

*A
Field Guide*



Biblical Manhood



Introduction

The dictionary defines "manhood" as the state of being an adult male human being and as the qualities and attributes conventionally thought to be appropriate to a man.

Science would define manhood as the presence of a "y" chromosome and would attribute certain levels of testosterone, physical attributes and physiology. A biological fact.

Society would define manhood as the self-evident sum total of several characteristics: strength, skill, courage and prowess with women, to name a few. Braveheart, Maximus, Aragorn, Neo; these embody the definition of manhood and its ideal. Manhood exudes itself in contagious confidence and control, and its truest barometer is its effect on women.

You have had manhood exemplified and defined to you throughout the course of your life by the males around you: your father, brother, teacher, pastor, coach, friends. These have created a spectrum of models that allow you to define and measure your own manhood.

Somewhere you have a vague notion that manhood is something we should aspire to, but the diversity of these definitions, their contradictions and a nagging sense of your own shortcomings have either conspired to effectively paralyze your pursuit of manhood or have created an overwhelming drive in you to attain to the highest level of manhood you are capable of. Either option will leave you vacillating between seasons of pride and shame, but neither will put you on the path to true manhood.

True manhood is defined by none other than its Designer. God has created manhood. He is the one who defines it and is our only barometer for progress. In science, society and our own experience we see both hints of God's designs for manhood as well as gross perversions of it. God alone can enable us to sort through the confusion--to separate the gold from the dross--and He offers us a vivid and compelling picture of this in His word. In His Son we see both the true embodiment of manhood as well as the only opportunity to begin the transformation process into manhood. In His Spirit we have the promise of constant progress in this endeavor. These all can conspire to effect a true, eternal growth in manhood in your life, if you will avail yourself of the guidance and power of God.

The question you must commit to asking yourself is: "Is God's word the primary thing that defines manhood for me?" If not, then you are practicing a form of idolatry--giving something or someone more authority over your life than God.

Manhood is a cooperative process whereby you learn from God about His design through His word, accept the grace offered you in His Son and devote yourself to following Him through His Spirit's work in your life.

In this study you will get a picture of God's design and what it will involve for you to live out true, biblical manhood.



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How to Do this Study

Biblical Manhood is a topical study. In it you will focus on the design of manhood, redemption, discipleship and a variety of characteristics of a Biblical man.

It is not strictly inductive (looking at passages using a variety of skills to distill out the meaning), but has several scriptures along with guided questions (see top left). That being said, you may study these things as deeply as you would like. The "Notes" page (bottom left) at the end of each study can serve as a section for notes on other scripture you may choose to look at (cross referencing), questions, definitions of key words and other such things. That is your "blank canvas," which you can use to go as in-depth as you would like.

Your Purpose & Peril

Read Genesis chapters 1-4 and do the following graph the story using specific events (be prepared to share and explain your graph at study).

Purpose
From chapters 1 and 2 how would you describe the following:
 Man's role(s) on earth (explain):
 Man's responsibilities (explain):
 Man's design (explain):
 What was God's adjective did God use to describe creation? How would you define that word?

What does the fact that man was made in God's image teach you about God's purposes in the following commands:
 To "Be fruitful and multiply?"
 To "fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion?"

For what and whom was the man responsible?
 To whom was the man responsible?

Peril
To whom did the serpent come and why is that significant?
 Whose character did the serpent seek to undermine?
 Briefly paraphrase what the serpent was seeking to communicate to Eve:

To whom did God give the commands regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (2:15-17)?
 Where was Adam during this interaction (3:6)?
 How would you describe Adam's feelings in respect to:
 His role(s):
 His responsibilities:
 His design:

However, because of the amount of passages in each study, you will need to be selective. Don't feel the pressure to camp out on every passage. Make sure you get the idea, but you may only want to dig into one or two of the passages per week.

There is no way you can do this study without spending at least 1 hour per week on it. Fifteen minutes will allow you to nod your head during the course of the study; 30 minutes will help you *seem* prepared; 45 minutes will allow you to fill in most of the blank spaces; 1 hour will mean you *covered* the material; 2-3 hours means you put in a manly effort and will have *mastered* the material.

You may want to allot two times per week to spend in this study. You may also want to incorporate some of the passages into your devotional time. This can help you really "live out of" this study this semester.

Notes

A large, empty rectangular box with a green border, intended for taking notes during the study.

Let's trust God to do incredible things among us this year. Let yourself imagine a campus filled with men who are living out the model of Biblical manhood. Begin by imagining what your own life could become, if based on the wisdom of your Maker.

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that **the man of God** may be **thoroughly equipped** for every good work."* 2 Timothy 3:16, 17



Your Purpose & Peril

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness ... God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.'" Genesis 1:26,31

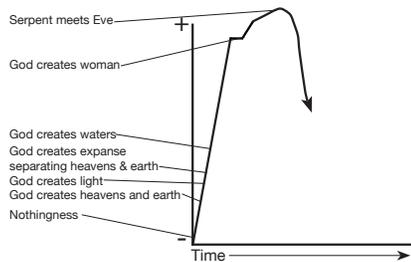
"Adam falls, and all his sons with him. After that, what do you see as the story unfolds? Violent men, or passive men. Strength gone bad. Cain kills Abel; Lamech threatens to kill everybody else. God finally floods the earth because of the violence of men, but it's still going on." John Eldredge



Your Purpose & Peril

Read Genesis chapters 1-4 and do the following graph the story using specific events (be prepared to share and explain your graph at study).

Ex:



Purpose

From chapters 1 and 2 how would you describe the following:

- ↳ Man's role(s) on earth (explain):
- ↳ Man's responsibilities (explain):
- ↳ Man's design (explain):

What adjective did God use to describe creation? How would you define that word?

What does the fact that man was made in God's image teach you about God's purposes in the following commands:

- ↳ To "Be fruitful and multiply"?
- ↳ To "fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion"?

For what and whom was the man responsible?

To whom was the man responsible?

Peril

To whom did the serpent come and why is that significant?

Whose character did the serpent seek to undermine?

Briefly paraphrase what the serpent was seeking to communicate to Eve:

To whom did God give the commands regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (2:15-17)?

Where was Adam during this interaction (3:6)?

How would you describe Adam's failings in respect to:

- ↳ His role(s):
- ↳ His responsibilities:
- ↳ His design:



Your Purpose & Peril (cont.)

Briefly describe how the following relationships changed after the fall:

- ↳ Man to himself (see especially 2:25 vs. 3:7 and 10)
- ↳ Man to woman (see 2:18, 20-25 vs. 3:7-13, 16)
- ↳ Man to creation
- ↳ Man to God

Briefly describe how the following situations illustrate the disaster of the fall:

- ↳ Genesis 4:1-16
- ↳ Genesis 4:17-24
- ↳ Genesis 6:1-11

Write 10-20 adjectives that describe mankind after the fall:

Read Romans 1:18-32 paying special attention to man's departure from God and His design. List the ways in which mankind chose to reject God and His design.

What were the results of man's forsaking of God and His design?

How are these forces exerting themselves on the way our society defines manhood today (list 3 examples)?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

How do you see these forces at work in your own life?



Your Purpose & Peril (cont.)

First and foremost, man was created in God's image. He was created to reflect God's character amidst all creation; to represent God, bear His image, reflect who God is in a way unique to all creation. Neither the angels nor the animals nor anything else in creation is said to be made in the image of God, and none but man enjoyed such privilege and responsibility. Man's primary duty was that of steward. God entrusted all creation to him and man was to act, on God's behalf, as its caretaker. God's two commands "to fill the earth and subdue it" summarize the guiding principles of this charge. Man was to bring order to the earth, exorcizing his God-given dominion [1:28-31; 2:15], just as God brought order out of the chaos of creation [1:2ff]. This is evidenced by the fact that God put man in a "garden" rather than a jungle and commanded him to "work" and "keep" it. Secondly, man was to fill the earth. God's design was that mankind would "be fruitful and multiply", thus filling the earth with people who would reflect God's glory by being God-like stewards of His earth. Jesus and the New Testament writers often refer us back to God's original design, as seen in the garden, to help us to better understand what should be the guiding principles of our own life.

Sin, however, introduced several disastrous elements into God's original design for mankind; both internal and external. Chief among these is the condition of original sin. "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all me, because all sinned" [Rom. 5:12]. All men are, as David wrote, "sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me." All of us enters this world defective at our very core!

Another disastrous result of the fall was its effect on man's relationships. Our relationship with women became competitive instead of complementary. Men's relationships with one another became adversarial and violent ("Am I my brother's keeper?") rather than harmonious and mutually beneficial. Entitlement and self-protection came to typify mankind because vulnerability became our greatest liability in an increasingly harsh and dangerous world. Guilt, shame and fear became our operating motives.

Despite the supposed progress of modern man, these forces exert themselves powerfully on men today. To be freed from them is to live from the truths of God's word and to rely upon His enabling and transforming power. This study is aimed at restoring our view of manhood, calling us to be godly men and examining God's role in bringing us to mature manhood. The goal is that you become the man God has designed you to be and has redeemed you to be.

Read and consider the following excerpt:

"In the Genesis story, man is made in the image of God. Christianity begins with God, not man. We are in his image He is our reference point. And who is this God? Was he anything like the gods of the pagan myths? Does God use violence and sexual perversion to confront his chaos? Not at all.

The Genesis creation story never affirms the violence and demanding sexual appetite of men. Instead the story gives a rich portrait of what man was in his perfect state and what man could be if he lived in the image of God. It is male and female, man and woman, living in harmony and mutual respect. The male is not terrified of the female. The female does not seek to destroy the male. They nurture each other, and together they tend the garden they live in.

Adam and Eve were to "till and keep the garden"; that is, they were called to protect and to nurture. Strength, the opposite of violence, is in the man to guard relationships, not to destroy them. Intimacy, the opposite of lust, is in the man to nurture people, not to use them for his selfish desires. Adam's first recorded words were relational and poetic: "She is bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh." ...

There is one major similarity between Genesis and the pagan myths. It is recorded in Genesis 3, "The Fall of Man." Adam's disobedience did exactly what the pagan myths condoned. God moved from chaos to creation in Genesis 1 and 2. In Genesis 3, Adam moved from chaos to chaos in a world of beauty. Adam's disobedience set a dark world into motion--a world of sex and violence. The rest of Genesis portrays the results of the first man's sin: hatred, murder, racism, rape, incest, and adultery.

When a man moves into the mystery of life with rage and lust, he lives as the pagans live. He believes there is no hope in God. God is absent. God is silent. A man doesn't know what to do with the confusion of his life, so he rages and lusts.

Rage makes men feel powerful. Violence causes us to take matters into our own hands and seek to correct an unjust God. Lust helps men forget. Fantasy is a selfish way of living for the present. It denies the pain of the past, and the hope of the future. With anger men are present, but they are dangerous. With lust men are absent, but feel alive.

The book of Genesis tells a very different creation story. Yes, the story ends badly. But it begins beautifully. That is our hope. Beauty exists. There is meaning and order. Responding to the mystery of life with violence and sexual perversion pitches the world back into darkness. Genesis never condones this. Genesis invites us to return to our design, to become men of strength and intimacy, to honor our calling to become like God. The book of Revelation tells us we will make it one day. Everything in between these two books tells us how. It's the story of God. It must be remembered." Larry Crabb (*The Silence of Adam*)



Notes



Your Path & Pattern

"The Bible does not leave us in ignorance about the meaning of masculine and feminine personhood. God has not placed on us an all-pervasive and all-conditioning dimension of personhood and then hidden the meaning of our identity from us. He has shown us in Scripture the beauty of manhood and womanhood in complementary harmony. He has shown us the distortions and even horrors that sin has made of fallen manhood and womanhood. And he has shown us the way of redemption and healing through Christ." John Piper

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ..." 2 Corinthians 5:17



Your Path & Pattern

Record 3 men who have influenced you (for better or worse) in the way you view manhood. Write down a few adjectives that you would attribute to the type of manhood they modeled for you:

- 1) _____ : _____
- 2) _____ : _____
- 3) _____ : _____

Record a time in your life when you realized that you had entered "manhood"--a defining moment in your journey into manhood. _____

Path

Redemption is a generic word that describes both all of what Christ accomplished by His life, death and resurrection and the specific point when a person receives this gift by faith. It implies a "purchase" or a "paying for". It could be said that Christ's work was the payment and each time a person puts there faith in Him is the transaction. In terms of access to God, Christ said He was the only way--the only "path". "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Peter affirms this in Acts 4:11, 12 saying, "This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Christianity's earliest name was, in fact, simply "The Way" (Acts 9:2; 19: 9, 23; 22:4; 24:14, 22).

Redemption is a fulcrum--a point around which everything revolves and changes. In other words, it is an event, not a process and it is a point of dramatic transformation--a paradigm shift--not of minor adjustment. Read the following passages and record 2 things: 1) the "before" scenario, 2) the "after" scenario.

Romans 6:1-14

- ↳ Before: _____
- ↳ After: _____

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

- ↳ Before: _____
- ↳ After: _____

Ephesians 2:1-10

- ↳ Before: _____
- ↳ After: _____

Colossians 1:15-23

- ↳ Before: _____
- ↳ After: _____

Titus 3:3-7

- ↳ Before: _____
- ↳ After: _____



Your Path & Pattern (cont.)

Now make a list of those things that are true of you as a redeemed man:

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Does your life reflect these truths? Do you live as though this is who you are? Explain.

Read Galatians 4:4-7 and answer the following questions:
Why did Christ redeem us?

What did God do as a result of our adoption? What does that mean?

Read Romans 8:9-17 and answer the following questions:
What does define you as a Son of God and what does not define you (vv. 9, 12)

How would you describe the promise of this passage?

Write out verse 15 in first person ("I did not receive...") and in your own words.

Pattern

Regardless of what you recorded as the definitive event in your journey into manhood, if you are a Christian man, redemption is that event. It was the point at which your identity changed dramatically and it was the point at which you received the "Spirit of Sonship." As Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely [make you completely holy like Jesus, God's son] ... He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it." At the point of your redemption you entered the immanent process of becoming a man--of becoming like Jesus. It is inescapable.

During this study you will learn more about the specifics of who you are becoming. God uses His word to aid the Spirit's work of sanctifying us. It is His sword (Eph. 6:17). We will also be looking at the life of Christ as an illustration of manhood. Many people will tell you that the importance of Jesus' life was that He set a good example for people to live by. That is a half truth and is a very harmful half left alone. The overwhelming purpose of Jesus' life was to satisfy the wrath of God and to overcome death on behalf of those who trust in Him. However, Jesus also perfectly defined manhood for us. He was entirely God ("For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form..." Col. 2:9) and entirely man ("born in the likeness of men ... found in human form" Phil. 2:7 and 8), so He perfectly demonstrated for us what the life of a man perfectly made in God's image should look like. Regardless of whom you recorded on the previous page, it is Jesus who should be your prime example of manhood.

To end, consider these passages and answer the following questions.

- ↳ Matthew 10:24, 25
- ↳ John 13:12-17
- ↳ 1 Corinthians 11:1
- ↳ Philippians 2:4-11
- ↳ 1 Peter 2:21-25

What is it that you most admire about Christ?

Do you take seriously the call to be like Christ? Explain

On the notes page record a couple of ways you are challenged by Christ's character and the call to be like Him.



Notes



Your Guide

"The Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.'" Jesus (Matthew 16: 24, 25)

"As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with his death—we give over our lives to death. Thus it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise God-fearing life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die." Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"There is a fatal defect in the life of Christ's church in the twentieth century: a lack of true discipleship. Discipleship means forsaking everything to follow Christ. But for many of today's supposed Christians—perhaps the majority—it is the case that while there is much talk about Christ and even much furious activity, there is actually very little following of Christ Himself." James Montgomery Boice



Your Guide

Write what you would like to be your epitaph (the statement summarizing your life, usually written on a grave stone) _____

Discipleship

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up His cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24

Above all, the Biblical man is a disciple. When Christ called His first followers, He simply said, "Follow Me." Their response was to drop everything and follow Him. Take some time to consider the Biblical theme of "following," "walking" or "keeping in step" and answer the following questions:

- ⊃ Genesis 3:8: After the fall, what did man do when God came to walk among them?
- ⊃ Genesis 5: What was it that set Enoch apart from all those listed with him in this chapter?
- ⊃ Genesis 6:5-9: What set Noah apart from all the rest of the earth?
- ⊃ Genesis 17:1 What was God's basic call on Abram's (Abraham's) life?
- ⊃ Exodus 26: 2-13 & Deuteronomy 10:12: How does God choose to summarize His commands?
- ⊃ Leviticus 18:1-3: What *were* God's people to do and what were they *not* to do?
- ⊃ Leviticus 26:1-12: What does God require of His people, and what will He do in response (v. 12)?
- ⊃ Leviticus 26:23 and 24: What warning does God give to Israel in this area?
- ⊃ Judges 2:17-22: What did Israel fail to do shortly after entering the promised land?
- ⊃ 1 Kings 3:3-6; 15:1-3; 25-26; 33-34; 2 Kings 10:31; 22:2; Psalm 26:1: What separated the good kings from the bad?
- ⊃ Psalm 86:12: What was David's prayer?
- ⊃ Isaiah 65:1-2 and Jeremiah 7:23-26: What is mankind's primary problem?
- ⊃ Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:22-27: What is the gist of God's promise?
- ⊃ Mark 1:17-20; 2:14: What was Jesus' call?
- ⊃ Romans 8:12-14; Galatians 5:16-25: How would you describe our responsibility to the Spirit?

Why do you think God uses this image so often in His word?

List a few things that the idea of "walking" conveys:



Your Guide

Read through Jesus' "Cost of Discipleship" statements and answer the following questions:
Matthew 16:21-27; Mark 8:27-38; Luke 9:18-27:

Why do you think Jesus began all of these sections by asking who people said He was?

What, in your own words, is the right answer to this question?

How does Jesus telling them about what He must endure fit into the flow of these sections?

What does Jesus mean by saying that you must:

- ↳ Deny yourself
- ↳ Take up your cross daily
- ↳ Follow Him

Is it costly or easy to follow Christ? Explain.

If it is costly, how does this mesh with our view of grace?

When you consider Christ's call to discipleship on your own life, what makes you uncomfortable?

What are some areas that you have trouble really denying yourself, taking up your cross or following Jesus in?

What makes those areas so difficult to deal with? What do you stand to lose?

What is preventing you from trusting Jesus in these areas?

Make a list of 3 specific areas that make you uncomfortable with the cost of discipleship (relationship strife, loss of glory in the world's eyes, discomfort, uncertainty, etc.) Write next to it what it is that makes you uncomfortable and then record why it is worth the cost. *You may want to write this out in the form of a prayer.* Consider Matthew 13:44-46 as you begin this.

Area	Cost	Reward
1)		
2)		
3)		



Notes



Sainthood

"Make every effort to ... be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14

"Robert Murray McCheyne said, and I would like his words engraven on my own heart, 'The greatest need for my people is my personal holiness.'" Oswald Chambers

"[W]e must be holy, because without holiness on earth we shall never be prepared to enjoy heaven. Heaven is a holy place. The Lord of heaven is a holy being. The angels are holy creatures. Holiness is written on everything in heaven

...

"I appeal solemnly to everyone who reads these pages, How shall we ever be at home and happy in heaven, if we die unholy? ...

"Suppose for a moment that you were allowed to enter heaven without holiness. What would you do? What possible enjoyment could you feel there? To which of all the saints would you join yourself, and by whose side would you sit down? Their pleasures are not your pleasures, their tastes are not your tastes, their character not your character. How could you possibly be happy, if you had not been holy on earth?" J.C. Ryle



Sainthood

Write a definition of the term "saint":

How do our society's concepts of sainthood and manhood seem at odds?

Sainthood's Defining Characteristic: Holiness

What most characterizes God is holiness; His love is holy love; His justice is holy justice; His anger is holy anger; His jealousy is holy jealousy. Everything He does is holy. Holy simply means "set apart". All of who God is is different, higher, more perfect and beyond our conceptions. Whatever you most admire about Jesus could be boiled down to His holiness too. Holiness is a powerful and compelling attribute, unlike people's common misconceptions about holiness as being stuffy, conceited and perfectionistic. Read over the following passages which define holiness and answer the following questions:

↳ Exodus 19:17-25

↳ Leviticus 20:1-7

↳ Leviticus 22:31-33

↳ Deuteronomy 6:1-9

↳ Joshua 24:14-21

↳ Isaiah 6:1-5

↳ Ezekiel 36:22-23

What types of things are associated with holiness in Scripture?

How does God's holiness relate to our own?

If holiness means "set apart", who and what are God's people to be set apart *from* and to whom and what are God's people set apart *for*?

How does idolatry relate to holiness?

How does holiness relate to God's purpose for mankind (consider lesson 1)?

Sainthood's Greatest Adversary: Compromise

Read the following verses and answer the following questions.

↳ Romans 12:1,2

How should we, as men, consider our bodies?

What type of sacrifice should they be?

What are we commanded to do and not to do? (v. 2)

What is the result of offering our bodies as living sacrifices and being transformed?

↳ 1 John 2:15-17

What are we told not to do in this passage?

What connection does love have to holiness?

In what ways are you conforming to and loving the world instead of being transformed into God's likeness and loving the things of Him? Why is this the case?



Sainthood

Following Our Guide

Read the following passages and answer their accompanying questions.

↳ Matthew 3:13-4:11

What pronouncement did God make about Jesus?

What did Satan immediately try to get Jesus to doubt (or try to prove) in his first two temptations?

What trade off did Satan tempt Jesus with in the third?

What was the big deal? Why couldn't Jesus just do these things?

What did Jesus use as His barometer for holiness (what guided His behavior during these temptations)?

↳ John 17:12-20

Who had been protecting the disciples? How? And, from what/whom?

What did Jesus give to them?

Why are His disciples in peril or danger (what did Jesus *not* ask)? (v. 15)

What is it that can "sanctify" us—make us holy? (v. 17)

How did Jesus sanctify us?

Sainthood's Defaults: Flee & Fight

Read the following passages and answer their accompanying questions.

Flee:

↳ 1 Corinthians 6:18

↳ 1 Corinthians 10:14

↳ 1 Timothy 6:9-11

↳ 2 Timothy 2:22

Do you think it is brave to put yourself in situations where you will be tempted?

Why, in this case, is it brave to flee?

What are some things you need to flee from starting now?

Fight:

↳ 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

↳ 2 Corinthians 10:4, 5

↳ 2 Timothy 1:18 & 6:12

↳ 2 Timothy 2:7

What things are we told to fight?

What things are we told to fight for?

What are some areas in your life where you need to be fighting and are not?

On the "Notes" page record several specific situations where you need to either flee or fight for holiness. Write specifically what that would look like. You may want to phrase this in the form of a prayer.



Notes



Servanthood

"It is easy to think we humble ourselves before God. Yet, humility toward men will be the only sufficient proof that our humility before God is real. It will be the only proof that humility has taken up its abode in us, and become our very nature—that we actually, like Christ, have made ourselves of no reputation. When in the presence of God lowliness of heart has become, not a posture we assume for a time when we think of Him, or pray to Him, but the very spirit of our life, it will manifest itself in all our bearing toward our brethren." Andrew Murray

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.' Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." 1 Peter 5:5b-6

"...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all." Jesus (Mark 10:43b-44)



Servanthood

Does the idea of being considered a servant or a “serving person” appeal to you? Why?

Does the idea of being constantly treated as a servant appeal to you? Why?

Servanthood’s Defining Characteristic: Humility

From day one, the idea of being “under” someone or of having our own worth undermined has been very distasteful. Remember Satan’s attack on Eve and Adam? “You will be like God.” Remember Lamech’s rationale in chapter 4? “I have killed a man for wounding me...if Cain’s revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech’s is seventy seven.” This overweening sense of our own worth and entitlement is part of our heritage from the fall. How radical was Jesus call to turn from this! “Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’ Our temptation is to count ourselves 70 times greater than our brother, but Jesus would have us count ourselves 77 times less! This call takes all the courage, perseverance and faith a man can muster, so it is crucial that we hear Jesus’ call loud and clear on this topic.

Read the following passages and answer their accompanying questions.

↳ Deuteronomy 8:1-20

For what reason did God humble his people in the desert?

What did God desire to teach them through their hunger and need?

What is the temptation we are all vulnerable to according to this passage? (see vv. 7-14)

Ultimately, do you have reason to become proud about any accomplishment or gift you have? Explain.

↳ Isaiah 2:5-22

What does this passage teach us about God’s view of pride?

How are pride and idolatry related?

Servanthood’s Greatest Adversary: Pride

Read these verses and answer the following questions.

↳ Proverbs 8:13

↳ Proverbs 11:2

↳ Proverbs 16:18

↳ Proverbs 18:12

↳ Proverbs 29:23

↳ James 3:13-4:10

How is pride incompatible with a godly life?

What does God promise will be the result of pride?

Where does pride originate?

How is pride synonymous with sinful rebellion against God (Or, where does true obedience to God originate)?



Servanthood (cont.)

Following Our Guide

Read the following passages and answer their accompanying questions.

⇒ Mark 10: 35-45

Do you relate to James' and John's desire?

What do you think made the other disciples so upset?

How does Jesus' definition of greatness and being first contradict the world's definitions of these things?

Do you tend to follow Jesus' lead in this or the world's? Why?

⇒ Philippians 2:1-11

What motives does Paul say we should never operate out of?

What does it mean to actually consider others better than ourselves?

How does our estimation of ourselves and others affect the way we treat others?

During His time on earth, how did Jesus view His entitlements?

How was Christ's life honored by God?

Servanthood's Defaults: Serve & Submit

Serve:

⇒ Galatians 5:13-15

How do we "use" our freedom as Christians?

⇒ 1 Peter 4:10-11

How should we view our gifts (i.e. what opportunities do they give us)?

Submit:

⇒ Ephesians 5:21

How does our reverence for Christ enable us to submit to others?

⇒ 1 Peter 5:5-7

As a young man, how should you approach most situations?

Does this create anxiety in you or make you uncomfortable? Why?

How does this shed light on verse 7?

On the "Notes" page record several specific situations where you need to either serve or submit in reverence to God. Write specifically what that would look like. You may want to phrase this in the form of a prayer.



Notes



Soldiery

"People think of the world not as a battleground, but as a playground. We are not here to fight; we are here to frolic. We are not in a foreign land; we are at home ... The idea that this world is a playground instead of a battleground has now been accepted in practice by the vast majority of fundamentalist Christians. They might hedge around the question if they were asked bluntly to declare their position, but their conduct gives them away ... The 'worship' growing out of such a view is as far off center as the view itself—a sort of sanctified nightclub without the champagne and the dressed-up drunks." A.W. Tozer

"Prayer is the communication by which the weapons of warfare are deployed according to the will of God. Prayer is for war ... So I do not tire of saying to our church, the number one reason why prayer malfunctions in the hands of a believers is that they try to turn a wartime walkie-talkie into a domestic intercom ... Until you believe that life is war, you cannot know what prayer is for." John Piper

"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds." 2 Corinthians 10:4



Soldiery

Recently there have been several movies that glorify the role of the soldier or warrior (*Braveheart, Gladiator, The Patriot*). What would the name of a movie about your battle be called? Why?

Do you believe there are any great battles to be fought these days? Explain.

Soldiery's Defining Characteristic: Courage

It isn't difficult to imagine that courage is the defining characteristic of being a soldier. What might be surprising is what courage looks like. This is probably surprising because most of us are confused about what it means to be a soldier. Ingrained in our heads is the macho images of violent, self-assured loners who capitalize on their uncanny training and ability to overcome all odds. We confuse courage with fearlessness and an "omni-competence"--being competent to do anything. These are not founded on Biblical grounds.

Read the following passages and answer their accompanying questions.

↳ Genesis 13-14

What was the precise command issued to Moses for the spies by God?

Did Israel have reason to have courage to take the Promised Land initially (before chapter 14)? Why?

Why is what God called the land of Canaan significant (the Promised Land)?

Why was Caleb so courageous and confident? And, why were the rest of the spies not?

In light of 14:20-25, did the Israelites have reason for continued courage to take the Promised Land?

Was it courageous for Israel to head into battle in 14:39-45? Why or why not?

What does the result of this final battle teach you about courage?

↳ Joshua 1

What promise does this book begin with?

Do you think Joshua and Israel had reason to be courageous? Why or why not?

What rationale does God offer as to why Israel must be courageous?

Is the call to be courageous a suggestion or a command? Explain.

If it is a command, does that mean it is a sin to not have courage? Why or why not?

↳ 2 Chronicles 17-20

How was it that Jehoshaphat's heart was described? (17:6)

In his first battle, did Jehoshaphat have reason for courage? (chpt. 18)

Was Jehoshaphat fearless or "omni-competent"? (18:30-31)

How do we see Jehoshaphat's courage in chapter 19? What battle was he fighting?

What does chapter 20 verse 3 teach us about courage? Is courage the absence of fear?

What does 20:13 reveal about the true nature of courage?



Soldiery (cont.)

Soldiery's Greatest Adversary: Cowardice

Read these verses and answer the following questions.

↳ Deuteronomy 20:1-8

Why is it so dangerous for fainthearted men to enter the battle?

Is there a difference between being afraid (like Jehoshaphat) and the faintheartedness described here?

↳ Mark 4:35-41

Why was it wrong for the disciples to be afraid here?

How are faith and courage related?

↳ Revelation 21:5-8

Does it surprise you that "the cowardly" are included in this list? Why or why not?

Why is cowardice a sin? What is its root?

Following Our Guide

↳ Luke 22:39-46

↳ Mark 14:32-42

Why was Jesus so dismayed and reluctant?

What would have happened if Jesus had decided not to go through with His crucifixion?

How does Jesus' act of courage pave the way for our courage (see John 16:33 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-57)?

↳ Hebrews 12:1-3

How is Christ's example helpful in our fear and potential "faintheartedness"?

What was Christ's reward for "enduring the cross" and "endured such opposition from sinful men"?

What does our own courage communicate to the world about Christ's courage?

Soldiery's Defaults: Perseverance & Prayer

Perseverance:

↳ Acts 20:24

↳ 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

↳ Romans 5:1-5

↳ Hebrews 10:23-25

↳ Galatians 9:9

↳ Hebrews 10:35-39

↳ Philippians 1:27-30

↳ James 1:2-4

Prayer:

↳ Matthew 26:36-41

↳ Romans 12:12

↳ Luke 21:36

↳ 2 Corinthians 1:10, 11

↳ Luke 22:31, 32

↳ Ephesians 6:18-20

↳ John 17:15

↳ Colossians 4:2-4

How do perseverance and prayer relate to one another?

How do these verses shed light on the types of battles you are in?

How does prayer relate to our needs as a soldier (also consider the prayers of others)?

Why are these things hard?

Read the excerpt from John Piper and record a few specific areas in which you need to persevere and give yourself to prayer as a man.



Prayer, The Work of Missions

"When Paul came to the end of his life, he said in 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." And in 1 Timothy 6:12, he tells Timothy, "Fight the good fight of faith; lay hold on eternal life to which you were called."

Life is war because the maintenance of our faith and the laying hold on eternal life is a constant fight. Paul makes clear in 1 Thessalonians 3:5 that the number one target of Satan is faith. If we endure to the end we will be saved, Jesus said (Mark 13:13), and Satan is fighting always to bring us to ruin by destroying our faith.

Concerning his own life of warfare, Paul said earlier, "I do not run aimlessly, I do not box as one beating the air; but I pommel my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified" (1 Corinthians 9:26-7).

Concerning his ministry, he said, "Though we live in the world we are not carrying on a worldly war, for the weapons of our warfare are not worldly but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every proud obstacle to the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). Ministry is war. (See also Revelation 6:2; 12:17; 17:14.)

Probably the most familiar passage on the warfare we live in daily is Ephesians 6:12-13.

We are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God.

In other words, life is war.

But most people do not believe this in their heart. Most people show by their priorities and their casual approach to spiritual things that they believe we are in peacetime, not wartime.

In wartime, the newspapers carry headlines about how the troops are doing. In wartime, families talk about the sons and daughters on the front lines, and write to them, and pray for them with heart-wrenching concern for their safety. In wartime, we are on the alert. We are armed. We are vigilant. In wartime, we spend money differently - there is austerity, not for its own sake, but because there are more strategic ways to spend money than on new tires at home. The war effort touches everybody. We all cut back. The luxury liner becomes the troop carrier.

Very few people think that we are now in a war greater than World War II, and greater than any imaginable nuclear World War III. Or that Satan is a much worse enemy than Communism or militant Islam. Or that the conflict is not restricted to any one global theater, but is in every town and city in the world. Or that the casualties do not merely lose an arm or an eye or an earthly life, but lose everything, even their own soul and enter a hell of everlasting torment (Revelation 14:9-11).

Until people believe this, they will not pray as they ought. They will not even know what prayer is.

In Ephesians 6:17-18 Paul makes the connection for us:

Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, with all prayer and supplication, Praying on every occasion in the Spirit, and keeping awake for this with all perseverance.

Prayer is the communication by which the weapons of warfare are deployed according to the will of God. Prayer is for war.

Let me show you this more specifically from John 15:16-17.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

The logic is crucial. Why is the Father going to give the disciples what they ask in Jesus' name? Answer: Because they have been sent to bear fruit. The reason the Father gives the disciples the gift of prayer is because Jesus has given them a mission. In fact, the grammar of John 15:16 implies that the reason Jesus gives them their mission is so that they will be able to enjoy the power of prayer. "I send you to bear fruit so that whatever you ask the Father . . . he may give you."

So I do not tire of saying to our church, The number one reason why prayer malfunctions in the hands of believers is that they try to turn a wartime walkie-talkie into a domestic intercom.

Until you believe that life is war, you cannot know what prayer is for. Prayer is for the accomplishment of a wartime mission. It is as though the field commander (Jesus) called in the troops, gave them a crucial mission ("Go and bear fruit"), handed each of them a personal transmitter coded to the frequency of the general's headquarters, and said, "Comrades, the general has a mission for you. He aims to see it accomplished. And to that end he has authorized me to give each of you personal access to him through these transmitters. If you stay true to his mission and seek his victory first, he will always be as close as your transmitter, to give tactical advice and to send in air cover when you or your comrades need it."

But what have millions of Christians done? They have stopped believing that we are in a war. No urgency, no watching, no vigilance, no strategic planning. Just easy peacetime and prosperity. And what did they do with the walkie-talkie? They tried to rig it up as an intercom in their cushy houses and cabins and boats and cars - not to call in fire power for conflict with a mortal enemy, but to ask the maid to bring another pillow to the den." **John Piper**



Notes



Leadership

"If the world is to hear the church's voice today, leaders are needed who are authoritative, spiritual, and sacrificial. Authoritative, because people desire leaders who know where they are going and are confident of getting there. Spiritual, because without a strong relationship to God, even the most attractive and competent person cannot lead people to God. Sacrificial, because this follows the model of Jesus, who gave himself for the whole world and who calls us to follow in his steps." J. Oswald Sanders

"Christian leaders who know God and who know how to lead in a Christian manner will be phenomenally more effective in their world than even the most skilled and qualified leaders who lead without God. Spiritual leadership is not restricted to pastors and missionaries. It is the responsibility of all Christians whom God wants to use to make a difference in their world." Henry and Richard Blackaby

"And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them." Psalm 78:72



Leadership

List three of the most effective leaders you can think of and include the following things: why were they a "leader", how did they lead and what is their legacy?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Where are you a leader/called to be a leader?

Leadership's Defining Characteristic: The Fear of God

We may not give due consideration to the Biblical idea of "the fear of God." In fact, the term may make us slightly uneasy. However, to fear God is not to cower or flee from Him, but to have reverence for Him; to center our lives and thoughts on Him; to consider every circumstance as an opportunity to please Him.

Consider the following verses about the fear of God and answer their accompanying questions.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| ☞ Exodus 20:18-20 | ☞ Proverbs 14:27 |
| ☞ Job 28:28 | ☞ Proverbs 23:17 |
| ☞ Psalm 36:1-4 | ☞ Luke 12:4-7 |
| ☞ Psalm 111:10 | ☞ 2 Corinthians 5:10, 11 |
| ☞ Psalm 112: 1 | ☞ 2 Corinthians 7:1 |
| ☞ Proverbs 1:7 | ☞ 1 Peter 1:17 |
| ☞ Proverbs 2:1-6 | |

How do the fear of God and obedience relate?

Why do you think it is important to fear God? List a few distinct reasons.

Case Study: David and Saul

Israel's first two kings were Saul and David. Saul looked the part--"an impressive young man without equal among the Israelites--a head taller than any of the others" (1 Samuel 9:2). David was a less natural selection, "Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, 'The LORD has not chosen these.' So he asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' 'There is still the youngest,' Jesse answered, 'but he is tending the sheep.' Samuel said, 'Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.' So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. The LORD said, 'Rise and anoint him; he is the one.'" Earlier God had explained his criteria, "The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

What had God seen in David? Paul tell us in the book of Acts, "After removing Saul, He made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do'" (Acts 13:22).

Read the following 3 passages and answer the questions. See if you can discern what it looks like to be a God-fearing leader.

- ☞ 1 Samuel 17

Who had the title of "leader" among Israel?

Where was Saul while Goliath taunted the Israeli army? Why do you think he didn't act or challenge Goliath?

How did David view Goliath's taunts? (v. 26)

What enabled David to defeat Goliath? (v. 37)

How would you describe the differences between how David viewed the situation and the way Saul did?

Who was the "leader"? Why?

- ☞ 1 Samuel 15

What was Saul commanded to do?

31 Why was Saul tempted to disobey and why did Saul make this decision? (v. 24)



Leadership (cont.)

When confronted with his sin, how did Saul respond (what was he concerned with)? (v. 30)

↳ 2 Samuel 11 - 12:15 (see also Psalm 51)

Where should David have been at this time? (11:1)

What would you say led to David's disobedience?

How did David respond when confronted with his sin? (12:13 & Psalm 51)

Does it seem odd that a God-fearing man could commit such a grievous sin?

How do you see these leader's hearts in their response to being confronted with their own sin?

Leadership's Greatest Adversary: Fear of Man

Consider **Proverbs 29:25** and read over the following verses and record what are some ways that the fear of man can become a snare?

↳ John 12:42, 43

↳ Luke 9:25, 26

↳ Galatians 1:10

↳ Ephesians 4:14

↳ 1 Thessalonians 2:3, 4

What are some ways that a fear of man is snaring you?

How is a fear of man especially dangerous for a leader?

Following Our Guide

↳ John 2:23-25

↳ John 12:23-30

What do you think it means that Jesus did not "entrust himself" to men?

For Whose glory and pleasure did Jesus live His entire life?

Leadership's Defaults: Earn but Spurn

An effective leader is one whose life is above reproach because he is seeking to please God alone. It was said of David that he "shepherded them with integrity of heart." Integrity means that the outside matches up with the inside. This type of integrity will earn you the respect needed for others to follow you, however, a good leader never let's this "go to their head." Therefore, a good leader will *earn* other's respect as a Godly man but will *spurn* the praise of men, desiring instead to "find out what pleases the Lord."

The following passages from 1 Timothy are Paul's guidelines for leaders. Keep these things in mind as you read the following passages and answer the questions.

↳ 1 Timothy 3:1-13

↳ 1 Timothy 4:12

Does it seem strange that it is good to desire to be a leader in the church? Why?

How are you, as a young man, to begin moving toward being a man who is worthy to lead?

In the notes section record all of the ways that these leaders live in obedience to God. Consider your own life in these areas and record how the fear of man is hindering you. What might it look like to live in the fear of God in these areas?



Notes



Labor

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"
Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20)

"Our risen Christ has left this legacy—the magna charta of the church. He provided both the model and the method. His life—and death—recast the lives of men. He demonstrated that you have not done anything until you have changed the lives of men." Walter Hendrichsen

"When you start spending individual time with another Christian for the purpose of having a ministry in his life—time together in the Word, prayer, fellowship, systematic training—something happens in your own life as well. May God grant you patience, love, and perseverance as you begin to share the life He has given you with others." Leroy Eims.

"Where to serve is among the first issues in our call to discipleship. We are to serve Christ as insiders in an unbelieving world. Many of us have withdrawn from our old associations to where we have all but lost our insidership. In a sense we have abandoned the post that was uniquely ours, that cannot be filled by another in exactly the same way. So a part of discipleship is learning how to fulfill Christ's purposed for us in our everyday situation." Jim Peterson



Labor

Write down 4 synonyms for the verb *to labor*:

Are these appealing terms? Explain.

Labor's Defining Characteristic: Obedience

It may be discouraging to learn that "obedience" is the defining characteristic of "labor," because both of these terms can make us somewhat uncomfortable. However, we must be rooted in Biblical obedience. Biblical obedience flows from 3 sources: 1) love for Christ ("Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me..." John 14:21); 2) gratitude ("For Christ's love compels us... 2 Corinthians 5:14); 3) trust ("May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope..." Romans 15:13).

Read the following statements of Jesus and answer their accompanying questions.

↳ Matthew 9:35-38

What was Jesus' view of humanity?

What does He say the disciples' response should be here?

What should our response be?

↳ Luke 10:1-3

What is Jesus' one word command?

Read the following verses about Paul's view of his labor and his call for others to labor and answer the accompanying questions:

↳ Philippians 1:18-26

What was Paul's perspective on life and death?

What do you think Paul meant by "For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain"?

↳ Colossians 1:24-29

How did Paul describe his labor for the church? (v. 24)

Whose "commission" or "stewardship" was Paul living according to?

What is the aim of Paul's life, and with whose energy did he labor?

↳ Romans 10:10-15

What two realities is Paul explaining about labor?

↳ 1 Corinthians 15:58

What guarantee do we have in giving ourselves fully to the "work of the Lord"?

↳ 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

How does being "reconciled" to God affect the way we should view life?

What is our identity and role in light of being reconciled?

From these passages, how would you define *to labor* Biblically? And what does it mean for you to be a "laborer"?



Labor (cont.)

Labor's Greatest Adversary: Disobedience

Hopefully you've seen two things so far: 1) We are commanded to labor for Christ's kingdom, 2) because it is Christ's work, there is no excuse. Simple disobedience is the only thing that can prevent you from laboring "fruitfully" in obedience to Christ.

Read the following parable, and answer the accompanying questions.

↳ Luke 19:12-26

What was the command of the King?

What was the result for the servants who obeyed?

Why do you think the third servant disobeyed?

What do you think the message of this parable is?

↳ Matthew 28:16-20

What event has just occurred?

What is Jesus' command?

What promise does Jesus give? How does this promise negate any excuse we might have?

Following Our Guide

↳ John 4:1-42

What would you say is going on in this discussion?

Where is Jesus seeking to direct it?

How did Jesus view His own life? (v. 34) What do you think He meant by that?

What reality must we be more aware of ("open our eyes" to)?

What were the results of Jesus decision to "do the will of him who sent" him?

Labor's Defaults: Believe & Begin

The main things that will enable you to be a laborer is to *believe* and *begin*. What do you need to believe? That God has called you to labor in His harvest field, that He is with you always, that He *will* work through you and despite you and that He will not accept excuses. How do you begin? By seeking wisdom, training and input on this and by asking God to show you which areas He would have you invest your life (among non believing friends, family, neighbors; with a younger believer; leading a Bible study; prayer; giving; etc.).

Believe:

↳ 2 Corinthians 3:4-6

From Whom does our competency come?

For what does God make us competent?

Through Whom does the competence come?

Begin:

↳ 2 Corinthians 3:12

↳ 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

↳ 2 Corinthians 4:13-15

What action words does Paul use about his life?

Ultimately, what is our desire in seeking to make known God's grace? (4:15)

In the notes section, record a few areas where you can begin to be a laborer, asking God to give you a believing heart and the confidence to act in obedience to Him.



Notes



Lover

"What shall we be known for? Let it be that we are willing to die for Christ and, even more, that we are willing to live for him in loving his people—and his enemies." John Piper

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers." 1 John 3:16

"Do not waste time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him. If you injure someone you dislike, you will find yourself disliking him more. If you do him a good turn, you will find yourself disliking him less. There is, indeed, one exception. If you do him a good turn, not to please God and obey the law of charity, but to show him what a fine forgiving chap you are, and to put him in your debt, and then sit down to wait for his 'gratitude,' you will probably be disappointed." C.S. Lewis

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Jesus (John 13:34, 35)



Lover

Describe a time when you felt deeply loved. What characterized the act or situation in such a way that you knew you were being loved? _____

Write a brief definition of love the noun and the verb: (n) _____

(v) _____

“In order to effectively love others you must always first make sure your own needs are met.”
 Agree Disagree Why?

▲ Lover’s Defining Characteristic: Love

Not surprisingly, a lover is characterized by love. While that is obvious, it may not be very obvious what it means Biblically to love.

Read the following verses about love and answer their accompanying questions.

↳ Deuteronomy 6:4-5

↳ Matthew 22:35-38

What is another term for failing to obey the greatest commandment (remember 1 John 2:15)?

If this is the greatest commandment, how does this shed light on the your definition of “sin”?

↳ 1 John 4:7-21

Where does all true love originate?

Describe how God’s love toward us should affect our love for others.

Why do you think there is no fear in love?

Is it possible to love God and not love your brother?

↳ 1 Corinthians 13:1-7

What is the most important spiritual principle or expression?

Make a list of all of the attributes of love. Spend a moment praying over each of them in confession and supplication.

▲ Lover’s Greatest Adversary: Selfishness

Hatred might have been your first thought when taking into account the lover’s greatest adversary. And it isn’t a bad thought. Jesus goes so far as to equate angry thoughts about others to murder (Matt. 5:21, 22). James points out that these desires originate in our own self-centeredness (“What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel.” [Jas 4:1, 2]). However, one of the most toxic by-product of selfishness is a simple indifference, because, as you’ll see later, love is always about sacrifice!

Read the following verses and answer their accompanying questions.

↳ Galatians 5:13-15

Where should we, as Christian men, focus the privileges of our freedom?

↳ Philippians 2:1-4

What is the appropriate way to utilize our blessings from Christ?

↳ Matthew 25:31-46

How will Christ separate the nations (on what symbolic criteria)?

39 How would you describe the main distinction, as Jesus shows us, between a sheep and a goat?



Lover (cont.)

Following Our Guide

⇒ John 13:1-17

What was this act a demonstration of?

Why is it significant that Jesus is their "Teacher" and "Lord" ? (see vv. 13 & 16)

Would you ever claim to be better than or above Jesus?

What do we proclaim when we refuse to love other's sacrificially and humble ourselves?

⇒ John 13:34, 35

What is new about this commandment?

Knowing what we know now, what does it mean to "love as he has loved us"?

What will this type of love cause people to recognize about us?

Do you think people can see Jesus in our lives if we refuse to love this way? Explain.

⇒ 1 John 3:16-18

What should be our definitive example of love?

How is love to be our barometer for God's abiding love?

What is the difference between loving "with words and tongue" and "in actions and truth"?

Love's Default: Sacrifice

Our truest expressions of love begin when it begins to cost us something.

⇒ John 15:12, 13

What type of love does Jesus elevate as the greatest?

⇒ Romans 13:8, 9

How is cost or "debt" to constantly guide us in our relationships?

⇒ Galatians 6:9, 10

Why would we be tempted to "give up" in doing good to one another?

To whom are we to be especially careful to do good to? Why do you think that is?

⇒ 1 Peter 1:22, 23

Why do you think Peter needed to specify which type of love we are to have?

What do you think "deep" love "from the heart" looks like?

⇒ Colossians 3:12-14

What "costly" commands do you see in these verses?

In what ways are relationships always going to be costly?

In the notes section, record three areas where selfishness or an unwillingness to sacrifice for another is preventing you from living out your manhood lovingly. Again, you may want to phrase this section in the form of a prayer.



Notes



Assurance of Arrival:

Sanctification and the Spirit of Sonship



Assurance of Arrival

Describe a time when you failed at something: _____

Describe a time when you were given something to do that you thought was impossible, but were able to accomplish it. What enabled you to do so? _____

Assurance of Arrival: Sanctification and the Spirit of Sonship

If you've been honest with yourself, you will sense the daunting task of becoming a Biblical man. If you've been honest with yourself, you'll realize you can't do it alone.

Read through the following verses and answer their accompanying question.

↳ Ezekiel 36:22-27

What issue do you think this prophecy addresses?

What is the hope held out in this passage?

↳ John 14:15-31; 16:4-15

What name does Jesus give to the Spirit? Why is that significant?

What are several of the things that we can expect from the Spirit, according to these passages?

What is "to your advantage" according to Jesus? Why is that the case?

↳ Romans 8

Who set us free from "the law of sin and death"?

Who are we to "live according to"?

How would you describe the relationship between the Spirit and the flesh?

What assurance do we have in verse 9? What is the promise of verses 10 and 11?

How do we "put to death the deeds of the flesh" (see also Galatians 6:7, 8)?

Who are the legitimate sons of God?

What should not characterize a son of God (v. 15)? Why not?

What are we awaiting? How does the Spirit "get us through"?

What is God's grand, unalterable, eternal plan for your life? (vv. 26-39)

Does your life reflect this glorious truth?



Assurance of Arrival (cont.)

An Appeal for Divine Assistance

Over the following page revisit all of the lessons from this study. Keeping in mind the passages that you've just looked at— "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus Christ from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you." Record the key challenge from each study and spend a moment asking the Spirit to give you hope and strength in that area. If there are area's that particularly stand out, you may want to make it a daily exercise.

⊃ **Your Purpose & Peril:** _____

Key Verse: _____

⊃ **Your Path & Pattern:** _____

Key Verse: _____

⊃ **Your Guide:** _____

Key Verse: _____

⊃ **Sainthood:** _____

Key Verse: _____

⊃ **Servanthood:** _____

Key Verse: _____

⊃ **Soldiery:** _____

Key Verse: _____

⊃ **Leadership:** _____

Key Verse: _____

⊃ **Labor:** _____

Key Verse: _____

⊃ **Lover:** _____

44 Key Verse: _____

