

## Traitors, Headstrong, Haughty, Lovers of Pleasure

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Purpose: to explain what Paul actually meant when he wrote that men would be traitors, haughty, headstrong and lovers of pleasure and encourage believers not to emulate these characteristics.

I know that this is “Family month”, but I felt led to continue with the last days for a few reasons:

Because our children are being confronted with the behavior of people in the last days. They are being taught that they can do whatever they want without any consequences. They are learning to be selfish, greedy, and disobedient. Many are beginning to think that they know more than their parents, and they are being taught an ungodly agenda in schools.

Because our marriages are breaking up due to selfishness, pride, etc. The statistics around divorce are the same for Christians as non-Christians. In fact, relationships between the sexes are becoming more confused than ever.

Today, I want to look at four more characteristics of people in the last days:

2 Timothy 3:4

...traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

First, we must understand what Paul was actually saying when he wrote this:

**Traitors** – betrayers; Greek *prodotes* - the idea is that they will turn their friends over to the hand of an enemy.

Matthew 24:10

And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. This word is used of Judas Iscariot:

Luke 6:16

Judas *the son* of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor.

You can expect that in these last days, people who should be your friends may turn on you.

**Headstrong** – Greek *propets*, which literally means “falling forwards”. It is used metaphorically to signify “precipitate (hurried), rash, reckless.” To act without thinking or restraint. We would use the metaphor “hard-headed”.

You can expect that in these last days people will act without thinking, based on their emotions and make bad decisions.

**Haughty** – Greek *tuphoo*, which means “to wrap in mist or smoke”. It is a metaphor, meaning “to wrap in conceit” or “to make proud”. Today, we would say something like: “full of themselves”.

You can expect that in these last days people will be so full of themselves that they will turn on even their friends without even thinking. Too proud to admit wrong – never truly apologise.

Here is how this verse is translated in a few other English translations:

**(BBE)** False to their friends, acting without thought, lifted up in mind, loving pleasure more than God;

**(ERV)** People will turn against their friends. They will do foolish things without thinking and will be so proud of themselves. Instead of loving God, they will love pleasure.

**(NirV)** They will turn against their friends. They will act without thinking. They will think they are better than others. They will love what pleases them instead of loving God.

**(NLT)** They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God.

### Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God

Is it wrong to seek pleasure?

There is nothing wrong with enjoying life:

#### Ecclesiastes 2:24

Nothing *is* better for a man *than* that he should eat and drink, and *that* his soul should enjoy good in his labor. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God.

#### Ecclesiastes 5:18-20

Here is what I have seen: *It is* good and fitting *for one* to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it *is* his heritage. As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor—this *is* the gift of God. For he will not dwell unduly on the days of his life, because God keeps *him* busy with the joy of his heart.

#### Deuteronomy 12:7

And there you shall eat before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice in all to which you have put your hand, you and your households, in which the LORD your God has blessed you.

However, anything that takes the place of God is an Idol, including my own desires.

Pleasure, sensual gratification, is their god; and this they love and serve; God they do not. (Adam Clarke).

Lovers of sinful pleasures, or the pleasures of sin, which are but for a season, and not God; serving divers lusts and pleasures, and not God; making a god of their belly; sensual idolaters, delighting themselves in their carnal lusts, and not in the service of God. (John Gill).

More and more people are living for pleasure, and some have their own “belly” as the only thing that they chase.

Some Christians and ministers will have their own desires in mind and could cause you problems.

**Rom 16:17** - Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

**Rom 16:18** - For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

**Php 3:17** - Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.

**Php 3:18** - For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ:

**Php 3:19** - whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and whose glory *is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

**Mat 6:24** - "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

You can expect that in these last days people will live for their own pleasure rather than God.

What can you expect in these last days?

1. You can expect, that people who should be your friends may turn on you.
  - a. Don't be surprised, but above all don't fall into the world's pattern.
2. You can expect that people will act without thinking, based on their emotions and make bad decisions.
  - a. Listen to God and ask Him to give you self-control and seek wisdom.
3. You can expect that in these last days that people will be so full of themselves that they will turn on even their friends without even thinking. Too proud to admit wrong – never truly apologise.
  - a. Humble yourself and He will lift you up. He resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble
4. You can expect that in these last days people will live for their own pleasure rather than God.
  - a. Decide in your mind to put Him first. He will test you, but you'll pass!