

The Power of Godliness

2 Timothy 3:5

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INTRODUCTION

1. As Paul wrote about the perilous times of the last days, he said some would have “*a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof*”.
2. GODLINESS has both a form and a power.
3. We need to understand what GODLINESS is in order to see how one could have the form of godliness without its power.

I. WHAT IS GODLINESS?

- a. GODLINESS means: “piety toward God” – *Thayer, pg. 262*.
- b. It denotes a manner of life which reverence and respect for God.
- c. The opposite of GODLINESS is ungodliness.
 - i. Ungodliness is “want of reverence toward God; impiety”.

II. THE POWER OF GODLINESS

- a. GODLINESS is reverence for God; piety – Psa. 33: 8.
- b. Recognition that one is the presence of God becomes a motivation force in one’s life.
 - i. A godly man sets God always before him.
 - ii. The thought of God controls his whole life – Psalm 1:1.
 - iii. His effort is to do all things in the name of the Lord – Col. 3:17.
- c. The power of GODLINESS is seen in Joseph’s resistance of Potiphar’s wife’s advances – Gen. 39:9.
 - i. His awareness of the presence of God kept him from committing adultery.
 - ii. This is the power of Godliness.
 - iii. Men “*flee fornication*” today because of their awareness of the presence of God – Heb. 4:13.
- d. Some hold the form of godliness but do not have its power.
 - i. They express piety with their lips and go through the motions of reverencing God in worship, but commit deeds of ungodliness – Matt. 15:7 – 9.
 - ii. Many in the denominational world have a form of godliness.
 1. They express love for God and man.
 2. They speak of the word of God, the Holy Spirit, prayer and faith.
 3. They then commit deeds of ungodliness:
 - a. They do not respect what the Holy Spirit has revealed in the Word.
 - b. They teach that baptism, the church, and following the worship revealed in the word is not necessary.

III. APPLICATIONS OF GODLINESS

- a. In ATTENDANCE of public worship.

- i. One should show enough reverence for God to be PRESENT in the worship assemblies – Heb. 10:25; Matt. 18:20.
 1. The man who willfully absents himself from the worship assemblies manifests these attitudes:
 - a. A lack of thankfulness toward God.
 - b. Lack of interest in the spiritual welfare of other Christians – Heb. 10:24.
 - c. How can a man claim to be godly while withholding from God his worship? -- John 4: 23 – 24
- b. In our CONDUCT at worship services.
 - i. *“God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him”* – Psa. 89:7
 - ii. How much reverence is shown to God when a person disrupts the worship assembly:
 1. By whispering
 2. By passing notes
 3. By playing with babies
 4. By going out unnecessarily
 - iii. How much reverence is shown to God by not participating in:
 1. The worship
 2. The singing
 3. The prayer
 4. The teaching
 5. The Giving
 6. The Lord’s Supper
 - iv. How much reverence is shown to God by being present in the worship assembly, but looking upon it as a burdensome chore? Mal. 1: 13 – 14.
- c. In our CONDUCT IN GENERAL:
 - i. We are to be salt and light – Matt. 5: 13 – 18.
 - ii. We are to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts – Tit. 2: 11 – 12.
 - iii. We are not to love the world – I John 2: 15 – 16
 - iv. When our conduct is worldly we are not showing reverence for God:
 1. Immodest dress – I Tim. 2: 9 -10
 2. Drinking
 3. Drugs
 4. Fornication
 5. Bad Attitudes
- d. In the USE OF GOD’S NAME:
 - i. One of the ten commandments was *“Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain”* –Ex. 20:7
 - ii. Psa. 111: 9
 - iii. Our society shows little regard for the name of God.
 - iv. The man who uses God’s name in cursing is an impious man.

IV. CONCLUSION

- a. Are you a GODLY person?
- b. Do you have only the form of GODLINESS, or do you also have its power??
- c. I Tim. 4: 7 – 8; 6:6

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