

A Christian Man?

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What does it mean to be a Christian man?

It means to be God's vice regent or resident representative To be what God wants a man to be.

"The world is looking for better methods, God is looking for better men" E.M.Bounds

"Most men live lives of quiet desperation" Thoreau in Walden

Do not die with the music inside of you!

Conviction - To love what God loves and hate what God hates (Job 1:1).

Be a Spiritual warrior – we are on turf claimed by Satan but given to us by God – claim it!

Recognize the "devices of Satan"

Be a man of prayer.

Make moment-by-moment, incident-by-incident decisions for God

Reckon death of body to accept life in Christ (Rom. 6)

To develop the Spiritual gift(s) God has given to you.

Use that gift(s) in building God's kingdom

To seek healing from God for any hurts and wounds in your life.

"Father wound"

can create subconscious drives, fears, distress

result in "internal audience"

Internal disorder can produce attempts to create external order

Rejection

To love God's word, the Bible and invest time in knowing God.

Read the Bible with a hungry heart and mind

Obey the teachings of the Scripture.

Commit passages of the Bible to memory.

Be able to explain Biblical beliefs.

Courage -To live a life of integrity

Absolute honesty at all times.

Never waste time.

Cultivate taste for art and poetry and good books

Learn to ask forgiveness

Learn to stand alone

Character - To use your body for Godly purposes

To prepare for marriage, fatherhood, and family life.

Prepare for life work

Learn skills

Work diligently
 Save money
 Never allow pornography in your life in any way
 Save *all* sexual experience for marriage

- Have a focused sexuality – focused on your wife (or wife to be)
- Not participate in sexual activity with men or boys
- Not molest boys or introduce them to sexual activity

 Never tell or listen to “off color” stories
 To treat all women with respect.
 Treat young women as sisters and older women as mothers (I Tim. 5:2)
 Never take advantage of women in any way

- Never molest any girl or woman
- Be a protector and defender of women
- All women should feel safe in your presence

 Never view or touch a girl or woman in an inappropriate manner
 Never obsess about girls or women
 Never kiss a girl except the one who is (going to be) your wife

Commitment - To be a loving husband

Absolute fidelity to wife – (your body belongs to her I Corinthians 7:4)
 Meet needs of wife-she does not have to earn your respect, she deserves it

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| Spiritual | Physical |
| Social | Material |
| Emotional | |

- Not get involved in the “crazy cycle”
 - Men need respect
 - Women need love
 - Withholding needs spirals downward

 Women spell love – S-E-C-U-R-I-T-Y
 If you do not provide security she will not express love to you
 Areas of security

- Financial – men looking for adventure

Love wife sacrificially

- Do not be bitter against her
- Make decisions together
- Work together – help her with her work
- Care for children when you come home from work

she has been waiting all day for this and she will love you for it

To be a Father

Provide for the family

Be a servant – under orders from God to serve others not to please self

Take charge, make decisions, do not be passive just to “keep wife happy”

Be a spiritual leader in the home

Be a role model

Train up children

Protect children from physical and spiritual dangers

Play together, Work together, Teach, Discipline

Be emotionally involved in children’s lives

Not project personal failings, ambitions or expectations on others -Rom. 2:1

Only the strong can afford to be gentle – the weak have to be cruel

To be gentle is to assert strength – to be cruel is to prove weakness

Part Two

Typical development of pattern of abdication or loss of leadership in the Christian home

1. Dating – Who sets the standard?

2. Early marriage – Who is in charge?

Young wife expresses unhappiness

Young husband tries to make her happy at all costs

Young husband gives up and lets her have her way and lets her set the tone for the family

Husband becomes more and more passive in the home and relationships

3. Children in the home - Who is responsible for the discipline of the children?

Many wives must assume the role of disciplinarian

Husbands must set a tone of respect for authority

Fathers must command respect and authoritative (not authoritarian) leadership

4. Occupation – Does husband hide or does he work with and for the family?

Husbands can hide in: truck, business, pornography, buddies, business, study, etc.

5. Home life – who is the spiritual leader in the home?

Husbands need to assume responsibility to spiritual training of children and spiritual nurture of his wife.

6. Leadership in the Church – Who rules?

Many men in leadership are not in charge at home and are controlled by their wives

and many of them are involved in destructive and defensive behaviors.

7. Next generation – Can the cycle be broken?

Many men are breaking the cycle.

Notes

Satan is on our turf

We surrendered it in Adam

We reclaim it in Jesus Christ

He came to defeat the works of the Devil

Stages of a man's life

Prenatal - protected

Infancy – cared for

Childhood – learning to run

(No adolescence)

Young manhood – trying out our strength

Manhood – applying strength to life

Mentor – pass it on

Patriarch – a life well lived, an example

Some words from C.S. Lewis from *Men Without Chests*

A man gives of his spirit to humanize his son just as he had given of his body to beget him.

Where the old (type of education) initiated, the new merely 'conditions'. The old dealt with its pupils as grown birds deal with young birds when they teach them to fly; the new deals with them more as the poultry-keeper deals with young birds— making them thus or thus for purposes of which the birds know nothing. In a word, the old was a kind of propagation—men transmitting manhood to men; the new is merely propaganda.

Let us suppose for a moment that the harder virtues could really be theoretically justified with no appeal to objective value. It still remains true that no justification of virtue will enable a man to be virtuous. Without the aid of trained emotions the intellect is powerless against the animal organism. I had sooner play cards against a man who was quite skeptical about ethics, but bred to believe that 'a gentleman does not cheat', than against an irreproachable moral philosopher who had been brought up among sharpers. In battle it is not syllogisms that will keep the reluctant nerves and muscles to their post in the third hour of the bombardment.

We were told it all long ago by Plato. As the king governs by his executive, so Reason in man must rule the mere appetites by means of the 'spirited element'. The head rules the belly

through the chest—the seat of Magnanimity, of emotions organized by trained habit into stable sentiments. The Chest-Magnanimity-Sentiment—these are the indispensable liaison officers between cerebral man and visceral man. It may even be said that it is by this middle element that man is man: for by his intellect he is mere spirit and by his appetite mere animal.