

MANHOOD: MASTER THE ESSENTIALS OF BIBLICAL MANHOOD

JOB 28:12-28

INTRODUCTION:

If there was to be an ad in the local newspaper reading, "Wanted: Godly Man to train up his children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." How many men could or would apply? We live in a nation of same sex marriages, divorces, and some wonder how important is a husband and father in the home. Equally important is understanding the characteristics and duties of a "Christian Man." There is no real substitute for a Godly man in the home, there are godly women who take on the dual responsibility of living for Christ in the home, but God wants to raise up godly men for His glory and honor. Here is a poem that I ran across that speaks profoundly to this subject.

Illustration:

In Raising a Modern-Day Knight, Dr. Robert Lewis notes that God gave Adam three responsibilities in the Garden: a work to do, a word to obey, and a woman to love. Biblically speaking, then, we can conclude that the mantle of manhood calls men to lead the charge in caring for creation, honoring God's commands, and loving one's spouse. A lofty ideal, to be sure; but what does that look like? The second Adam, Jesus, shows us, for He too was given a work to do, a word to obey, and a woman to love — redeem the lost, obey his Father, and care for his "bride," the Church.

Defining godliness or godly -- to be devout (a Cornelius in Acts 10 or an Abraham), does that which is well pleasing to God; a fear of reverence toward God.

Micah 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

I) CHARACTERISTICS OF A GODLY MAN

A) He would be a man that has a love for God, Matthew 22.37

Matt. 22:34-40 But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"

37 Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

1. This goes beyond a man that knows about God but one that actually loves and wants to serve Him.
2. David is described in the Bible as a man after God's own heart.
3. What does that mean?
 - a. He will read God's word before he acts or makes decisions.
 - b. He will obey God's word. (Obey the Gospel and be faithful. One cannot be "godly" and not obey the Gospel)
 - c. He will defend the word of God, ***Jude 3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.***
 - d. He will love his enemies, ***Matt. 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?***
 - e. He will love his wife as his own body, ***Eph. 5:28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.***
 - f. He will love his children.
 - g. He will love his parents, neighbor, etc.

B) He would be a man who prays to God

1. This requires him to be in the right relationship with God, ***John 9:31 Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.***

2. He will acknowledge the will of God and ask Him for guidance.

3. He will be the person you would want to pray for you in time of illness or distress.

C) He will repent and confess his sins, ***2Cor. 7:10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.***

1. He will not be perfect but he will be striving to be perfect.

2. He will acknowledge his mistakes to those he has done wrong to.

3. He will swallow his pride and humble himself before God and his fellowman. ***James 4:6-8 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.***

D) He will discipline himself, ***1Tim. 4:7 But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.***

1. Physically he will discipline his body, ***1Cor. 9:24-27 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. 27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. .***

2. He will discipline his mind, his eyes, his language, his attitude. **1Th. 5:22**
Abstain from every form of evil.

3. He will spiritually discipline himself by reading and meditating on God's word, **Psa. 1:1-6*****Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. 4 The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.***

E) He will keep his word (be honest with himself and those around him)

1. He will keep his word with God.

a. In CONFESSON we acknowledge the authority of Christ over our lives, "Jesus is Lord". **Rom. 10:9** ***that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.***

b. This may require him to make some decisions he does not necessarily like but he will place God first in his life.

2. He will keep his word in the covenant with his wife, **Job 31:1** ***"I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?"***

a. In marriage he promises to love until death and be faithful.

b. He promises to treat his wife as the "weaker vessel" **1Pet. 3:7**
Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. .

3. He will keep his promise to his children.

F) He will discipline his children,

Eph. 6:4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Heb. 12:9-11 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

1. This means to teach and instruct them. Which requires him to be involved in their lives. We need more hands on type dads.
2. He will punish them when necessary and reward them with his love.

II) WHO NEEDS GODLY MEN?

A) The home needs godly men

1. To provide the love and security to those inside the home.
 - a. The wife needs to know that no matter how hard things get her husband will not just walk out on her.
 - b. Children need to learn by example when it means to be determined and patient.

B) The local congregation needs more godly men

1. The fact is most congregations are suffering from a shortage of godly men.
 - a. Perhaps due to the attitude or many men that religion is below them.
 - b. Perhaps due to more women obeying the Gospel than men.
2. Need godly men to be qualified to be elders, deacons, preachers, Bible class teachers.

3. To provide leadership, ***2Tim. 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.***

“For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.”

(Romans 12:3–8 NKJV)

4. To stand up for the truth and refute error, ***Jude 3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. .***

5. If every man in this congregation was like you, what kind of a congregation would it be?

C) Society needs godly men

1. To be the salt and light of the world, ***Matt. 5:13-14 “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden..***

2. If every father took care of his family numerous government programs could be terminated, thus saving billions of dollars.

a. Jails would not have as many inmates if fathers discipline their children.

b. Poverty would be reduced since most poverty is related to single parent families.

3. They would also lead others to Christ.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus's band of coarse and generally clueless disciples had a habit of jockeying for position, seeking to find out who was at the "head of the class." Time after time, Jesus patiently corrected them with lessons about "the first will be last" and "the exalted will be humbled." Then came the most unexpected lesson of their apprenticeship.

At His last Passover meal, Jesus leaves His rightful place at the head of the table and takes up a towel and basin—a move that makes his followers fidget, for such was the job for the lowliest servant. But when He starts washing their feet, they are aghast. Peter recoils in confusion, refusing the Lord's service until he is warned that to remain in the circle, refusal is not an option. After Peter and the rest submit, Jesus explains: "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."