

IMPERATIVE QUALITIES IN GOSPEL PREACHERS

Introduction:

1. Since a preacher is God's representative to man there are certain qualities which he must possess. These qualities are not negotiable - they are imperative.
2. II Tim. 2:2-3 "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. You therefore endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."
3. I Tim. 4:12,16 "Be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. ...Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you."

I. GOD EXPECTS HIS PREACHERS TO HAVE CERTAIN QUALITIES:

A. THE PREACHER MUST BE A MAN OF COMPASSION:

1. Acts 20:17-20 "And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: 'You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; and kept back nothing that was helpful to you, but declared it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house.'"
2. Acts 20:31 "Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears."
3. Acts 21:5-6 (Paul leaving from Tyre for Jerusalem)
"And when we had come to the end of those days, we departed and went on our way; and they all accompanied us, with wives and children, till we were out of the city. And we knelt down on the shore and prayed."
4. Phil. 3:17-18 "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. For many walk, of whom I have told you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:"
5. II Tim. 2:24-26 "And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will give them repentance to the acknowledge of the truth."
6. II Cor. 2:4 "For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you."
7. II Tim. 1:3-4 "I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy."

B. THE PREACHER MUST BE A WILLING WORKER.

1. Acts 20:33-38 "I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided necessities, AND for those who were with me, I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' And when he had said these things he knelt down and prayed with them all. And they all wept greatly, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship."
2. Acts 18:1-3 "After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, and recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. And because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers."
3. I Thess. 2:9 "For you remember, brethren, our labor and toil; for laboring night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God."
4. II Thess. 3:7-9 "For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you."

C. THE PREACHER MUST BE A MAN OF COURAGE.

1. Acts 20:20-21 "And how I kept back nothing that was helpful to you, but declared it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."
2. Acts 20:26-27 "Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you all the counsel of God."
3. Acts 18:8-11 "...And many of the Corinthians, hearing believed and were baptized. Then the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, 'Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city'. And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them."
4. Acts 21:1-13 "And as we stayed there (at Caesarea) many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. And when he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, 'Thus says the Holy Spirit, so shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles'. And when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, 'What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.'"
5. II Cor. 12:7 "And lest I be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure."

6. II Cor. 6:3-10 "And we put no obstacle whatever in anyone's way, so that our ministry may not be discredited. Rather, we prove ourselves in every respect as servants of God, by great endurance, in afflictions, distresses, and hardships; in lashes, imprisonment, and disturbances; in toils, sleepless nights, and without food, through purity, knowledge and endurance of wrongs; through kindness, by the Holy Spirit, in genuine love; with a message of truth, by the power of God; by means of the weapons of righteousness for attack and defense; through honor and shame; through blame and praise; considered impostors when we are honest, and unknown when we are well known; thought of as dying when, you see we are alive, and as disciplined but not put to death; as deceived and yet always joyful; as poor but making many wealthy; as having nothing and yet in possession of everything."
- NOTE: There is a picture of a real man.
7. Eph. 6:18-20 "Praying in the Spirit on every occasion with ceaseless prayer and entreaty, constantly alert to pray with all perseverance and entreaty for all the saints; also for me, that, when I open my lips, the message may be given me that I may announce fearlessly the mystery of the Gospel for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may present the good news freely, as it is my duty to speak."
8. II Tim. 1:8-10 "Do not be ashamed, therefore, about bearing witness to our Lord or about me His prisoner, but share my suffering for the gospel by virtue of the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a call of dedication, not because of any doings of ours but according to His own purpose and the grace that has been granted us in Christ Jesus before time began. But now it has been realized through the appearance of our Savior Christ Jesus, who rendered death ineffectual and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I am appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher."
9. II Tim. 2:8-10 "Consider what I say, for the Lord will grant you understanding in everything. Keep in mind Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descended from David according to my gospel, in which I suffer punishment like a criminal even to shackles; but the word of God is not shackled. I endure all this for the sake of the elect, so that they also may gain possession of the salvation which is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory."
10. II Tim. 2:19 "God's foundation, nevertheless, stands firm, bearing this inscription, 'The Lord knows those who are His.' and let everyone who names the Lord's name stand aloof from wickedness."
11. II Tim. 3:10-12 "But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me in Antioch, in Iconium, in Lystra - what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."

D. THE PREACHER MUST BE A MAN OF COMPLETE DEDICATION:

1. Rom. 1:14-15 "I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also."
2. Acts 16:23-25 "And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailor to keep them safely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them."
3. Phil. 3:7-11 "But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. But indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection of the dead."
4. Phil. 4:12-13 "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which I also was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."
5. Col. 4:3 "Meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in Chains."
6. Acts 28:30-31 "And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him."

E. THE PREACHER MUST BE A MAN OF VISION.

1. Acts 19:21 "After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the Spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, 'After I have been there, I must also see Rome.'"
2. Rom. 15:19-20, 23-23, 28 "Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and around about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named lest I should build on another man's foundation... But now no longer having a place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come to you, whenever I take my journey to Spain, I shall come to you ...Therefore when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain."

NOTE: Paul was a great man of vision. To him the world was the field and he intended to keep on evangelizing it. Where are the preachers today with such a great vision?

F. GOD'S PREACHER MUST BE A GREAT LOVER.

1. Phil. 1:3-8 "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ."
2. Phil. 1:27-30 "Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, and not in anyway terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me."
3. Phil. 2:1-4 "Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem another better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."
4. Phil. 2:14-15 "Do all things without murmuring and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world."
5. Phil. 4:8-9 "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things. The things which you have learned and seen in me - these do, and the God of peace will be with you."
6. Phil. 4:18-20 "Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Not to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen."
7. Eph 4:1-3 "I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with long-suffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

(Preacher as a great lover continued)

8. Eph. 4:15-16 "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head - Christ - from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."
9. Eph. 4:32 "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."
10. Col. 2:1-5 "For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. And this I say lest anyone deceive you with persuasive words. For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and steadfastness of your faith in Christ."
11. Col. 3:1-2 "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."
12. Col. 3:9,12-13 "Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man...Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you do also."
13. I Thess. 1:2-3 "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father..."
14. II Thess. 1:3-4 "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure."
15. I Thess. 4:9-12 "But concerning brotherly love you do not need that I write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; and indeed you do this to all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outsiders, and that you may lack nothing."
16. I Thess. 5:14-15 "Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. So that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all."

G. GOD'S PREACHER MUST PREACH THE WHOLE TRUTH.

1. Gal. 4:16 "Have I become your enemy because I tell you the truth?"
2. Acts 20:26-31 "Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you all the counsel of God. Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will arise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after themselves. Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears."
3. Phil. 1:15-17 "Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from good will: The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel."
4. I Tim. 2:7 "For which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle - I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying - a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth."
5. Col. 1:21 "If you indeed continue grounded and steadfast in the faith, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you have heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister."
6. Col. 1:28-29 "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily."
7. I Thess. 2:13 "For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe".
8. I Tim. 1:3 "As I urged you when I went into Macedonia - remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine."
9. I Tim. 1:18-19 "This charge I commit to you son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck."
10. I Tim. 4:6 "If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed."
11. I Tim. 4:16 "Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you."

12. I Tim. 6:12-14 "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses...that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing."
13. II Tim. 2:1-3 "You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. You therefore endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."
14. II Tim. 4:1-5 "I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word, Be ready in season, out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort will all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."
15. II Tim. 4:16-18 "At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them. But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. And I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen."
16. I Cor. 15:1-4 "Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you have received and which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which was preached to you - unless you have preached in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,.."
17. I Tim. 6:20 "O Timothy, guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and vain babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge - (v.21) by professing it, some have strayed concerning the faith. Grace be with you. Amen."
18. II Tim. 2:15,19 "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth...Nevertheless, the solid foundation of God stand, having this seal: The Lord knows those who are His, and let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."
19. II Tim. 3:14-17 "But you continue in the things which you have learned...All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

H. THE PREACHER SHOULD BE A FAITHFUL FRIEND TO EACH MEMBER.

1. Eph. 6:21-22 "But than you also may know my affairs and how I am doing, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you; who I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may comfort your hearts."
2. Phil. 2:19-24 "But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I may be encouraged when I know your state. For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of the Lord Jesus. But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he has served with me in the gospel. Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly."
3. Phil. 2:25-30 "Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because had heard that he was sick. For indeed he was sick almost to death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. Receive therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me."
4. Phil. 4:1-3 "Therefore, my beloved and longed for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved. I beg Euodia and I beg Syntyche to be of the mind in the Lord. And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life."
- * 5. (Look at the long list of friends at Colosse. Note the location of; Colosse, Laodicea and Heiropolis)
6. Col. 1:7-8 "As you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, who also declared to us your love in the Spirit."
7. Col. 4:7-18 "Tychicus, who is a beloved brother, a faithful minister, and a fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here. Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcison; they have proved to be a comfort to me.

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"Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis. Luke the beloved physician and Demas, greet you. Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house. And when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea. And say to Archippus, 'Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you fulfill it.'" This salutation by my own hand - Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Amen."

8. I Thess. 3:1-2 "Therefore, when we could no longer endure it, we thought it good to be left in Athens alone, and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith."
9. I Thess. 3:6 "But now that Timothy has come to us ~~has come to us~~ from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you -"
10. I Thess. 3:9-13 "For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face, and perfect what is lacking in your faith? Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints."
11. II Tim. 1:1-5: "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus. To Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, and I may be filled with joy, when I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded in you also."

NOTE: Paul probably got to know both of these women at Lystra.

12. II Tim. 1:16-18 "The Lord give mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain. But when he arrived in Rome, he sought me out very diligently and found me. The Lord grant to him that he may find mercy from the Lord in that Day - and you know very well how many ways he ministered to me at Ephesus."

13. II Tim. 4:9-16 "Be diligent to come to me quickly; for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica - Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry. And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come - and the books, especially the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works - of whom you also beware, for he has greatly resisted our words. At my first defense no one stood with me. May it not be charged against them."
14. Titus 1:4 "To Titus, my true son in our common faith."
15. Philemon 1-2 "Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, to Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellow laborer, to the beloved Apphia, Archippus, our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house."
16. Philemon 8-10, 16-17 "Therefore, though I might be very bold in Christ to command you what is fitting, yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you - being such a one as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ - I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten while in my chains... no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother, especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord...if you then count me as a partner...prepare a guest room for me."
17. Philemon 23-25 "Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen."
18. I Cor. 16: 19-24 "The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss..."
19. II Cor. 13:11-12 "Finally, brethren, farewell, Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss."
20. Rom. 16:1-16 "I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also. Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who have risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Likewise, greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ.....Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine. ... Greet one another with a holy kiss, the churches of Christ greet you."

NOTE: Paul list by name 34 friends and fellow workers in the chapter. Surely, they considered this great preacher one of their best friends.

I. THE PREACHER'S PERSONAL LIFE MUST BE BEYOND REPROACH.

1. Acts 23:1 "...Men and Brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."
2. Acts 24:16 "And for this, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men."
3. II Cor. 1:12 "For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.
4. II Cor. 4:2 "But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
5. Rom. 9:1 "I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit."
6. I Tim. 1:5 "Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from unfeigned faith."
7. I Tim. 4:12 "...But be an example to the believers, in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."
8. I Pet. 3:16 "Having a good conscience, that when they speak evil of you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed."
9. Heb. 13:18 "Pray for us, for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably.
10. Col. 4:5 "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outsiders, redeeming the time."

J. THE PREACHER MUST EXERCISE SELF-DISCIPLINE.

1. Eph. 4:26-27 "Be angry and do not sin, do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil."
2. Col. 4:6 "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one."

NOTE: This would apply anytime, any place and under any and every situation.

3. I Cor. 9:27 "But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."
4. When Tempted He Will Take The Escape God Supplies:
 - a. I Cor. 10:13 "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

(1) He Must Practice:

a. Sacrifice b. Discipline c. Restraint

K. THE PREACHER SHOULD BE THE EPITOMY OF SELFLESSNESS.

1. I Cor. 10:24 "Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being."
2. I Cor. 15:9 "For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God."
3. Eph. 3:8 "To me, who am less than the least of all saints, this grace was given..."
4. Rom. 12:3 "...Not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think..."

NOTE: There is no room in the Master's service for a selfish self-serving arrogant preacher.

L. THE PREACHER MUST HAVE A HIGH VIEW OF HOME RELATIONSHIPS.

1. As A Husband.

- a. I Pet. 3:7 "Likewise husbands, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered."
- b. Eph. 5:22-23 "Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body."
- c. Eph. 5:25,28 "Husband, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, ...So ought men to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself."
- d. Col. 3:19 "Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them."

2. As A Father.

- a. Eph. 6:4 "And you fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."
- b. Col. 3:21 "Fathers do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged."
- c. I Thess. 2:11 "as you know how we exhorted, comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children."

3. As A Son Towards His Parents:

- a. Matt. 19:19, Luke 18:20 "Honor they father-mother..."
- b. I Tim. 5:4,8,16 "But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at thme and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God...But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel."

M. THE PREACHER MUST SET A STEADY UNWAVERING COURSE.

1. Phil. 3:14 "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
2. II Tim. 1:12 "For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day."
3. II Tim. 2:11-12 "This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him we shall also live with Him. If we endure, we shall also reign with Him."
4. I Cor. 15:49 "And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man!"
5. I Cor. 15:51-51, 58. "Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed - in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the Trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable always abounding in the work of the Lord, inasmuch as you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."
6. II. Cor. 5:1 "For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."
7. Phil. 3:20-21 "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself."

A PREACHER I KNEW

THERE are men who toil to build a name,
Who squander life for wealth and fame.
I knew a man who had no gold,
Whose treasure was a brother's soul.

For three score years and more than ten
He lived his life for other men,
In modest church and humble home
With scarce a day to call his own.

No choir in robes behind him sang;
No chime in roof above him rang;
He said not lines that men prepare,
But from his heart he read his prayer.

The hymns he sang were those I know -
The ones he taught me years ago -
'On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand,'
And 'Hold to God's Unchanging Hand.'

Beside the tomb where teardrops start
He gently soothed a broken heart;
And children gathered at his knee
To hear him tell of Galilee.

A thousand souls were waiting there,
The day he went their joy to share;
A thousand souls he showed the way
To life and love and endless day.