



WOW: Word Of the Week

AMACHOS

November 1, 2023

Words are fun! How often have I found the saying to be true? The Greeks had a word for it! This week, our WOW: amachos.

The word appears only two times in the New Testament. Bishops or overseers are to be amachos, 1 Tim 3:3. Titus is to teach everyone to cultivate this characteristic, 3:2. Translations vary. Not to quarrel, not to argue, not to be contentious, not to be a brawler.

Let me break this word apart for you – I think you will come to appreciate it, even as did the men's study group I was in a few weeks ago. We were discussing what it means for a husband to love his wife. Our word is a prefix "a" which means not, and the root of the word "machos." Not machos. Get it? Not macho! Not prideful, strutting, always right. Not quick tempered is a companion thought in 1 Timothy 3. Not quarrelsome, not argumentative, not contentious. Not given to fighting—more often verbal and emotional than physical for many Christians. Not macho.

A characteristic or trait of the man who serves as a spiritual leader. Not throwing his weight around, no authoritarian leadership, not leading from position or power. A-macho. You can hear it better when I move the accent. Amachos, a-macho.

Also a characteristic of every Christian. This is how we live in our homes, in our workplaces, in our neighborhoods, in our country, in our world. We seek peace with everyone, insofar as is within us (Romans 12, Paul presents the same idea but in different words). Where did we get the idea that real men are macho men? That real men stand up for their rights?

Here is a word worthy of our thoughts and prayers. It may take us more than one day of thinking and praying. It may take several days. It may be long process. But it will be worth it – for the sake of our homes, our marriages, our families, our churches. Not reactionary, no knee-jerk reactions. No "I'll take my toys and go play somewhere else."

What would happen if our churches were to suddenly fill with peaceful people? What interpersonal conflicts ended yesterday? May I suggest that the gospel would go forth more powerfully and more rapidly? Are we willing to get self out of the way for the eternal purpose of God in this world?