



**SESSION 3 — The Challenges of a Godly Man-
1 John 2
- Pastor Andy -**

It's not easy to be a Godly man! When we roll out of bed every morning, we begin a day-long spiritual battle! Difficulties and trials of life are “par for the course.” Every person’s struggles are different, but each of us is a soldier in a spiritual war.

How does a Godly man overcome spiritual struggles? He must understand who the enemy is. Whenever a soldier is in the battle, he must know who he is fighting with and who he is fighting against! You must identify your enemy in order to have victory. A spiritual man who desires to overcome life’s challenges must know the following three truths:

THE GODLY MAN KNOWS HIS _____ .

A. *The devil is our enemy*

1. *He is subtle.*

Satan will not always approach us head-on, but often prefers to slip in the “back door.” When the serpent tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden, he did not directly tell her to disobey God. Instead, he placed a subtle doubt in her mind. “Hath God said...?” (Gen. 3:1)

2. *He is a salesman, who knows how to appeal to our desires (John 8:44)*

Ephesians 4:22 tells us to put off our old man, who is corrupt according to deceitful lusts. These lusts, or desires, trick us into thinking that it gives us something that we desperately need, when it's actually spiritually harmful to us. Satan will use any lie that causes us to doubt God's goodness.

3. *He is destructive (Luke 22:31; 1 Peter 5:8).*

The devil is pictured as a roaring lion, seeking to devour anyone who is in his path. This should show us just how destructive sin actually is! Satan would love to destroy your testimony, your ministry, and your family! He would love for you to fail and bring shame to the name of Christ in your community.

B. *The world is our enemy (1 John 2:15-17).*

We sometimes hear of how we are to flee from "the world." What exactly is the world? What does it stand for? How does it operate? John provides an excellent definition in this chapter.

- 1. *Lust of the flesh***
- 2. *Lust of the eyes***
- 3. *Pride of life***

THE GODLY MAN KNOWS _____.

Unfortunately, if we are truly honest with ourselves, we know that Satan and his world system is not our only enemy. Our other enemy is within. We cannot trust ourselves. In fact, 1 Corinthians 10:12 warns that "let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall."

A. The Godly man knows he has weaknesses (Matt. 26:40-41)

As Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane praying to His Heavenly Father, He asked His three inner disciples to join Him.

Unfortunately, they kept falling asleep during that wonderful prayer. Eventually, Jesus said to Peter, “Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (v. 41) A Godly man knows the treasure of watchful prayer.

We have an inward battle going on between our old man and our new man! (Rom. 7:21-25)

B. The Godly man knows that he cannot trust himself (Jer. 17:9; Eph. 4:22)

The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who could ever understand it? A Godly man realizes that he cannot fully understand the wickedness of his own heart until he looks to Scripture and allows God’s Word to reveal the flaws in His character.

The only way that we can truly come to understand our own hearts is to ask God through the power of His Holy Spirit to search our hearts and show us what needs to change (Ps. 139).

C. The Godly man knows that he needs to keep growing (Eph. 4:22-24)

A Godly man will never be content with his current state of Christ-likeness. He is constantly seeking to learn more about this wonderful God who laid down His own Son to save him.

THE GODLY MAN KNOWS HIS _____.

As obvious as this sounds, the term “Godly” contains the name of God. A man who truly wants to embrace Biblical manhood realizes that he must imitate God the same way that little children mimics what adults around them (Eph. 5:1-2). He must desire to be God-like, Christ-like, in every aspect of his life.

As the Apostle John gives his admonition to the men of the church, he states that they knew of the forgiveness that comes from God’s free gift of salvation (v. 12b), they knew of God’s eternity (v. 13a, 14a), and they personally just knew God (v. 13b).

A. *The Godly man knows God’s salvation (v. 12)*

B. *The Godly man knows God’s character (vv. 13-14)*

C. *The Godly man knows God’s Word (v. 14)*

John commends these men because they are strong, the word of God abides in them, and they have overcome the evil one.

Conclusion:

Brothers, we are soldiers in battle. We have enemies, we possess our own weakness and strengths, and we have an incredible commander. We are on the winning side! Do we act like it?

Tonight, make a commitment to being a man of character. Don’t be satisfied with surface-level results, but truly seek to deal with the roots of your sinful struggles. As you go through the challenges of this life, know who your enemy is, understand what the truth of God’s Word has to say about you, and pursue the wonderful relationship with God that you have because of all that Christ has done for you! Brothers, in your life, cultivate Godly manhood!