

*What does the bible say about speaking against the man of God?*

The term *man of God* in scripture refers to a prophet<sup>1</sup>—one who speaks for God. In the modern vernacular the term means a godly man or Christ-follower.

A prophet today is one who gives out the word of God (Ro 12:6, 1 Co 12:10). When one speaks from God's word, he speaks with the authority of any apostle or prophet of old.

Men are warned; however, that there will be false prophets in the last days (Mt 24:3, 11). Paul said: There must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you (1 Co 11:18–19). Truth claims must be compared (Jn 5:39, 2 Pe 1:20, 21) to God's word (Ps 119:160, Jas 1:18).

God's prophets serve him. Men are warned to do them no harm (Ps 105:15). The apostle Paul asked: "Who are you to judge another's servant?" Ro 14:4a.

Regarding Romans 14:3-4, John MacArthur wrote:

The strong hold the weak in contempt as legalistic and self-righteous; the weak judge the strong to be irresponsible at best and perhaps depraved.

...To his own master he stands or falls. How Christ evaluates each believer is what matters, and His judgment does not take into account religious tradition or personal preference (cf. 8:33, 34; 1 Co 4:3–5).

God's opinion—not man's—is what is important. Paul wrote, "Do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ (Ga 1:10b, NKJV)."

Throughout history, men have rejected God's word.

In Isaiah's time evil men said to the seers:

... "Do not see,"  
And to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things;  
Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits.  
Get out of the way,  
Turn aside from the path,  
Cause the Holy One of Israel  
To cease from before us." Is 30:10–11, NKJV

Paul warned Christ-followers: "All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted (2 Ti 3:12)." Persecution toward the man of God (Ac 20:20) is to be expected. Nevertheless, the believer must follow Christ's example to be an example for others (Phil 3:17; Heb 6:12; Jas 5:10).

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<sup>1</sup> Prophets—inspired messengers. Described as: God's servants (Zech. 1:6), God's messengers (2 Chr. 36:15), holy prophets (Luke 1:70), holy men (2 Pet. 1:21), watchmen (Ezek. 3:17), prophets of God (Ezra 5:2). Message of: Centered in Christ (Luke 10:24), interpreted by Christ (Luke 24:27, 44), united in testimony (Acts 3:21, 24), contains grace and salvation (1 Pet. 1:9–12), abiding revelation (Matt. 5:17, 18). Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (pp. 508–509). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.