

GODLY MEN Lesson 1 The Creation of Man

Perhaps the most needful questions to be asked by man are, “Why am I here?” and “Why did God create me?” The answers to these questions are found in the book of Genesis where they will begin to show us what makes a man a godly and holy man.

- **And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. Genesis 1:26,27**

Man is different from anything God has ever made. Man is the first creation to be created in the image and likeness of God. God chose to do this. It is good in His sight. We are created in the image of God, not mere animals. Godly men should act godly, not like animals.

- **And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. Genesis 2:7**

Not only is man made in a different form from animals and the rest of creation, man was created using a totally different process. God spoke the stars, the planets, the birds, the fish, the animals, the oceans, and even the heavens into existence. But God “formed” man. And after He had formed him, He breathed into him the breath of life. Framed from dirt, but quickened by the breath of God.

- **For Adam was first formed, then Eve. 1 Timothy 2:13**

And man was made first, then the woman. There is something different, special, needful, and important in the eyes of God concerning man. God has placed great responsibility in the hands of man. Men must rise to the occasion.

CREATED TO SERVE, FELLOWSHIP, AND PRODUCE LIFE

Man was created for three primary reasons: to fellowship with God, to serve God, and to produce life in the earth.

- **And God blessed them, and God said unto them . . . (Genesis 1:28a); And the LORD God commanded the man . . . (Genesis 2:16a); and brought them [the animals] unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. (Genesis 2:19b)**

God created man so that man would fellowship with Him. In the beginning, God was fellowshiping with Adam and Eve, seeing what they would do, and what Adam would call

things. God honored the names Adam gave to every creature by calling them by those names. There was a relationship and there was fellowship. God is still looking for that in us today.

- **And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.**
Genesis 2:15

God placed the man in His garden. God honored the man by giving him something to do for Him. This is still true today. God honors us by giving us something to do for Him. We should honor Him in return by doing an excellent job for Him.

- **And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, . . .**
Genesis 1:28a

God commanded man to be fruitful. Life produces fruit. When you fellowship with God and labor for Him, you will automatically produce life everywhere you go. Life begets life. Depressed, discouraged, dried up people don't produce life—they suck it out of people. Walk with God and produce life.

THE FIRST 5 COMMANDMENTS

Genesis also records the first commands from God to man. These first few commandments can reveal some very interesting facts about the plan of God for us as men (and women).

- **And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.**
Genesis 1:28

1. Be fruitful: We are still called to be fruitful.
2. Multiply: We are to reproduce who we are through evangelism and discipleship.
3. Replenish the earth: The earth was once filled with God's glory. We are to bring back the glory of God by walking as new creations, preaching the Kingdom of our God and Savior.
4. Subdue it: There are still some things out of line that need to be brought back into line.
5. Have dominion: Maintain your victory. Enforce it. Once you subdue something, maintain that victory through your God-given authority.

THE PSALMIST'S SUMMARY

- **What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou has made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:**
Psalm 8:4-6

The Psalmist summed it all up here. God made man, not because He had to, but because He

wanted to. And the LORD God is mindful of us. He wants to visit and fellowship with us. He wants to speak to us and interject Himself into our lives. He has crowned us with His glory and His honor. And if that alone wasn't a great enough honor, He then gave us His authority and dominion over all things. We are here to serve Him, not ourselves.

GODLY MEN Lesson 2 The Man of Authority

In this lesson, we will look at areas men of God are authorized to affect and change. God has authorized man to accomplish God's will in the earth. This is a tremendous and fearful honor. To think that God would lend to us His authority . . . WOW!! God has authorized us to *re-present* Him in the earth and in every situation we may face. Understand this critical truth upfront: we will give an account to God for what we did or did not accomplish with His authority and how we did or did not represent Him.

Authority: *The power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.*

Kingdom (Greek): *Royal power, kingship, dominion, rule; not to be confused with an actual kingdom but rather the right or authority to rule over a kingdom.*

AUTHORITY IN THE BEGINNING

From the beginning, God authorized man to *re-present* Him on the earth and, in a sense, to govern in His stead.

-Authority Over Creation

- **And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it [*to keep under*]; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. Genesis 1:26,28**

From the beginning, man was authorized by God to take charge of any situation he may face on the earth. God has given man dominion: *to rule, to tread down, to subjugate, to bring under control-especially by conquest.* The first command given to man was to replenish the earth. The second command was to subdue it: *to force, to keep under, to enslave.* Men of God must rise up and exercise their God-given authority in the earth. We are commanded to take charge!!

-Authority Over the Family

- **Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. Genesis 3:16**

From the beginning, the man, in this case the husband, was authorized by God to be the head of his home. God did not mince words. The LORD God declared, "he (the husband) shall **rule** over thee (the wife)." The word **rule** in the Hebrew means *dominion, governor, have power.* Married men must lead and govern their home and exercise their God-given

authorization over the affairs of their family. You must guard and govern all that concerns your home. Not as a dictator, but as a loving patriarch and protector.

-Authority Over Sin

- **If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. Genesis 4:7**

Man has been given the authority and the commandment to rule over sin. Sin always wants to sleep on the front porch of our life and family. We must use our authority to run it off. This third passage from Genesis concludes the three main things God said man had authority over. Man has been given authority over the earth, his wife, and sin.

NEW TESTAMENT AUTHORITY

- **And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore . . . Matthew 28:18,19a**
- **And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. Matthew 10:1**
- **And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits; Mark 6:7**
- **Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7**

We know and understand that we have been given authority over unclean spirits, sickness and disease, and all the works of the enemy. We must actively exercise this authority over these wicked forces. If we do not use our authority, the enemy will slowly and successfully push against us. Submission to God and His Word will bring greater measures of authorization and empowerment.

- **One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) 1 Timothy 3:4,5**

The man is to be the head of his home, not the wife. Here the Bible commands the man of God to “rule well his own house.” Some men rule well on their job, or in the social club to which they belong, but they fail to rule well their home. The word **ruleth** literally means *to stand before someone as a superior*. It also means *to outrank*. If God is commanding the husband to rule, then it is God who has caused the husband to outrank the wife. This is not sexism. It is New Testament doctrine. The husband outranks everyone in his home. But by doing so, he must also lead the home, for rank is given for the purpose of leading. A good

leader will automatically have his subordinates in subjection to himself, whether they are his troops, his employees, his wife, or his children. A man of God is a godly leader. **Subjection** is also a military term meaning *to have people arranged under your command; no room for insubordination*. Fathers, God has authorized and anointed you to be able to be an accomplished leader in your home.

- **Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the LORD, and Cephas? 1 Corinthians 9:5**

Here, the word *power* is the Greek word for authority. Men have the authority to lead about a sister, a wife. A man becomes a husband when a man uses his God-given authority to lead about his wife. A husband who does not lead is not a husband. “Husband” is a verb. By our definition, many married men are not acting as husbands. They are merely roommates with their spouse. Husband, your wife is looking for a leader!! Rise up and lead your home.

GODLY MEN Lesson 3 The Attributes of Ahab

Perhaps the most notoriously wicked woman in the entire Bible is Jezebel. She may even outrank the Whore of Babylon. For all the teaching about and against Jezebel, very little teaching has been done about her husband, King Ahab. We must understand that without an Ahab, there would not have been a Jezebel. We will see that Ahab was just as weak in his role as Jezebel was overbearing in her role. Men, don't be an Ahab!!

- **And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him. 1 Kings 16:30**
 1. Ahab was evil. He didn't serve the living God. God had honored Ahab by allowing him to be King, yet Ahab dishonored God by not serving Him. Godly men honor God.

- **And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts. So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it: Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself. 1 Kings 18:5,6**
 2. In this time of God-proclaimed drought (because of the sins of Ahab- **1 Kings 18:18**), Ahab is seeking grass and not God. He is trying to fix the problem of the drought without fixing the problem of his sin. Modern Ahabs are also stubborn and will refuse to seek God when their life is falling apart. They'll seek for a natural solution to a supernatural problem. Like Ahab, they search for natural springs and fountains of water to relieve their spiritual drought.
 3. Ahab, the King, was out searching for water and grass himself. Since when do kings do these kinds of menial tasks? Kings have servants for this kind of footwork. This shows Ahab's lack of understanding concerning his authority as king. Modern Ahabs also lack the understanding of their God-given authorization. Modern Ahabs don't know how authority works for their benefit. **"I am a man under authority, saying to this man go, and he goeth . . ." (Matthew 8:9).**
 4. Ahab went by himself, without a kingly entourage of advisors, chamberlains, or servants. This shows his insecurity. Authority requires confidence and gumption. Insecure people are loners. Modern Ahabs are also insecure and don't like to be around too many people. They seldom allow sound counsel into their life. Godly men must have an understanding of their proper seat of authority and know how to use it.

- **Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four**

hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table. So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel.

1 Kings 18:19,20

5. Ahab obeys the man he just put down. Elijah's instructions were no small undertaking: to assemble all of Israel to Mt. Carmel. This shows Ahab's lack of backbone—he obeys whoever has the stronger or louder personality at the moment. He can't think for himself. Ahab is quick to always follow. Godly men recognize true authority. Godly men know when to lead and when to follow.
6. Notice Ahab and Jezebel had his and her prophets. This is often the case today in marriages with a weak man; the marriage is divided with the woman having her finances, her accounts, her friends, her hobbies . . . basically separate lives lived under one roof. These spouses look more like roommates than husband and wife.
7. It should be noted, Ahab never assembled Jezebel's prophets of Asherah. Could it be that he feared her more than God?

- **And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.**

1 Kings 19:1

8. Ahab had to report to Jezebel and she made the decisions. You can almost hear Ahab asking, "What are we going to do? He killed all of my prophets." Godly men run their household, for the head of every woman (wife) is the man (**1 Corinthians 11:3**).

- **And he [Benhadad] sent messengers to Ahab king of Israel into the city, and said unto him, Thus saith Benhadad, Thy silver and thy gold is mine; thy wives also and thy children, even the goodliest, are mine. And the king of Israel answered and said, My lord, O king, according to thy saying, I am thine, and all that I have.**

1 Kings 20:2-4

9. Benhadad is nothing but a Syrian bully demanding Israel be given to him; and Ahab, whose responsibility it is to say "No" and fight unto the death against any such threats, says, "Ok, I surrender." Modern Ahabs also surrender without a fight. They don't like confrontation even when it is necessary. Godly men know when and how to fight for what's right.
10. Once again Ahab is submitting to the loudest voice. Modern Ahabs are the same way. They yield to whoever has the strongest voice, even when they (Ahab) are the one God has placed in authority.
11. Ahab won't even fight for his family or his money. Modern Ahabs are just as apathetic. They will allow their heritage to be plundered by the enemy.

- **And, behold, there came a prophet unto Ahab king of Israel, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou seen all this great multitude? behold, I will deliver it into thine hand this day; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD. And Ahab said, By whom? And he said, Thus saith the LORD, Even by the young men of the**

princes of the provinces. Then he said, Who shall order the battle? And he answered, Thou. 1 Kings 20:13,14

12. The prophet of the LORD speaks to the head of Israel, no one else. The LORD said He would deliver Benhadad into Ahab's hands, not Jezebel's hands. Neither the LORD, nor any messenger of God ever speaks to Jezebel. God always deals with those He has placed in authority. This includes husbands. Every husband should be prepared to hear and obey the leadings and guidings of God.
13. Ahab didn't know who would order the battle: himself, of course. Ahab was afraid to make decisions. Godly men are not afraid to call the shots and make a decision. You should try it sometime . . . God will back you up.

After Ahab spared Benhadad.

- **And he [the prophet] said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Because thou hast let go out of thy hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore thy life shall go for his life, and thy people for his people. And the king of Israel went to his house heavy and displeased, and came to Samaria. 1 Kings 20:42,43**

After Ahab was denied Naboth's vineyard.

- **And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread. 1 Kings 21:4**

14. Ahab is emotionally immature. When prophesied against, he whimpers like a little girl. When he doesn't get his vineyard, he whimpers in the same fashion. Godly men don't cry over spilt milk, and they don't pout and withdraw. Godly men run to their prayer closet when they get denied. They don't run to their pout closet.
15. Ahab does not understand the weightiness of God's judgments versus natural letdowns. He pouts equally over God's judgment as he does Naboth's denial. Perhaps more over Naboth's refusal to sell. With the loss of the vineyard, he doesn't eat. This also shows an immature understanding of spiritual things.

- **Now Jehoshaphat had riches and honour in abundance, and joined affinity [*married into the family*] with Ahab. And after certain years he went down to Ahab to Samaria. And Ahab killed sheep and oxen for him in abundance, and for the people that he had with him, and persuaded him to go up with him to Ramothgilead. 2 Chronicles 18:1,2**

16. Ahab is insecure. Even when Jehoshaphat had married into his family and would by all rights be faithful to Ahab, Ahab still wines and dines him to gain his friendship and allegiance. Godly men don't have to buy friends or allegiances, nor are they paranoid about whether or not they will be betrayed. Godly men are secure and they make friendships that are enduring.

Rise up, o man of God. Be strong. Be courageous. Be bold. And don't be an Ahab.

GODLY MEN Lesson 4 The Man of Labor

Man was made to work. A man who does not labor is a lazy man. Labor is not just limited to a job, but also includes laboring for God in His kingdom, and laboring for the family at home. You will not be a godly man without being a man of labor. A successful life takes work! Get busy!

WORK IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- **And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.**
Genesis 2:15

Man was made to work. God designed man to work. Work will fulfill you and give you a sense of accomplishment. Without a job or a responsibility, you will have no sense of purpose. If you want purpose, get a job!

- **By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.**
Ecclesiastes 10:18
- **He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.**
Proverbs 10:4
- **The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute [slave labor].**
Proverbs 12:24
- **The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.**
Proverbs 13:4
- **In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury [poverty].**
Proverbs 14:23
- **Laziness brings on deep sleep, and the shiftless man goes hungry.**
Proverbs 19:15 NIV
- **Seest thou a man diligent [eager, dedicated] in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean [obscure] men.**
Proverbs 22:29

THE NEW TESTAMENT PRECEDENT

- **Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.**
Ephesians 4:28

Every able Christian man is called to get a job. Stop stealing. Stop begging. Stop borrowing. Get a job. Get a job so you may have something to give. At some point, you must transition from taking and receiving to giving and supplying. This is one sign of Christian maturity and growth.

- **And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.**

1 Thess. 4:11,12

There were some things Paul taught and there were some things Paul commanded. He commanded the believers at Thessalonica to get a job. Why? So the believers could have a good Christian testimony and so they wouldn't lack substance. Unemployed people lack substance and often want everyone else to give them theirs. This is welfare. There is a time for assistance and then there is a time to advance.

- **Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly [*idle, no show at work*],**

1 Thess. 5:14a

In Paul's first epistle to the Thessalonians, he warns the lazy saints. These idle and unruly believers were hurting the body. They were unruly because they wouldn't follow God's rules by getting a job. This also caused problems in the local church. Paul sent a warning: get a job!

- **Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly [*idle, no show at work*], and not after the tradition [*ordinance*] which he received of us. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly [*idle, no show at work*], working not at all, but are busybodies. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.**

2 Thess. 3:6,11,12

Paul writes this second epistle to the Thessalonians one year later. Several things were addressed, including the unemployed. This time the warning has turned to discipline. Apparently, one year is long enough to find employment. The faithful saints are commanded to stop fellowshiping with the idle saints. This is a public censure. The unemployed are commanded to get a job! Having a job was part of the tradition which Paul demonstrated to the Thessalonians.

NT CONSEQUENCES FOR NOT LABORING

- **Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly [*idle, no show at work*],**

2 Thess. 3:6a

If you refuse to work, the church is commanded not to fellowship with you. Rather, we are to withdraw from you. This is a commandment.

- **For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. **2 Thess. 3:10****

The church is not obligated to pay your bills or feed you if you refuse to get a job. This is also a commandment.

- **And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother. **2 Thess. 3:14,15****

The church is to mark the lazy brother and have no company with him. This is also called ex-communication. The non-working Christian brother is to be ashamed of his laziness.

GOD DOES NOT PROMOTE LAZY PEOPLE

Throughout the Bible, the LORD only spoke to and used hard working people.

- God spoke to Moses in a burning bush—while Moses was working his day job as a shepherd (**Exodus 3:1,2**).
- God appeared to Gideon—while Gideon was working his day job as a farmer threshing wheat (**Judges 6:11,12**).
- God promoted David from out of the sheepfolds—his day job—to be king over Israel (**Psalms 78:70**).
- God put a vision in Nehemiah, the King's cupbearer—his day job—to go build a wall. His hard work on the job gave him favor with his boss (**Nehemiah 2:1-5**).
- When Elijah selected Elisha as his future replacement, Elisha was plowing—his day job—and he had to quit it to go work for Elijah—another day job (**1 Kings 19:19-21**).
- Jesus called the twelve disciples when they were working their day jobs. Jesus didn't select anyone from the lazy-line.

Godly men work. So get to work! It will allow God to promote you.

GODLY MEN Lesson 5 The Man of Integrity and Honor

This lesson will deal with the general character of a man of God. A man of God must have integrity and honor. These two qualities are becoming more and more rare each passing day. Character is how you behave when no one is looking. Make sure honor and integrity are found in you so . . .

- **That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;**
Philippians 2:15

INTEGRITY

Integrity: *Lacking corruption, moral uprightness, honest, adherence to moral and ethical principles.*

The Bible is our code of ethics. It is what we are to adhere to. The Bible is what is right. We will define integrity as ***living for what is right.***

HONOR

Honor: *High respect, value or esteem; strict adherence to what is right or to an established code of conduct.*

Christian men should be men of honor. If honor is in you, honor will come out of you. We should have a high esteem and respect for what God honors. We should also adhere to our God's code of conduct. God's code of conduct will teach us how to be honorable. We will define honor as ***valuing what God values and living accordingly.***

A simple two-step test will demonstrate how much we walk in integrity and honor: (1) **what we say** (2) then, **what we do**. If we do not do what we say, we will be judged as either a liar or a hypocrite. Integrity and honor will begin in your mouth. Put away lying and empty promises, and don't boast yourself a false gift (**Eph. 4:25; Prov. 25:14**).

Let us now look at certain arenas of our life where we can begin to demonstrate greater honor and integrity, and let us see how the Bible teaches us to act.

AT CHURCH

Church is where it all begins. Church is where you are trained and developed. If you are not faithful to attend church, there would be a good place to begin.

- **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**
Hebrews 10:25

Do not be deceived into thinking church attendance alone makes you honorable or full of integrity. Church attendance will not make you more of a man of honor than attending a

football game will make you a quarterback. Church is not for spectators. Church is for participators. Merely warming a chair or a pew is dishonorable behavior. This verse also calls for you to do something: exhort!!

- **Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.**
1 Corinthians 4:2

The man of God is a steward over the mysteries of God, but that doesn't make him faithful. God makes you the steward; you make yourself faithful. Many men are not faithful to the local church. They come and go as they please and they are submitted to no one. Would your pastor classify you as faithful and dependable?

- **And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.**
2 Timothy 2:2

Faithfulness will earn you promotion. Every man of God should be hungry for promotion in God's kingdom. If you are not eager to be promoted by God, something is wrong. You are not honoring the things that God honors. Are you a back pew Christian or front-line soldier?

TAXES

Many Christians worship money. They not only steal the tithe from God, they steal taxes from the government. Both are sin.

- **Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not? . . . bring me a penny . . . And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marvelled at him.**
Mark 12:14c, 15b, 17

Jesus settled this issue once and for all here—even down to a penny. If you defraud the government, you deserve prison time.

- **For this cause also pay ye tribute [*tax*] also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute [*tax*] to whom tribute is due; custom [*toll, tariff*] to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.**
Romans 13:6,7

Paul further clarified things by teaching us that these taxes and tolls actually support us. Taxes pay for the police, the emergency rescue teams, the military, judges, prisons, etc. If you defraud the government of taxes, don't call 9-1-1 next time you have an emergency. Tax fraud is a sin and it shows a lack of integrity.

ON THE JOB

The average American man will spend at least 40 hours a week/2000 hours a year on his

job. This statistic should indicate to us that our workplace would be a great place to practice our Christianity and to demonstrate honor and integrity.

- **Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and [his] doctrine be not blasphemed.**

1 Timothy 6:1

Your lifestyle on the job and around your “work family” has the potential to glorify God or blaspheme His name and doctrine. Demonstrating honor and integrity on your job will only cause God to promote you.

- **Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness [*sincerity, without folds*] of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:**
Ephesians 6:5-7
- **Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness [*sincerity, without folds*] of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do [it] heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.**
Colossians 3:22-24
- **Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again [backtalk]; Not purloining [pilfering, embezzling], but shewing all good fidelity [prove you can be trusted]; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.**

Titus 2:9,10

These verses repeat themselves for a reason: THIS IS IMPORTANT TO GOD! Here is a simple checklist to help you maintain integrity and honor on the job:

1. Obey your boss.
2. Focus on your work and do your job. It's why you're getting paid.
3. Do a good job even when no one is looking because God IS looking.
4. Fight to maintain a good attitude on the job. Don't run with complainers.
5. Do your job with all of your heart.
6. Do not backtalk. You are paid to work, not sass.
7. Do not steal, pilfer, or embezzle from your boss.
8. Work like you want a promotion. Then earn it.

IN BUSINESS

If you are a Christian businessman, you can expect to be tempted with fraudulent practices and shortcuts. You must know the Word and resist these sins.

- **A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.** **Proverbs 11:1, 16:11, 20:10,23**

This proverb is quoted four times in the book of Proverbs. This proverb refers to the marketplace where goods are bought and sold by weight. The dishonorable seller would shave weights used at the scales so that the buyer was really being ripped off. Instead of a pound of potatoes, they were really paying for only $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pound. This unscrupulous business practice is called an abomination to the LORD.

- **Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.** **Colossian 4:1**

If you are a boss or supervisor, be fair to those under you. Show no partiality for a person, only for work ethic and things that earn promotions. Be mindful that your employees or subordinates already know you are a Christian. Make sure you lead like one.

- **Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.** **Proverbs 13:11 NIV**

Dirty business practices will certainly do you in. Stay clean and honorable and let God build your business, not underhanded practices.

May God help us to walk in honor and integrity, that we be judged not as a hypocrite but as a holy and blameless man of God.

GODLY MEN Lesson 6 The Godly Husband

Marriage is the first institution God initiated after the creation of man. It is God's idea and it is holy in His sight. As the husband, the success of your marriage rests in your hands and in the confession of your mouth. Your wife is the only human being with whom you have a covenant. She is to take priority and preeminence in your life. Every other relationship (save God) is secondary.

Do NOT forget that "husband" is a verb. Men, you must husband your wives. And you will have to fight for your marriage to keep it healthy and safe. Marriage is not for the faint of heart. It will take favor with God to make your marriage strong.

THE NEW TESTAMENT JOB DESCRIPTION

- **Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge [*intelligent recognition*], giving honour [*reverence*] unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel [*fine china*], and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered [*cut off*].** **1 Peter 3:7**

Just because you live with a woman to whom you are married doesn't mean you have a successful marriage. You must have a working knowledge of the marriage covenant and you must have honor for your wife. Both of these will affect how you treat your wife and they will ensure that your prayers get answered.

- **Husbands, love [*agape*] your wives, even as Christ also loved [*agape*] the church, and gave himself for it;** **Ephesians 5:25**

The first thing a husband must do is *love* his wife. This may be a given, but are you really loving your wife with the God-kind of love? The God-kind of love gives just as Christ gave himself. Love gives. It doesn't look to take and take and take.

Love: *patient, kind, not envious, not jealous, not boastful, not vainglorious, not haughty, not conceited, not arrogant, not prideful, not rude, does not insist on its own rights or its own way, not self-seeking, not touchy, not fretful, not resentful, takes no account of a suffered wrong, does not rejoice at evil, rejoices at righteousness, bears up under everything, believes the best of every person, has fadeless hopes, endures everything without weakening.*

- **That he might sanctify [*to make holy*] and cleanse [*to purify, to purge*] it with the washing of the water by the word,** **Ephesians 5:26**

Just as Jesus protects and cleanses the church, so must a godly husband fight to keep his wife and family holy and safe. The husband must also keep his wife and family clean with

the washing of the water of the Word. He is ever vigilant in praying for his wife, speaking the Word over her, and speaking words of life and encouragement to her. He does not purposely “push her buttons.”

- **Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.**
Ephesians 4:29

A godly husband has a mouth full of life and grace, and ministers life and encouragement to his wife. May your mouth be a tree of life and not a brood of vipers.

- **So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth it [*to train, to rear up*] and cherisheth it [*to brood over*], even as the Lord the church:**
Ephesians 5:28,29

Your wife *is* your own flesh. You are one flesh. You must work to make yourself one soul with your wife. You are called to nourish and cherish your wife even as you have your own body. You have trained and developed your body; you are to help train and develop your wife in Christ. Just as you protect yourself (brood over), you are to protect and care for your wife.

- **But if any provide [*consider in advance*] not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel [*faithless heathen*].**
1 Timothy 5:8

Your job as a husband is to provide for your own; your own wife, your own home, your own family. You are to provide love, attention, devotion, affection, natural needs, time, trust, etc. You are to *consider in advance* your family. Modern men often consider everything else but their wives. Modern men often consider themselves and everything else first and foremost, and their wife is distant second. According to Timothy, not considering your family in advance is tantamount to denying the faith and being a faithless heathen.

- **For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.** **Gen. 2:24, Eph. 5:31**

Some men are perpetual “momma’s boys.” Cut the apron strings and be a man. Don’t side with momma and don’t go to mom and dad with all your problems. You are to be the problem-solver now. Your covenant is with your wife. You are joined to her now, no one else. Not even the boss.

The marriage covenant is under attack, now more than ever. Fight for your marriage and fight to become a better husband.

GODLY MEN Lesson 7 The Godly Father

Families are the fabric of society. Fathers are the leaders who hold the individual threads together. If the father fails, the threads unravel, and the fabric becomes threadbare. Your responsibilities as a father are greater than you may ever know. We will look at how the responsibilities of the father include being: **a leader, a teaching example, a trainer, and a disciplinarian.**

THE FATHER AS THE LEADER

- **One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)** **1 Timothy 3:4,5**

The father is the head of the household and he is the ruler over his children. Children are to be led and brought into subjection to the father's leadership. A father who cannot subjugate his own children is unfit for ministry or any other type of leadership. The children should also be taught a reverence for their father.

- **Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.** **1 Timothy 3:12**

A godly father rules his children. This is a military term describing an officer who has all of his soldiers organized under him, without any room for insubordination.

- **If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.** **Titus 1:6**

A successful father will develop faithful children. These are children full of faith in the things of God and faith for the things of God. It is your job, fathers, to teach your children respect for the things of the Kingdom. *Riot* refers to wasteful living (prodigality). *Unruly* refers to a lack of respect for authority. If your children are guilty of either, you are responsible.

THE FATHER AS A TEACHING EXAMPLE

- **Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;** **Deut. 4:9**

A godly father must first take heed to himself and his own Christian walk to keep the things of God from slipping out of his heart. Just because you once served God does not guarantee that you will always serve God. Your child must see your lifestyle as a living example. Dad,

if your heart departs from God and your zeal for Him fades, no amount of preaching or teaching will convince your child to serve God. You will lead by your lifestyle.

- **... and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children. Deut. 4:10b**

If a father will live for God and keep His Word active in his heart, then when he teaches his children the things of God, God promises that *He* will make the children to hear His Word and they will learn to fear God all their life. More than a child needs to learn about God, a child needs to learn to fear God. There is a big difference.

- **And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, And shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. Deut. 6:6,7**

A godly father is also responsible for teaching their children the things of God. You are to be a diligent teacher of the things of God. God is to be the center of your home. You are to speak of His things at all times. This passage even gives you some pointers as to how to teach your kids. Where? At home. On a walk. When? At bed time, and first thing in the morning. A child's home is meant to be their greatest realm of learning.

THE FATHER AS A TRAINER

- **Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6**

Training is *hands on teaching through instruction and practice over a period of time*. Simply raising your kids in church does not count as "training." You are to train your child. Do not depend on the Sunday school teacher. You must teach them through instruction and practice. This takes time. Only then will you be able to claim this scripture: "when he is old, he will not depart from it."

- **Fathers, do not irritate and provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to resentment], but rear them [tenderly] in the training and discipline and the counsel and admonition of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4 Amp.**
- **And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4**

Provoking to wrath- don't exasperate them to resentment, don't irritate them, fret not your children to anger, don't overcorrect them or make it difficult for your children to obey, lasting bitterness.

Nurture- **paideia**: *to train a child into becoming an obedient and useful citizen of the community, including the development of character, self-control, and courage. Paideia also includes physical training and grooming.*

Admonition- **nouthesia**: *lit. to put or place in the mind, to instruct, to counsel, to warn. Instruction with a view to correcting a person's actions or attitudes. Advising someone of the dangers their actions entail.*

THE FATHER AS A DISCIPLINARIAN

- **Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which have corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure: Hebrews 12:9,10a**

Just as we are taught to expect God the Father to correct and discipline us, your child should expect you to correct and discipline them. Discipline, when done consistently and properly, will produce reverence in your child's heart for you. Children who are not disciplined grow up without a respect for authority. You are entitled to correct after your own pleasure, just make sure you are consistent with what you want and make sure it is within biblical doctrine. Dads, you are to be the primary disciplinarian, not mom.

Discipline involves spanking!!! According to the Bible, if you are not spanking your child, it is because you hate them. Here are some Biblical facts about spanking.

- If you spare the rod you hate your child (**Proverbs 13:24**).
- The more you love, the quicker you will discipline (**Proverbs 13:24**).
- Don't let crying affect your ability to spank (**Proverbs 19:18**).
- Spank while there is still hope for your child (**Proverbs 19:18**).
- Spanking will drive foolishness out of your child's heart (**Proverbs 22:15**).
- Spanking will keep your child from dying prematurely (**Proverbs 23:13**).
- Spanking will save your child from hell (**Proverbs 23:14**).
- Spanking will produce wisdom in your child (**Proverbs 29:15**).
- Spanking will give your soul rest (**Proverbs 29:17**).

Fathers, your children are a reflection of your character, nature, discipline, attitude, and even carnality. Set your child up for success, not failure. Set them up to love Jesus and obey Him.

scenario. Guard your eyes for they *do* affect your heart.

- **Thy lips . . . thy neck . . . thy two breasts . . .** **Songs 4:3,4,5**

Here in Song of Solomon, Solomon, inspired by the Holy Spirit, is commenting on his wife's features: her lips, her neck, her breasts. He admires them and then writes about them. This admiration pleased God. His eyes were drawn to these features and God designed them to be admired . . . in the purity of marriage. Learn to guard your eyes.

- **Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.** **Proverbs 6:25**

Nothing wrong with beauty, but lusting after a woman's beauty is sin. God made her beautiful. God just didn't make her beautiful for you.

- **I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?** **Job 31:1**
- **I DICTATED a covenant (an agreement) to my eyes; how then could I look [lustfully] upon a girl?** **Job 31:1 Amplified**

Job dictated a covenant to his eyes. He knew lust started there. There is a connection between looking and thinking. Your eyes are the gateway to your soul. There is a connection between your eyes and your heart. Be careful what you feed your heart and your eyes.

- **And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished [*drunk through meditation, led astray through intoxication*] with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?** **Proverbs 5:20**

Proverbs warns men to not meditate or think on strange women. The meditating, thinking, and pondering of what your eyes have seen will produce a ravishing affect on your heart and cause you to sin against your God. Drunken people lack a sense of judgment. Allowing your heart to marinate in the lust that your eyes have espied will also pervert your otherwise keen sense of biblical judgment.

- **Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.** **Proverbs 23:33**

The context of this proverb concerns the dangers of alcohol. A drunk lets down their guard and partakes of dangerous sins. It is possible to be drunk with lust and pornography and lose your judgment. Stop letting your eyes drink in the alcohol of lust.

- **But put ye on the LORD Jesus Christ, and make not provision [forethought] for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.** **Romans 13:14**

A provision is something you think about and provide in advance. The Greek word for *provision* is *forethought* or *to consider in advance*. Looking and thinking will set you up for a fall. Guard your looking and shut down your thinking and daydreaming. If you don't, you will provide provisions to strengthen the flesh in the arena of lust.

- **Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?**
Proverbs 6:27

Don't flirt with this thing and think you won't get burned. Lust has brought down many a man greater than you.

GODLY MEN
Lesson 9
The Man of Sexual Purity- Part 2
Victorious Behavior

The sex drive is a tremendously powerful and beautiful gift from God. However, it can also be tremendously destructive. Let us continue our study of sexual purity so we as men might know how to glorify our God with His gift.

- **For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5**

God wants His children to sanctify themselves. This includes abstinence. Sanctification is the process of setting yourself apart as clean. Sanctification will help you to possess your body so that its carnal appetites don't possess you. Your body or vessel was given to you that you might honor God with it.

HOW TO WIN!

Here it is, gentlemen! This is the key to getting the victory over sexual temptations. It's a process. Make this a part of your lifestyle and you are guaranteed to honor God with your eyes, your heart, and your body.

1. **Mine eye affecteth mine heart . . . because of all the daughters of my city. Lamentations 3:51**
2. **If my step hath turned out of the way, and mine heart walked after mine eyes, . . . Job 31:7a**

Remember that what your eyes view can and will affect your heart. You know it. I know it. Watch what you watch. What you see will feed your thought life. Stop your problems with your eyes.

3. **But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision [forethought] for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof. Romans 13:14**

If you activate your thought life, you will *begin to* make provision for your flesh. Thoughts are like food for your flesh. The more you think, the more you'll feed your flesh. Once you start feeding your flesh, you will awaken a monster.

4. **Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 2 Corinthians 10:5**

This verse is our answer. If you've seen something you shouldn't have, you must begin to shut down your mind. You must be good at speaking to your mind and "bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." Judge your thoughts. Do they obey Christ? If not, cast them down. Destroy them. And don't feed them again. You are commanded to do two things to your thoughts: cast them down and bring them into captivity. Either way, they don't get to run loose in your head and control you.

BIBLE BEHAVIOR

Aside from personal lust, often the Christian man must interact with the opposite sex. The Bible is also very strict on how to interact with women, both heathen and Christian. Sexual sin always involves another person. Mind your behavior with the opposite sex.

Concerning Premarital Sex

- **Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, not idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate [*soft to the touch*], nor abusers of themselves with mankind [*homosexual*],**
1 Corinthians 6:9
- **Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.**
1 Corinthians 6:13b
- **Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that commiteth fornication sinneth against his own body.**
1 Corinthians 6:18

Fornication is in the same category as idol worship, effeminates, home-wreckers, and homosexuals. Your body was not designed for fornication. Fornication is you sinning against your own body. Flee it!!

How to Treat a Heathen Woman

The Bible is very clear concerning non-believers: we are to have absolutely no romantic interest in them whatsoever. They will destroy your Christian walk.

- **To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words;**
Proverbs 2:16

The Lord says that the young man must be "delivered" from the strange woman. She is not your dream come true. She is someone God wants to deliver you from. "Strange" does not mean that you don't know her. It is God that calls her strange because it is God that does not know her. Therefore, STAY AWAY!!!!

- **Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.**
2 Corinthians 6:17

Don't fellowship with heathen women. Come out from among them. Don't touch them. This is how to get God to receive you.

How to Treat a Christian Sister

- **The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity [*chaste, clean, innocent*].**
1 Timothy 5:2

We are to be interested in a sister from the Body of Christ. However, there are rules for how you interact with them. Elder women are to be treated like a mother. The younger women (women of your age) are to be treated as a sister. Treat them cleanly, purely, and innocently, even if you are engaged to be married to them.

- **Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.**
1 Corinthians 7:1

Not touching: good! Touching: bad! Any questions?

How to Treat Your Wife

- **Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. Should your offspring be dispersed abroad as water brooks in the street? Confine yourself to your wife, let your children be for you alone, and not the children of strangers with you. Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.**
Prov. 5:15-20 KJV, AMP.
- **Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.**
1 Corinthians 7:5

These verses refer to the sexual waters of the marriage covenant. You are to have sex within the confines of your marriage, nowhere else. Keep your eyes and your thoughts on your wife. Do not allow them to wander anywhere else. If you're not married, keep your eyes and your thoughts to yourself.

Scriptures: **1 Corinthians 5:9-11, 7:2-4; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 13:4**

May the LORD Jesus cause you to be a mighty man of righteous valor!!