert
- Self-controlled

This list goes beyond generalizations and gives specific characteristics of a man or woman of God.

2. Not self-willed

A person who is self-willed must have his own way (home, church, business, etc.). They are unwilling to give up his own desires for the sake of the group.

Other words that describe someone who is self-willed:

- _____
- Arrogant
- Builds a world around himself
- _____
- _____
- They are their own authority. Hates submission.

2 Peter 2:2-18

Verse 10 is the only other place in the Bible where we can find the same Greek word for “self-willed.”

This text is a good definition of what a self-willed person is like.

Are you self-willed?

- Do you usually or always get your own way?
- Do you have difficulty admitting your mistakes?
- Do you rule your own home with authoritarian leadership?

3. Not quick-tempered

Definition of NOT QUICK TEMPERED:

- _____
- Not prone to anger
- Not cranky or irritable
- _____
- Capable of governing your own spirit

Ephesians 4:26

This shows us that anger is not always wrong.

When is anger sinful?

- _____
- When it continues to smolder and seeks revenge
- _____
- Sinful anger is a selfish and personal reaction. It is “man-centered”.

James 1:19, 20

Colossians 3:8

What causes anger?

- _____

Proverbs 22:24, 25

Angry parents produce angry children.

- _____

When someone gets in the way of selfish person watch out!

Temper tantrums when you were a child can lead to temper tantrums when you are an adult.

- _____

Putting other people down often comes from insecurity

People like this go on the defensive, taking everything personally.

What can you do to stop anger from taking control of your life? What are some preventative maintenance measures?

- Don't get out of prayer and the Word.
- Avoid having to face difficult and tense situations when you are physically and emotionally tired
- _____

4. Not violent

Literally means "a striker." It is speaking about physical violence.

In both Timothy and Titus it immediately follows "not addicted to wine." The connection is clear.

Examples in scripture:

- Cain was violent due to jealousy.
- Moses killed an Egyptian. He also destroyed the original Ten Commandments. He struck the rock out of a wrong attitude.
- Peter drew his sword in the garden.

It is important to note that God uses Moses and Peter in spite of their character flaws.

Verbal attack can be just as bad, if not worse than, physical attack

Discipline of our children should never be done in a violent attitude.

This word also means that we should not strike back at those we disagree with or displease us.

5. Not quarrelsome

A man or woman of God must be a person of peace.

This includes these qualities:

- _____
- Willing to serve someone else; does not care if he is not in charge.
- _____

The Bible speaks of being a peacemaker:

Romans 12:16-19

Ephesians 4:1-3

2 Timothy 2:23-25

6. Gentle

Gentle is the opposite of the negative character traits we just looked at. A gentle person would not be quick-tempered, violent, or, quarrelsome.

With whom should we be gentle?

- _____

We just saw this in 2 Timothy 2:23-25

Matthew 11:29

- _____

Galatians 6:1

- _____

Colossians 3:12, 13