

BAND of BROTHERS

SUMMER SERIES 2023 – WEEK 1

What Does a Godly Man Look Like?

*Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Instead, **train yourself to be godly**. "Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come."*

– 1 Timothy 1:7-8 NLT

- **Are you a godly man?**

- Don't take this question lightly
- And don't assume you know the answer
- Godliness is not a static condition
 - You are not born with it
 - And you don't receive it at salvation
 - In fact, Peter says it's an add-on

*Supplement your faith with a generous provision of moral excellence, and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance **with godliness** [eusebeia], and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love for everyone. The more you grow like this, **the more productive and useful you will be** in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. – 2 Peter 1:5-7 NLT*

- Godliness can be **faked** but not **fabricated**
 - Paul warned Timothy about this

*In the last days terrible times will come. For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, without love of good, traitorous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, **having a form of godliness but denying its power**. – 2 Timothy 3:1-5 BSB*

- Men can appear to be godly
- They can make others think they are godly

“Men are ambitious of credit, and wish to gain repute in the world, therefore they will dress themselves in the garb and mode of religion, so that others may write them down as saints. But alas, what is one the better for having others commend him, and his conscience condemn him? What good will it do a man when he is in hell that others think he has gone to heaven? Oh, beware of this! Counterfeit piety is double iniquity.” – Thomas Watson, *The Godly Man’s Picture* (Printed in 1666)

- **What is godliness?**

- **eusebeia** – εὐσέβεια (yoo-say’-by-ah) – godliness, holiness, devotion to God
 - From *eusebēs* – εὐσεβής (you-seb-ace’) – pious, devout, reverent
 - Literally: “good devotion”
- Godliness is devotion to God which results in a life that is pleasing to him
 - It is devotion in action

- **So, what are the characteristics of a godly man?**

- Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control
- Obedience
- Bible reading, church attendance, prayer, and Scripture memory
- Selfless service to his wife and children
- Generosity

THESE THINGS HAVE MORE TO DO WITH CHRISTIAN **CHARACTER** THAN **GODLINESS**

- They are behaviors or activities
- They can be self-produced
- But are not a guarantee of godliness

“There is no higher compliment that can be paid to a Christian than to call him a godly person. He might be a conscientious parent, a zealous church worker, a dynamic spokesman for Christ, or a talented Christian leader; but none of these things matters if, at the same time, he is not a godly person.” – Jerry Bridges, *The Practice of Godliness*

- **Biblical models of godliness**

- Two men worth considering

- **Enoch**

*When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. **Enoch walked with God** after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. **Enoch walked with God**, and he was not, for God took him.* – Genesis 5:21-24 ESV

- He “walked with God”
- Literally: “walked about” or “lived with” God
- He lived in constant communion with God

*It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying — “he disappeared, because God took him.” For before he was taken up, **he was known as a person who pleased God**. And it is impossible to please God without faith. – Hebrews 11:5-6 NLT*

- His life was God-centered
- He enjoyed a personal relationship with God
- He was devoted to God
- And his life was pleasing to God

○ **David**

*The LORD has sought out **a man after his own heart...** – 1 Samuel 13:14 ESV*

*“...he [God] raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse **a man after my heart, who will do all my will.**’” – Acts 13:22 ESV*

*“David found **favor with God...**” – Acts 7:46 NLT*

- He had a heart for the things of God
- He pleased God
- He was devoted to God

● **Devotion in action**

- What does it mean to be devoted to something?

Definition:

- love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a person, activity, or cause
- the fact, quality, or state of being devoted. Piety, loyalty, or deep affection

- Whatever you’re devoted to will be readily apparent in your life
 - Devotion to family will show up in how much time you “devote” to them
 - Your devotion to a hobby can be measured in the resources you expend on it
 - You’re devoted to work when you dedicate all that you have to it
- But all these things can all become replacements for God
- They become counterfeit gods that compete with Him for your devotion

*“When anything in life is an absolute requirement for your happiness and self-worth, it is essentially an ‘idol,’ something you are actually worshiping. When such a thing is threatened, your anger is absolute. Your anger is actually the way the idol keeps you in its service, in its chains.” – Timothy Keller, *Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope that Matters**

“An idol is something that we look to for things that only God can give....The true god of your heart is what your thoughts effortlessly go to when there is nothing else demanding your attention.” – Timothy Keller, *Counterfeit Gods*

- **Devotion to God**

- Devotion to God is composed of three different elements
 1. A healthy fear of God

“The fear of God is the soul of godliness.” – John Murray, *Principles of Conduct*

- Fear of God is a good thing
- It is the sign of a well-developed Christian and a healthy church

*So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And **walking in the fear of the Lord** and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.* – Acts 9:31 ESV

*...remember that the heavenly Father to whom you pray has no favorites. He will judge or reward you according to what you do. **So you must live in reverent fear of him** during your time here as “temporary residents.”* – 1 Peter 1:17 NLT

*...dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness **because we fear God.*** – 2 Corinthians 7:1 NLT

- Our fear of God should be **reverential** (worshipful) and **deferential** (respectful)
- It is a recognition of His glory, awe, and holiness
- Godly men are God-fearing men who have...
 - ...a proper understanding of His character
 - ...a pervasive sense of His presence
 - ...and a constant awareness of His expectations of us

2. A deep appreciation for God’s love

- To be unconditionally loved by a holy God is a staggering concept
- You must comprehend His holiness to fully appreciate His love

*God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that **he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.*** – 1 John 4:9-10 NLT

*...**may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.** May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete*

with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. – Ephesians 3:18-19 NLT

*But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us **while we were still sinners.*** – Romans 5:8 NLT

- Godly men understand their own unworthiness
- They comprehend the depth of their sinfulness
- And they glory in the amazing grace of God's love

*LORD, if you kept a record of our sins,
who, O Lord, could ever survive?
But you offer forgiveness,
that we might learn to fear you.* – Psalm 130:3-4 NLT

*And I am convinced that **nothing can ever separate us from God's love.** Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—**not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.*** – Romans 8:38 NLT

3. A passionate desire for intimacy with God

- Godly men long to be with God
- They seek Him with all their heart

You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. – Jeremiah 29:13 ESV

- David had an insatiable longing to be with God

*One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD...* – Psalm 27:4 ESV

- The apostle Paul shared this deep longing for intimacy with Christ

...that I may know Him [experientially, becoming more thoroughly acquainted with Him, understanding the remarkable wonders of His Person more completely] and [in that same way experience] the power of His resurrection [which overflows and is active in believers], and [that I may share] the fellowship of His sufferings, by being continually conformed [inwardly into His likeness even] to His death [dying as He did]... – Philippians 3:10 Amplified Bible

- A godly man longs for a deeper relationship with God

- He is never satisfied
- Jesus said that the knowledge of God is the essence of eternal life

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. – John 17:3 ESV

“Devotion signifies a life given, or devoted to God. He therefore is the devout [godly] man, who lives no longer to his own will, or the way and spirit of the world, but to the sole will of God, who considers God in everything, who serves God in everything, who makes all the parts of his common life, parts of piety [godliness], by doing everything in the name of God, and under such rules as are conformable to His glory.” – William Law, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life* (1729)

- **A God-pleasing life**

“It is said that many Christians do not have this aura of godliness about them. They may be very talented and personable, or very busy in the Lord’s work, or even apparently successful in some avenues of Christian service, and still not be godly. They may be devoted to a vision, or to a ministry, or to their own reputation as Christians, but not to God.” – Jerry Bridges, *The Practice of Godliness*

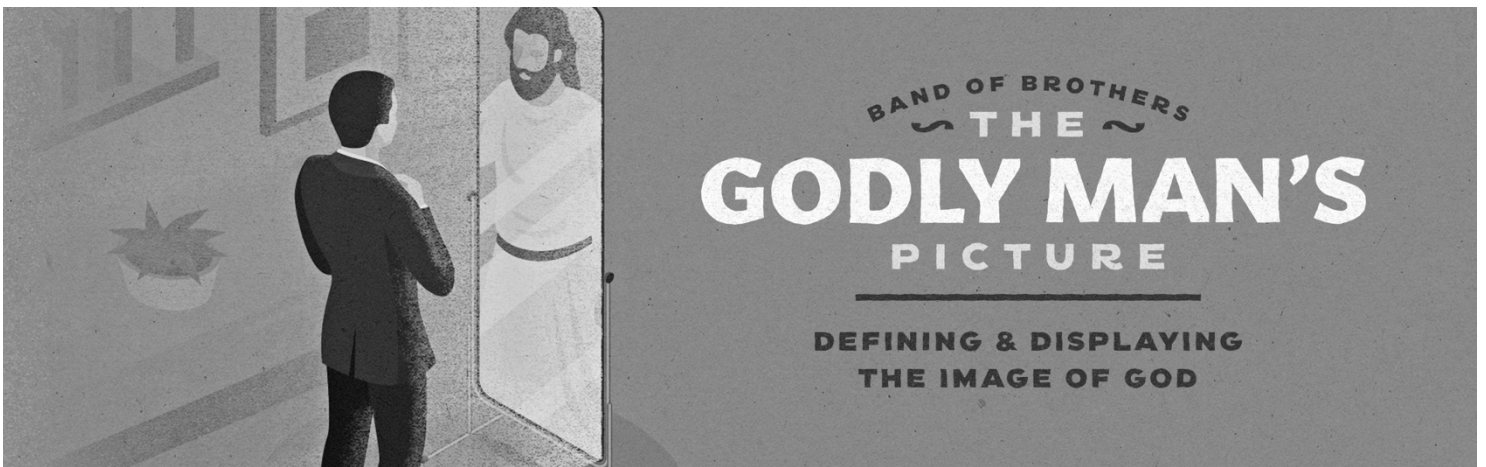
- The practice of godliness...
 - ...involves the cultivation of a relationship with God
 - ...results in a life that is pleasing to God
- Our relationship with God will determine our concept of Him
- All of this will determine our behavior or conduct

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Devotion to God should be comprised of a healthy fear, a deep appreciation for His love, and a passionate longing for an intimate relationship with Him. Which do you struggle with the most and why?

Would you say that most Christians are concerned about living a God-pleasing life? If so, how does it tend to show up? If not, what prevents them from doing so?

What kinds of things tend to obstruct or compete our devotion to God, and what can we do to change it?



BAND of BROTHERS

SUMMER SERIES 2023 – WEEK 2 HOMEWORK

WEEK 2 – David: Fallen, Forgiven, and Faithful

As you read through the life of David, look to see if his life exhibited any of the three characteristics that signify devotion to God.

1. A healthy fear of God (veneration, honor, reverence, and awe)
 2. An understanding of and appreciation for God's love
 3. A genuine desire for a relationship with God
- Read 1 Samuel 13:1-14. Saul's disobedience led to God rejecting him as king. God had already chosen Saul's replacement. He was to be a man after God's heart. The inference is that Saul had failed to be a man after God's own heart. What evidence do you see in these verses to support that conclusion?

What qualities should a man after God's own heart exhibit? Based on Saul's life, which qualities should be absent?

- Read 1 Samuel 16:1-3. Based on verses 6-7, what was Samuel guilty of doing? What do you think Samuel saw in Eliab that made him conclude he was God's choice to be the next king?

Based on the fact that Jesse didn't even bother to have David show up when Samuel came, what can we conclude about his thoughts concerning David's qualifications to be king?

- Read 1 Samuel 17. What qualities do you see in David's life that give evidence he was a man after God's own heart?

What do you see about Saul's reactions to the situation with Goliath that illustrate he was NOT a man after God's own heart?

Because of his success against Goliath and his subsequent popularity with the people, David became the object of Saul's bitter jealousy and hatred. So much so, that Saul will spend the closing years of his life seeking to have David killed. As a result, David will be forced to live on the run – hiding from Saul, living in caves, fearing for his life – even though he had been anointed by Samuel as the true king of Israel.

- Read 1 Samuel 19:1-18. Back in chapter 16, verse 13, David was anointed by Samuel and the Spirit of the Lord "came mightily upon" him. Now he has lost his job, his wife, his mentor, his best friends, and his self-respect. What would be going through your mind if you were in David's sandals?
- Read Psalm 34. This psalm was written during the years that David spent hiding from Saul. What jumps out at you in this psalm when you consider all that David was facing?
- Read 2 Samuel 6. This story takes place after David has ascended to the throne. He is attempting to bring back the ark of God back to Jerusalem. Things don't go quite as David expected. What did he do wrong?

How is his initial reaction?

When he is finally able to bring the ark back, how does he show his gratitude and devotion to God?

- Read 2 Samuel 22. Spend some time this week meditating on this incredible son. What does it reveal about David that would convince you he is a man after God's own heart?