

2 Timothy 3:1-5

Why is Paul informing Timothy about the last days? It is because Timothy needed to understand the nature of them so he wouldn't get discouraged and fall away. [John 16:1](#)).

When you know something difficult is coming, it is easier to persevere and be faithful when it happens. We need to understand this reality as well. Difficulties are already around us and ahead of us. What are characteristics of the church in the last days?

As we continue to read Paul's words, we find that the terrible times will not be bad because of difficult events but because of evil people.

1. **People will be lovers of themselves:** This comes first because it is the dominant characteristic of the last days—leading to further sins. Satan tempted Eve to be like God in the garden. He called her to seek self-fulfillment instead of loving God and others first. From that point, that became the prominent motivation in humanity.
2. In fact, much of the teaching in churches these days focuses on self-love. It has essentially become the greatest commandment. They say, "You can't love God or others unless you love yourself first!" However, there is never a command in the Bible to love ourselves. The Bible assumes that we already do—it is a result of our sin nature.
3. When Scripture says to love our neighbors as ourselves ([Matt 12:31](#)), it is simply recognizing that we already love ourselves way too much. Scripture continually calls us to humble ourselves ([James 4:10](#)), deny ourselves, take up our cross ([Matt 16:24](#)), and seek the interests of others over ourselves ([Phil 2:3](#)). However, since self has replaced God, it leads to many other sins.
4. **Lovers of money:** Since the love of self is dominant, the love of money naturally follows. By pursuing money, we cater to all our desires. In fact, many will use religion to make money. [First Timothy 6:5](#) says that many will think that "godliness is a way of making a profit."
5. **Boastful:** Those who love themselves will continually brag about themselves, their money, their education, their achievements, and even their faith. They will boast about their giving, their strong devotion, and even their "spiritual" experiences. The church will be full of braggarts.
6. **Arrogant:** Pride is the internal motivation that leads people to brag. People will think higher of themselves than they should. They will have false pride about their race, their social class, their economic standing, and even their doctrine.
7. **Blasphemers:** This word can be translated "abusive." They will blaspheme others and God. When life is about self and people don't get their way, they become angry and aggressive towards God and others. This abuse will be directed towards people of different ethnicities, social or economic standings, denominational affiliations, and even their own families. The church will be abusive instead of loving.
8. **Ungrateful:** If something interrupts one's pursuit of self-gratification, then he or she will complain and become angry. Instead of being worshipers, the church will be a group of Disobedient to their parents: Love of self naturally leads to disobeying parents in order to fulfill one's desires. Disobedience to parents will ultimately lead to disobeying all authorities—teachers, work superiors, government, and God.

9. ungrateful people that complain about anything that makes them uncomfortable—the worship music, the seating, the preaching, the children’s ministry, the church leadership, the national government, ([1 Cor 10:10](#)).
10. **Unholy**: Love of self leads people to not respect or fear God. Without a reverence for God, they will be led into all types of sins. Their thought life, conversations, entertainment, and actions will be unholy.
11. **Unloving**: “Unloving” can also be translated “without natural affection” or “without family affection.” There will be a lack of “natural affection” in the church. It will be shameful to hear stories about how believers neglect their children, spouses, and elderly parents.!
12. **Irreconcilable**: They won’t forgive others nor seek forgiveness from others. They are so prideful that they won’t humble themselves to seek reconciliation.
13. **Slanderers**: This expression is from the word “diabolos” which can be translated “accuser” or “devil.” People will slander others with their words and slander God. The church will be full of gossip and back-biting. When self is on the throne, it naturally leads to pulling down others to exalt oneself.
14. **Without self-control**: People will lack power to discipline themselves. They will be controlled by their delights and passions—The church will be full of addicts of one thing or another.
15. **Savage**: This can be translated “brutal,” “fierce,” or “untamed.” People will be like wild animals seeking to tear one another apart in order to gain or protect their own desires.
16. **Opposed to what is good**: They will love what should be hated and hate what should be loved. But the things of God—his Word, preaching, worship, serving, and righteousness—they will hate.
17. **Treacherous**: They won’t keep their promises. The only commitment they will keep is their pursuit of happiness. Divorce, church splits, and church hopping will be commonplace.
18. **Reckless**: People will do whatever they want without consideration of others. All that matters is self and self-expression. They will say things like, “I just had to be true to myself!”, as if that justifies any number of evils.
19. **Conceited**: People will be full of their own exaggerated self-importance blinding them to others’ opinions and ultimately God’s Word. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble ([James 4:6](#)).
20. **Loving pleasure rather than loving God**: Because they love pleasure instead of God, churches will be full of entertainment instead of true worship. Church services will be about pleasing people instead of pleasing God.
21. **Maintain the outward appearance of religion but will have repudiated its power**: Also, translated “**having a form of godliness but denying its power**” (NIV). Again, there will be form but no power to change lives.
22. **Outwardly these people seem religious. They make a profession of Christianity, but their actions speak louder than their words. By their ungodly behavior, they show that they are living a lie. There is no evidence of the power of God in their lives. While there might have been reformation, there never was regeneration.**