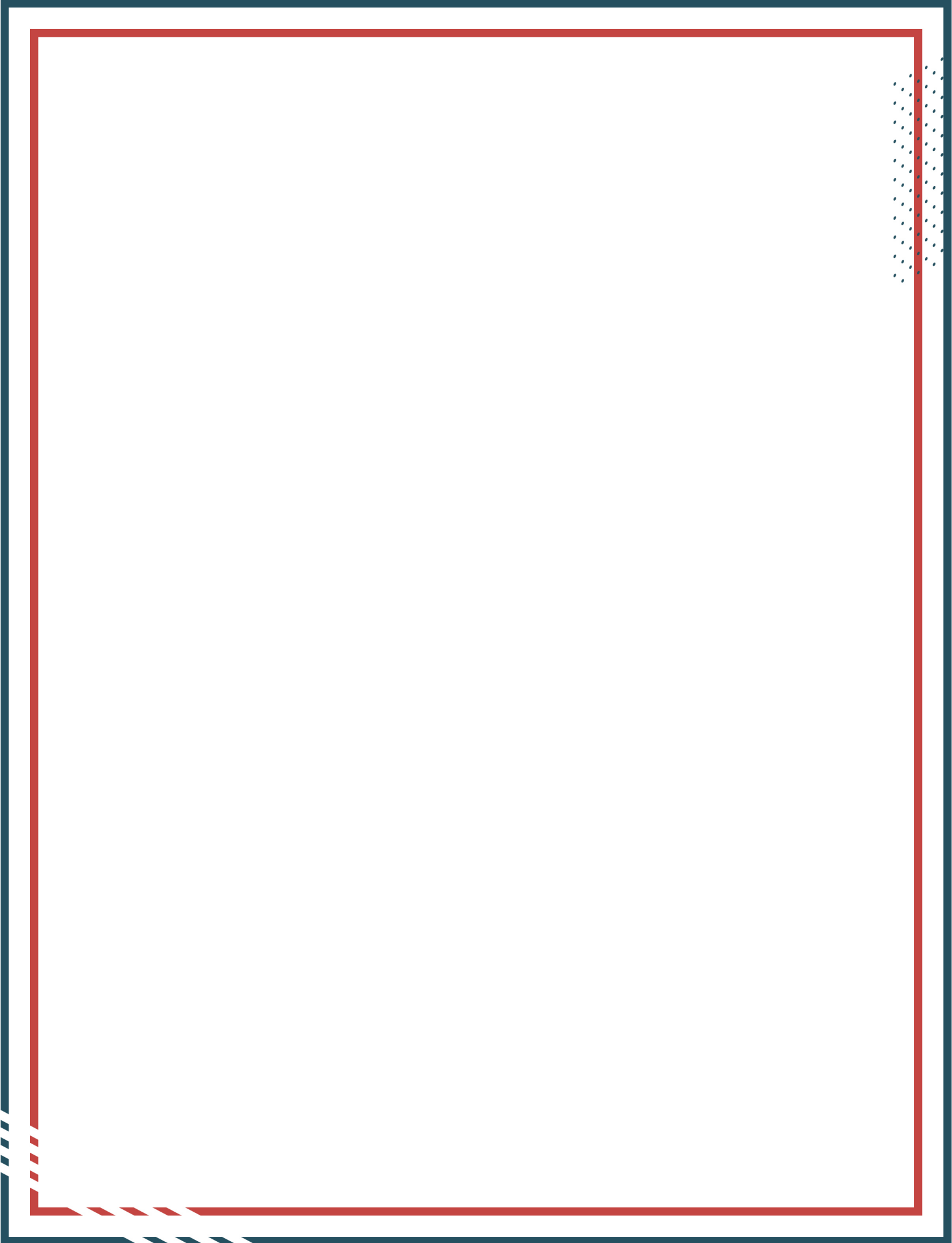


# NOBLE MANHOOD

ONE



BY RICHARD ELWELL



# NOBLE MANHOOD

RICHARD ELWELL



## ULTIMATE OUTCOMES

WHY IDEAS MATTER.

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Ultimate Outcomes is a non-profit organization founded on the fruit of the 30 plus years Pastor Richard Elwell and his wife Marty spent in church ministry, developing studies that would help their congregants discern and apply God's truth. Richard was a firm believer that the outcomes in our lives are a result of what ideas we choose to believe and follow.

After Richard died of a rare liver disease in 2018, Ultimate Outcomes has taken on the mission of sharing the Elwells' insights with all who desire to live a better life and are willing to look to God for understanding of the way they are to go. To that end, it makes available for free download on its website: Bible studies, Sunday school curriculum, and sermon podcasts.

Richard earned a Master of Divinity degree from the International School of Theology and was the founding and senior pastor at University Park Church, San Bernardino, CA for over 30 years. His passion was always to make God's truth understandable and applicable to all who hunger for it. Marty holds a Master's Degree in Teaching Processes from Claremont Graduate University. Her passion has been to train women and provide curriculum for parents who want to raise their children up in the ways of the Lord.

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# NOBLE MANHOOD

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**Study Purpose:** Manhood is under attack. The purpose of this study is to help Christian men recapture a biblical vision of what it means to be a man and a follower of Christ. It examines what is a man's place in God's design and how God wants to take men from where they are to where they ought to be, looking at the importance of male leadership and character development.

What does noble mean?

## LESSON 1

# THE QUEST FOR HONOR



## INTRODUCTION

### LESSON FOCUS

1. What is honor?

Synonyms:

2. How important is honor to a man?

3. Ephesians 5:33 - <sup>33</sup> *However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

What can you infer from the commands in this verse?

4. Why is honor so integral to masculinity?

5. What are ways men seek to gain honor?

6. What are ways the search for honor can bring dishonor?





# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

## CONTRASTING THE QUEST FOR HONOR WITH TRUE HONOR

Matthew 20:20-28

<sup>20</sup>Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

<sup>21</sup>"What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

<sup>22</sup>"You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

<sup>24</sup>When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. <sup>25</sup>Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup>Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup>and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- <sup>28</sup>just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

1. Why were the other disciples angry with James and John, the sons of Zebedee?
2. What is ironic about their anger?
3. Was it wrong for the disciples to want to be great? Explain.

4. How does the scriptural road to honor differ from the world's road to honor?
  
5. Why is the scriptural way to honor superior to the world's road to honor?

## THINKING IT THROUGH

1. Why don't we usually think of a servant as deserving of honor?
  
2. What is noteworthy about Jesus being a servant?
  
3. When can a man being a servant be outside of God's design for him?

### 4. THOUGHT EXERCISE

- a. Think about a person that you highly respect.
- b. Now imagine that person was much more successful in his vocation but you found out that he was guilty of a terrible criminal act.
- c. Now imagine the person you highly respect got in a debilitating accident and lost many of his talents and abilities.
- d. How would each of the scenarios you imagined affect your view of the person you hold in honor?

**Principle:** Our honoring of others has more to do with their character than their accomplishments. Our quest for honor must involve more the development of our character than it involves the development of our talents.

**Note from Richard's Wife:** In the last year of our marriage when Richard was sick and dying, my esteem for him increased even more. Because of his disease, his ability to do many of the things I thought of as being manly was taken from him. In his suffering, he became more kind, thoughtful, and compassionate towards me and others. I always had respect for him as a man, but my respect for him increased as he yielded to what Christ had for him with a humble, uncomplaining heart.

5. Referring to the following scriptures, how can men become more honorable?

*Philippians 2:3-4 – <sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

*Galatians 5:16 - <sup>16</sup>So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. Thinking of others more than self, giving others preferential treatment. Examining motives and not doing anything out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Living by the Spirit instead of the flesh.*



# CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

## AVOIDING SELF-PROMOTION

Luke 14:1-14

<sup>1</sup>One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. <sup>2</sup>There in front of him was a man suffering from dropsy. <sup>3</sup>Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?" <sup>4</sup>But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him away.

<sup>5</sup>Then he asked them, "If one of you has a son or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull him out?" <sup>6</sup>And they had nothing to say.

<sup>7</sup>When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: <sup>8</sup>"When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. <sup>9</sup>If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. <sup>10</sup>But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. <sup>11</sup>For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

<sup>12</sup>Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. <sup>13</sup>But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup>and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

1. What is the irony of self-promotion?
2. Why don't we generally want to associate with the poor, crippled and blind?
3. What is the outcome of associating with the lowly?

# PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

## PERSONAL EVALUATION

1. What are some ideas on how you can seek to gain greater honor from your wife and children?
2. What are things you do in your life that threaten your honor?
3. What are some ideas for gaining more honor in your vocation?
4. What are things you do in your job that threaten your honor?

### PRAYER

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you insight into any way you are not acting in an honorable way in your life. Pray that a desire to serve your family and others would grow in you and you would reflect the heart of Christ in your interactions.



## LESSON 2

# UNDERSTANDING PATRIARCHY



## INTRODUCTION

### REVIEW

One of a man's most fundamental desires is to be honored. Men don't function as well if they are not respected. The last lesson looked at the quest for honor by contrasting the teaching of Jesus with the ideas of the world on what brings true honor. What does Jesus say brings true honor?

## LESSON FOCUS

1. Definition of patriarchy – male headship in the family or home  
pater – father, arches – head or ruler
2. What are some of the arguments used in our day against the idea of patriarchy?

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

## THE SCRIPTURAL BASIS FOR PATRIARCHY

### Genesis 2:18-22

*<sup>18</sup>The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*

*<sup>19</sup>Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.*

*But for Adam no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.*

How is patriarchy seen in the order of creation?



**Note:** The word helper, which is used to describe the role of a woman in relationship to her husband, is the same Hebrew word used in two other ways in the Old Testament: a king coming alongside to help another king and God coming alongside to help man. Thinking about this use of the word helper, what then does the word mean in terms of the husband's and wife's role?



### Genesis 3:16 – The curse after the Fall

*<sup>16</sup>To the woman he (God) said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."*



**Note:** The word desire in this passage is in the sense of control as in Genesis 4:7, "sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

What does this passage say about patriarchy?

### 1 Corinthians 11:3

*<sup>3</sup>Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.*

What does this passage say about patriarchy?

### **Note from George Gilder, Men and Marriage, copyright 1986, page 21:**

Steven Goldberg, in preparing his fine study, *The Inevitability of Patriarchy*, examined most of the anthropological and sociological literature on the subject of political leadership and authority. In particular, he scrutinized every report of an alleged matriarchy, where women were said to hold political power. He found no evidence that a matriarchy had ever existed or is in any way emerging today. He found no society in which authority was associated chiefly with women in male-female relations. In a review, Margaret Mead agreed with these findings and described his presentation of the data as "faultless." The degree to which women take power seems to depend on the extent to which the men are absent. George Murdock compared some 500 cultures and found that, in all of them, fighting and leadership were associated with the men.

# THE THREE LEADERSHIP OPTIONS

If men biblically are called to be patriarchal leaders, there are three leadership options: abdication of leadership, self-serving leadership or servant leadership. Below are biblical examples of each type of leadership and the outcome.

## 1. Abdication of leadership – Abraham and Sarah, Genesis 16:1-6



**Note:** God had promised Abraham that he would father a nation through his wife Sarah. The promise took years to come to pass and Sarah became impatient.

*<sup>1</sup>Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar; <sup>2</sup>so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her."*

*Abram agreed to what Sarai said. <sup>3</sup>So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian maidservant Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife. <sup>4</sup>He slept with Hagar, and she conceived.*

*When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. <sup>5</sup>Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my servant in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me."*

*<sup>6</sup>"Your servant is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.*

How did Abraham abdicate his leadership role?

What was the outcome of Abraham's abdication of leadership?



**Note:** The son Hagar bore to Abraham, Ishmael, became the father of the Arab peoples. There is still conflict between the Arabs and the Jewish people who came through Abraham and Sarah's lineage.

## 2. Self-serving leadership – Samuel’s Sons, 1 Samuel 8:1-7

<sup>1</sup>When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges for Israel. <sup>2</sup>The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. <sup>3</sup>But his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.

<sup>4</sup>So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. <sup>5</sup>They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.”

<sup>6</sup>But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. <sup>7</sup>And the LORD told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king.

In terms of their leadership what were the things Samuel’s sons did that were self-serving? (vs. 3)

What was the outcome of their self-serving leadership? (vs. 5, 7)

## 3. Servant leadership – Joseph with Mary, Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man, and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” - which means, “God with us”.

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

How did Joseph demonstrate servant leadership?

What was the outcome of his choosing to be a servant leader?

## THINKING IT THROUGH

1. What is the Biblical view of patriarchy?
2. What causes a man to abdicate his leadership of his family?
3. What are the general outcomes of abdication of male leadership in the home?
4. What causes a man to become a self-serving leader?
5. What are the general outcomes of self-serving male leadership?
6. What causes a man to become a servant leader?

7. What are the general outcomes of male servant leadership?
8. Can you give some examples of ways you or members of your family have chosen the different leadership options and what was the result?

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

### THE OUTCOME OF FAITHFUL LEADERSHIP

#### Deuteronomy 7:9-10

*<sup>9</sup> Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments. <sup>10</sup> But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him.*

1. What will be the outcome of godly male leadership in the home?
2. What will be the outcome of a lack of leadership?

# PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

## PERSONAL EVALUATION

1. What are your shortcomings in the way that you are leading your wife?
2. What are difficulties that you face in leading your wife?
3. What do you need to do to overcome the shortcomings or difficulties and become a better leader of your wife?
4. What are your shortcomings in the way that you are leading your children?
5. What are difficulties that you face in leading your children?
6. What do you need to do to overcome the shortcomings or difficulties and become a better leader of your children?

### PRAYER

Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you insight into your family and ways you can improve in your leadership role. Ask God to show you where you are failing to lead properly.

## LESSON 3

# THE ATTACK ON MASCULINITY & MALE LEADERSHIP



## INTRODUCTION

### REVIEW

#### Lesson 1

How should understanding that the need for honor is part of being a man affect a man's behavior?

## Lesson 2

1. How does understanding that patriarchy is God's design affect how we function as men?
2. What are the three choices in terms of leadership?

## LESSON FOCUS

This lesson will look at the attack on masculinity and male leadership.

1. What are traits generally associated with masculinity?
2. What are traits generally associated with femininity?
3. What are some examples of today's negative attitudes toward men and masculinity?
4. Why should men resist attempts to malign maleness and reduce or eliminate the role of male leadership?



# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

## TIMELESS BIBLICAL VIEWS OF MALENESS

Under each verse list the male characteristic and describe actions that having that characteristic would encourage a noble man to take.

### **Psalm 68:5**

*A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.*

Characteristic:

Actions:

### **Psalm 103:13**

*As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him...*

Characteristic:

Actions:

### **Hebrews 12:9**

*Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!*

Characteristic:

Actions:

### **1 Timothy 5:8**

*If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

Characteristic:

Actions:

**Matthew 7:9-10**

*<sup>9</sup>Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup>Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?*

Characteristic:

Actions:

**Proverbs 4:1-2**

*Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. <sup>2</sup>I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching.*

Characteristic:

Actions:

**1 Corinthians 16:13**

*<sup>13</sup> Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.*

Characteristic:

Actions:

What are the characteristics of noble men and leadership?

## **TIMELESS BIBLICAL VIEWS OF WOMANHOOD**

Under each verse list the characteristic of womanhood.

**Isaiah 49:15**

*Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!*

Characteristic:

**Isaiah 66:13**

*As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem."*

Characteristic:

**1 Thessalonians 2:6b-7**

*As apostles of Christ we could have been a burden to you, <sup>7</sup>but we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.*

Characteristic:

**Proverbs 31:26**

*<sup>26</sup> She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.*

Characteristic:

**Proverbs 31:27**

*<sup>27</sup> She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.*

Characteristic:

What are the characteristics of a godly woman?



# THINKING IT THROUGH

## THE CHANGING VIEW OF MASCULINITY AND MALE LEADERSHIP

1. Why is the role of a patriarchal, noble father under attack?
2. Why do so many women have a problem with the idea of male leadership?

### 3. Proverbs 31:10-11

*<sup>10</sup> A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. <sup>11</sup> Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.*

### Ecclesiastes 4:12

*<sup>12</sup> Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.*

Are women who submit to their husband's leadership any less powerful than those who don't? Explain.



**Illustration:** A train with two engines in line at the front pulling together will be able to move ahead faster and carry a heavier load. A train with two engines at each end pulling in opposite directions won't accomplish anything.

4. What has been the result of the changing view of masculinity and male leadership in the home?

5. What is the irony of the modern feminist movement?
  
6. What happens when men are feminized and women are masculinized?

## **AXIOMS OF POWER AND DESIGN**

(From Harmony in the Home by Richard Elwell.)

Power is defined as strength, force or controlling influence (from the Latin *potere* meaning to be able). The use of power is not always productive. Power is only productive when it is used to build up rather than destroy and to be of benefit rather than control by force.

**Axiom 1: The release of power is never neutral. It is either productive or destructive.**

Example: The nuclear power in a power plant is productive power; the nuclear power of a bomb is destructive.

**Axiom 2: Power that is submitted to design is productive. Power that is not submitted to design is unproductive.**

Example: If you put gas into the gas tank, you are submitting to the car's design and the gas will produce productive power. If you pour the same gas over the engine of the car and ignite it, it is not being submitted to car's design and the resulting power will be destructive.

**Axiom 3: The degree of the productivity of power is proportionate to the efficiency of the design to which it is submitted.**

Example: Pulleys would be an example of increasing the productivity of power through an efficient design.

**Axiom 4: The exercise of power is only good when submitted to a morally good design.**

Example: Hitler and the Nazi regime were an example of an efficient, yet evil, power design.

In terms of a man's or a woman's role in the family it isn't a question of empowerment, it is a question of the proper use of the power one has been given. It is not a question of whether or not the spouses have power. The question is, "Is the power that has been given being submitted to God's good design?"

The family and the roles God has assigned in it are an efficient and productive design. The power a woman is to wield in a family is the power of influence coming out of a right relationship with God. The degree to which she is of benefit is dependent upon her degree of submission to God. It is productive power because it is submitted to God's design.

A woman trying to control and dominate her husband enters into a "dance for dominance." The ensuing power struggle keeps the family from functioning in the way God designed and is therefore destructive and unproductive. Neither the husband nor the wife can ever become what God intends.

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

### THE OUTCOME OF FAITHFUL LEADERSHIP

**Malachi 3:17-4:6**

*<sup>17</sup>"They will be mine," says the LORD Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. <sup>18</sup>And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.*

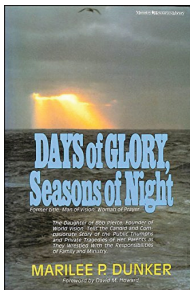
*<sup>4</sup>"Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. <sup>2</sup>But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. <sup>3</sup>Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things,"*

says the LORD Almighty.

<sup>4</sup>"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.

<sup>5</sup>"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup>He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

1. What is the implication in saying that Elijah "will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children"?
2. What does it mean for the hearts of fathers to be turned to their children?



**Illustration from Richard's life:** In seminary I read the book, Days of Glory, Seasons of Night, about Bob Pierce, the founder of World Vision, written by his daughter Marilee Dunker. It affected me deeply as it showed the consequences of putting your own dreams and ministry above the needs of your family. He founded a great ministry but his family floundered. I resolved that my family would always be my most important ministry.

3. How does our behavior towards our children change when our heart is turned towards them?
4. What is the impact of a noble father?

**Notes from Richard's wife:** During the last year of my husband's life, our hearts were full of gratitude for the good condition of our marriage and family and we thanked God daily for what he had done in our lives. My husband always put his family first. Our children knew that their father cared more about them than he did his work. I am truly grateful that the legacy he passed on to his children continues and is being passed on to his grandchildren.

## PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

### PERSONAL EVALUATION

1. How are you measuring your success as a man?
  
2. In wanting to become more of a noble man, should any of your priorities change?

### PRAYER

Pray that you would fully appreciate the importance of your leadership role in your home with your wife and children. Pray for insight into changes that need to be made in your thoughts, priorities and actions.



## LESSON 4

# MEN LEAD BY WHOM THEY FOLLOW



## INTRODUCTION

### REVIEW

Lesson 1 – What are some legitimate and illegitimate ways men seek to gain honor?

Lesson 2 – Why is patriarchy inevitable?

**Lesson 3** – What is wrong with the idea that patriarchy leaves women without power or equality?

## LESSON FOCUS

1. This lesson will look at how our leadership as men is affected by whom we follow. It will also examine how we are to respond to rebellion against our leadership in our families.
2. In what ways are we affected by the influence of others?



**Illustration:** The light flyweight gold medal boxing champ at the 1984 Summer Olympics had a brother who was in a much less prestigious position. While one was a gold medalist, the other was a ward of the California Youth Authority. When asked what the difference between him and his gold medal winning brother was, the ward responded that as a young teen his brother got involved with a boxing program in their neighborhood started by a police officer, while he chose to run with the local gang instead.

3. We become like whom we follow.

### **Romans 6:15-23**

*<sup>15</sup>What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup>Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup>But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. <sup>18</sup>You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.*

*<sup>19</sup>I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. <sup>20</sup>When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. <sup>21</sup>What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! <sup>22</sup>But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

According to this passage, what are all men?

What are the two different categories of slaves?

**Truth:** All men are followers of something. They are controlled by whoever they offer themselves to.

4. The main principle of this lesson is that who or what we choose to follow determines what kind of leader we will become.

## SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

### JESUS' LEADERSHIP GOAL

**Ephesians 5:21-33**

*<sup>21</sup>Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

*<sup>22</sup>Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

*<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup>to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup>and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup>In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the*

church-- <sup>30</sup>for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup>"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." <sup>32</sup>This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

1. What is the goal of Jesus' leadership for his followers? (vs.26-27)
2. How should Jesus' leadership goal for his followers influence our leadership goal for our families?

## JESUS' LEADERSHIP METHOD

### Matthew 11:28-30

<sup>28</sup>"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

How does Jesus lead?

## JESUS' LEADERSHIP STYLE

### Mark 10:42-44

<sup>42</sup>Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup>Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup>and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.

1. What is Jesus' style and attitude toward leadership?

2. How should Jesus' attitude affect ours?

## JESUS' RESPONSE TO REBELLION

### Matthew 28:18

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

1. Who is under the authority of Jesus?
2. Does everyone place himself or herself under Jesus' authority? Why not?
3. What has to occur for us as men to be effective leaders of our families?

### Matthew 11:20-24

*<sup>20</sup>Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. <sup>21</sup>"Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>22</sup>But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. <sup>23</sup>And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. <sup>24</sup>But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."*

### Matthew 21:18-19

*<sup>18</sup>Early in the morning, as Jesus was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. <sup>19</sup>Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered.*

1. What could Jesus have done to those who were unresponsive to his authority?
2. Instead, what did Jesus do to those who were unresponsive to his authority?

## THINKING IT THROUGH

1. Why can't we ever achieve our leadership goal if those we are in leadership over aren't willing to follow?
2. How do we balance the need for discipline with the need to win the hearts of those we are leading?

**Note from Richard's wife:** One time Richard and I had a disagreement on how something should be done. I felt so strongly that I was right that I kept harping on it over and over again for a few days. About the third day, Richard said to me, "Marty I have come to believe that you are absolutely right but because of the way you dealt with me I can't do what you want. It was his way of disciplining me. From then on, I became more aware of how I said something and wouldn't say it more than once."

### 3. Romans 2:4

*<sup>4</sup> Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?*

What can you learn from the verse about leadership?

#### 4. Romans 12:17-20

*<sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup>Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup>On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."*

What guidance does this passage give to us as leaders?

#### 5. Proverbs 15:1

*A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.*

What guidance does this passage give to us as leaders?



**Remember:** We have a delicate balancing act of trying to win over those who rebel against our leadership without forfeiting our leadership. We have to rely on the Holy Spirit for wisdom and insight while praying that they become responsive. We continue to do what is right even in the face of rebellion or defiance.

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

### THE OUTCOME OF FAITHFUL LEADERSHIP

#### John 2:13-16

*<sup>13</sup>When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. <sup>15</sup>So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!"*

1. What shows that Jesus wasn't a passive leader?

2. When should our leadership become assertive?

## PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

### PERSONAL EVALUATION

1. In what ways do you see yourself as a servant of those you are called to lead?
2. How are you trying to win over by influence those you are called to lead?
3. In what ways is your response to rebellion against your authority effective and in what ways is it not?

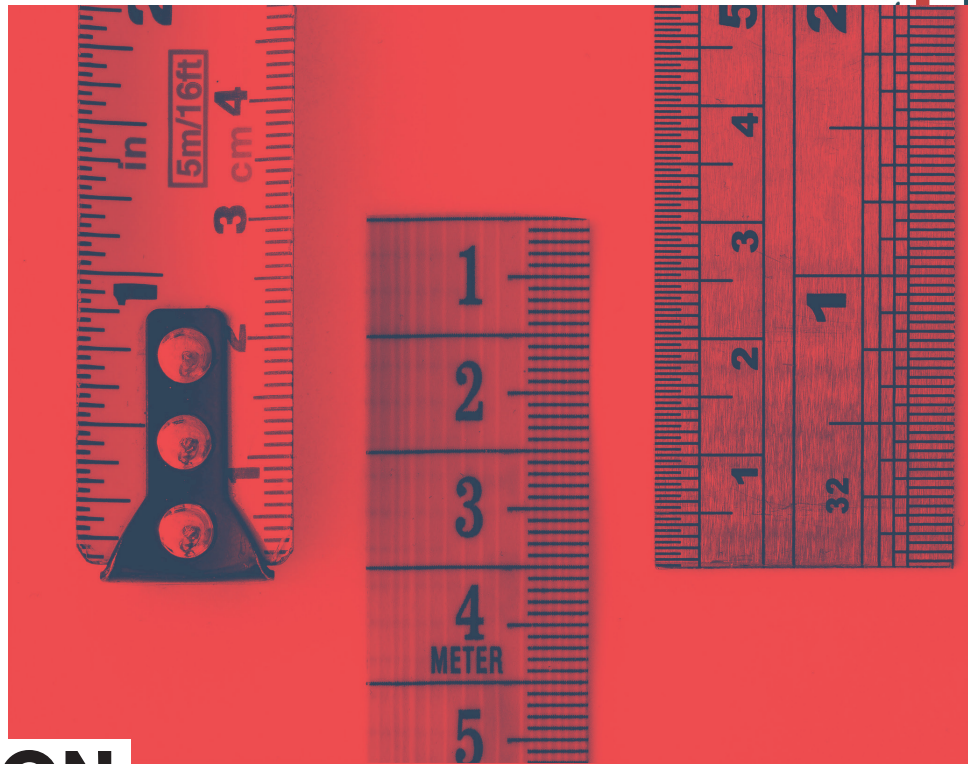
### PRAYER

Pray that the Holy Spirit would work in your heart so you would truly desire to lead your wife and family in righteousness. Pray that you would see any way in which your leadership could be improved.



## LESSON 5

# THE MEASURE OF A GODLY MAN



## INTRODUCTION

### REVIEW

Lesson 1 - What is the irony of self-promotion?

Lesson 2 - What are the three leadership choices a man has in terms of his family?

Lesson 3 – What has been the outcome of the attack on masculinity?

Lesson 4 – Why is it so important who a leader follows?



**Remember:** The plumb line with which we measure how we are doing is Jesus himself. We don't compare ourselves to others.

## LESSON FOCUS

In light of having examined how God created us and what is his purpose for us, we need to measure ourselves to the standard of his design. How we measure up to what God has created us to be as men is the focus of this lesson. What are some ways we can gauge how well we are doing?

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

## LOVE IS THE MEASURE OF A GODLY MAN

1 John 3:11-24

*<sup>11</sup>This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. <sup>12</sup>Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. <sup>13</sup>Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. <sup>14</sup>We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. <sup>15</sup>Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.*

*<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?*

*<sup>18</sup>Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. <sup>19</sup>This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.*

*<sup>21</sup>Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God <sup>22</sup>and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey his commands and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup>And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. <sup>24</sup>Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

1. What is the measure of a man in Christ?
2. What are some other standards by which men measure themselves?
3. How do we know we belong to the truth?
4. What is real love defined by?
5. Why is what we do more of a measure of who we are than what we say?

## THE MEASURE OF CHRIST'S LOVE

### Philippians 2:3-11

<sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

<sup>5</sup>Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1. What is the measure of Christ's love?
2. What is the outcome of Christ's demonstration of love?
3. What is the paradox that we can learn from Christ's demonstration of love?

## THINKING IT THROUGH

1. What are you willing to sacrifice when your family needs you?

**Illustration from Richard's life:** When my oldest son Roston was eight years old, he became obsessed with boats. I decided to take a week of my vacation to build a boat with him. The result was a flat-bottomed boat that wasn't much to look at but became a source of fun excursions for the whole family. We all have great memories of "Roston Rower."

2. Does it take a crisis before you realize your family needs you, or do you think about what they need every day?
3. What are you willing to sacrifice when your neighbor needs you?
4. What is the paradox of your sacrificing for others?
5. How does considering others equal to or greater than yourself elevate you? James 4:10 – *Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*
6. What would demonstrate that the well-being of those under your authority is at least an equal priority to your own well-being?

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

### THE GODLY GOAL OF A HUSBAND

#### Ephesians 5:25-33

*<sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup>to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup>and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup>In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and care for it, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup>for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

1. What is to be a husband's goal for his leadership of his wife?
2. What is the result if a husband fails to love his wife as he has been called?

**Note from Richard's wife:** I know without a doubt that my relationship with Jesus is deeper because of my husband's leadership. Even when I didn't want to hear it, he would point me to Scripture for the answer to whatever ailed me. I am truly grateful he persevered even when I resisted him.

## THE GODLY GOAL OF A FATHER

### Proverbs 3:1-8

*My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart;<sup>2</sup> for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. <sup>3</sup> Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.<sup>4</sup> Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.*

*<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.<sup>7</sup> Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.<sup>8</sup> This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.*

1. What should be a father's goal for his leadership of his children?
2. How does a father accomplish that goal for his children?

3. What is the result if a father fails to love and teach his children as he has been called?

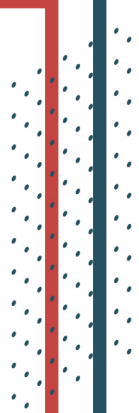
## PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

### PERSONAL EVALUATION

1. How does the use of your time reflect your love for those under your leadership?
2. What are some examples you can point to this week that show you have sacrificed yourself for your family?
3. Who are you willing to give your life for?
4. Is there anyone you would die for that you won't give much time to?
5. How can you be your family's hero?

### PRAYER

Pray that the Holy Spirit would reveal what is in your heart and whether you are truly putting the interests of others above your own. Pray that because of Christ's work in you, loving others sacrificially would become your greatest desire.





## LESSON 6

# THE DEFINING CHARACTER OF A MAN



## INTRODUCTION

### REVIEW

**Lesson 1** – How does the way the world strives for honor contrast with what Christ teaches brings true honor?

**Lesson 2** – What happens to a family when a husband surrenders his leadership role to his wife?

**Lesson 3** – Why can't today's attack on patriarchy ever produce a good result?

**Lesson 4** – As men how should we respond to those who are unresponsive to our authority?

**Lesson 5** – What is the measure of a godly man?

## LESSON FOCUS

Character development is the process by which we as men become more noble and therefore more honorable. If we want people to admire us, we need to become more admirable. Our character is the core of who we are.

1. What reveals a man's true character?
2. Can a man's character change for the better?                      How?

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

## THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

**Luke 6:43-45**

*<sup>43</sup>No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.*

*<sup>44</sup>Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. <sup>45</sup>The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.*

What is the relationship between who we are and what we do?

## MAN'S UNIVERSAL CHARACTER PROBLEM

### Romans 3:9-20

*<sup>9</sup>What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. <sup>10</sup>As it is written:*

*"There is no one righteous, not even one;*

*<sup>11</sup> there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.*

*<sup>12</sup>All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." <sup>13</sup>"Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit."*

*"The poison of vipers is on their lips." <sup>14</sup> "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." <sup>15</sup>"Their feet are swift to shed blood; <sup>16</sup> ruin and misery mark their ways, <sup>17</sup>and the way of peace they do not know." <sup>18</sup> "There is no fear of God before their eyes."*

*<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.*

1. What is mankind's universal character problem? (vs. 10)
2. What does verse 18 mean?
3. What does the law make us aware of in terms of our character? (vs. 20)
4. Why is this a big problem for men who are created with a desire to be honored?

## BEING CHANGED FROM THE INSIDE OUT

### Romans 8:5-11

*<sup>5</sup>Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup>The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; <sup>7</sup>the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup>Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.*

*<sup>9</sup>You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus 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.*

*<sup>12</sup>Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it.*

*<sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, <sup>14</sup>because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

How can we change the core of who we are?

## THINKING IT THROUGH

1. As men, what are the chief enemies to our character development?
2. If we gain honor as a result of who we are, not what we have, then what should be our perspective on becoming more honorable?

3. What would be the wrong perspective on gaining honor?

4. What is a noble man's response to disrespect?

**Psalm 34:12-14** - <sup>12</sup> *Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days,* <sup>13</sup> *keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies.* <sup>14</sup> *Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.*

5. Can we control how other people treat us?

6. Can we control how we respond to being disrespected?

7. **1 Peter 2:20-23**

<sup>20</sup> *But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.* <sup>21</sup> *To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

<sup>22</sup> *"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."*

<sup>23</sup> *When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.*

What can you learn from Jesus' response to being disrespected?

# CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

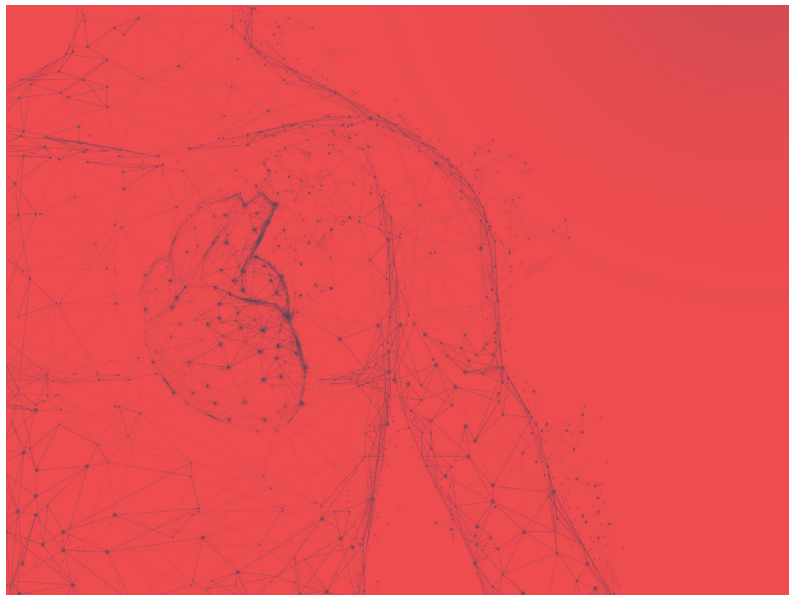
## A MAN'S HEART

**Proverbs 4:23** - <sup>23</sup>*Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.*

Why is our heart the wellspring of our life?

**Proverbs 20:5** - <sup>5</sup>*The purposes of a man's heart are deep waters, but a man of understanding draws them out.*

1. What does it mean that the purposes of a man's heart are deep waters?
2. Why is it important to draw them out?



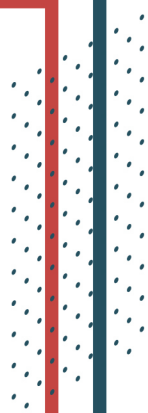
# PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

## PERSONAL EVALUATION

1. When you don't get the respect you desire do you tend to...
  - a. Try to change the person who you want to respect you?
  - b. Try to be changed yourself so you become more worthy of honor?
2. In your quest for honor are you more likely to:
  - a. Retreat into some fantasy?
  - b. Seek help from the transforming power of being filled with Christ's Spirit?

### PRAYER

Pray that the Holy Spirit would work in you to convict you of sin and ways you fall short of what God desires. Pray that you would yield yourself more fully to Christ for his work to be done in you.





## LESSON 7

# A NOBLE TASK



## INTRODUCTION

### REVIEW

1. What are different motivations men have for becoming leaders?
2. How does a man's motivation for becoming a leader affect his leadership?

3. How does a man's desire to be honored and respected relate to his desire to be a leader?
4. Why are men often frustrated in fulfilling their desire to be honored and respected?

## LESSON FOCUS

This lesson will focus on a man's call to leadership and begin looking at the necessary qualities of a successful leader. What are examples of character flaws that have destroyed the ability of Christian men to lead?

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

## DESIRING A NOBLE TASK

1 Timothy 3:1-13

*<sup>1</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup>Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup>not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. <sup>5</sup>(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup>He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.*

*<sup>8</sup>Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup>They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.*

*<sup>10</sup>They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.*

*<sup>11</sup>In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.*

*<sup>12</sup>A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. <sup>13</sup>Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.*

1. What does it mean to desire to be an overseer?
2. Why is desiring to be an overseer desiring a noble task?
3. What does it mean to be above reproach?
4. What kinds of things bring reproach?
5. What happens to a man's leadership if he is not above reproach?

## **AN EXAMPLE OF REPROACH - KING SAUL**

### **1 Samuel 15:17-26**

When King Saul did what he wanted and disobeyed God's command, the Prophet Samuel confronted him.

*<sup>17</sup> Samuel said, "Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel. <sup>18</sup> And he sent you on a mission, saying, 'Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; wage war on them until you have wiped them out.' <sup>19</sup> Why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?"*

*<sup>20</sup> "But I did obey the LORD," Saul said. "I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. <sup>21</sup> The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal."*

*<sup>22</sup> But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. <sup>23</sup> For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."*

*<sup>24</sup> Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned. I violated the LORD's command and your instructions. I was afraid of the men and so I gave in to them. <sup>25</sup> Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD."*

*<sup>26</sup> But Samuel said to him, "I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel!"*

1. Why did Saul lose his position as leader over Israel?
2. What was Saul's reaction to Samuel's accusation? (vs. 20-21, 24)
3. Why doesn't trying to justify wrong actions ever make us right?
4. What will enable us to keep the respect of others when we do something wrong?

# THINKING IT THROUGH

## THE OUTCOME FOR A NOBLE LEADER

1. What is the ultimate outcome for leaders who serve well?  
(Refer to 1 Tim. 3:13)
2. How does having an excellent standing relate to a man's desire to be honored?
3. Why is the possibility of reproach an enemy of all we desire as men?
4. What is the source of reproach?
5. To be above reproach, what do we as men need to do?

# CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

## OUR NEED FOR A SAVIOR

### Romans 7:14-25

*<sup>14</sup>We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. <sup>15</sup>I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. <sup>16</sup>And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. <sup>18</sup>I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. <sup>19</sup>For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.*

*<sup>21</sup>So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. <sup>22</sup>For in my inner being I delight in God's law; <sup>23</sup>but I see*

*another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. <sup>24</sup> What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!*

*So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.*

1. What is a desire for things that cause reproach evidence of?
2. Why would we hunger for what would steal our honor?
3. How does our desire for things that cause reproach relate to our need for a savior?
4. Without a savior, what is the inevitable consequence of a desire for things that bring reproach?



# PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

## PERSONAL EVALUATION

Reread the list of qualifications for leadership from 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and circle the areas where you are most likely to have reproach in your life.

*<sup>1</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup>Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup>not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. <sup>5</sup>(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup>He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.*

*<sup>8</sup>Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup>They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. <sup>10</sup>They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.*

*<sup>11</sup>In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.*

*<sup>12</sup>A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. <sup>13</sup>Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.*

### PRAYER

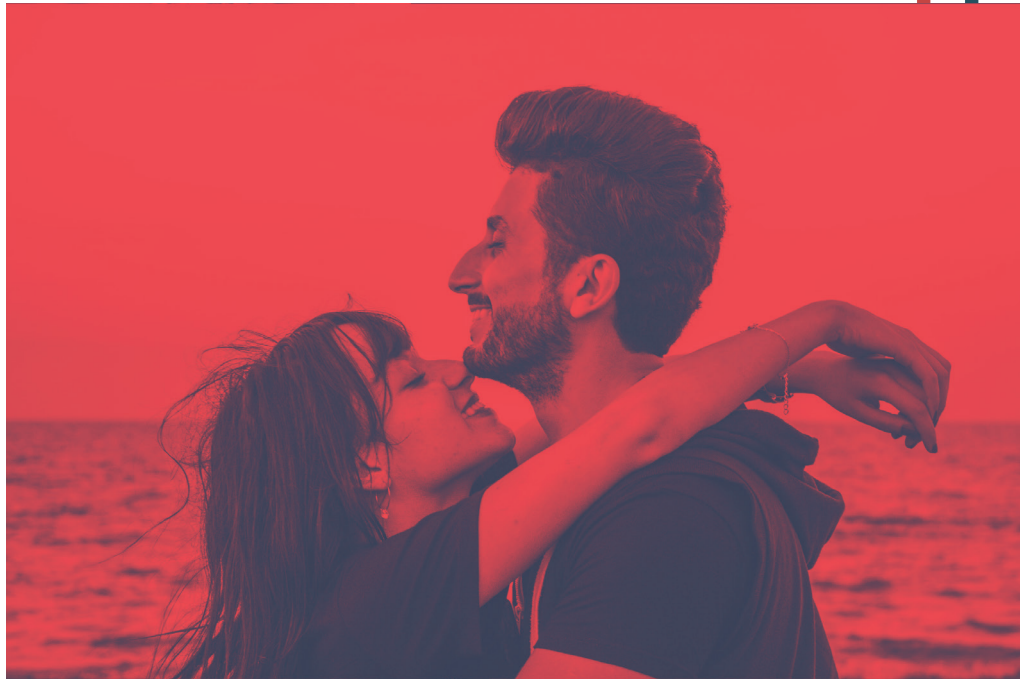
Through confession and prayer, seek God's help and deliverance from those things that could disqualify your standing as a leader. Pray for a work of the Holy Spirit in you as you go through the study.





## LESSON 8

# A HUSBAND OF ONE WIFE



## INTRODUCTION

### REVIEW

1. Why is wanting to be an overseer desiring a noble task?
2. What does noble leadership result in?

3. Why do we need to be above reproach if we hope to succeed as noble leaders?
4. What do we need in order to be above reproach?

## LESSON FOCUS

This lesson will focus on the first qualification for noble leadership in 1 Timothy 3:1-13, to be the husband of one wife. Can a man who has been guilty of sexual sin in the past become a husband of one wife?

**Note from Richard:** It is important to remember that our past doesn't determine our future. As a young man, I lived a hedonistic lifestyle. Once I became a Christian, I put all that behind me. When I married, I committed myself to my wife and to Christ to be faithful and by God's grace I was.

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

## THE HUSBAND OF ONE WIFE

### 1 Timothy 3:1-13

*<sup>1</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup>Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup>not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. <sup>5</sup>(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup>He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.*

<sup>8</sup>Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup>They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.

<sup>10</sup>They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

<sup>11</sup>In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

<sup>12</sup>A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.

<sup>13</sup>Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.



**Note:** Timothy had traveled with Paul on his missionary journeys.

Among the places Timothy had been with Paul was Corinth.

Paul's first letter to the church of Corinth reveals that the Corinthian church had some very tolerant attitudes toward sexual sin.

The non-Christians in Corinth may have been sexually immoral but not even they put up with the degree of sexual degeneracy as did some in the church itself. In 1 Corinthians 5 Paul brings strong correction for their tolerance of a man in the church having sexual relations with his stepmother. It is not probable in this context of sexual immorality that Paul would exclude anyone from leadership with past sexual infidelity. In the pagan setting where the Gentile church was birthed, not many would qualify for leadership if past sins were taken into account. In this context the husband of one wife must mean a man who is loyally married to and devoted to one woman, despite his past history.

1. What would undermine a man's resolve to be faithful to one woman?
2. What is the difference between temptation and lust?
3. What does giving yourself over to lust reveal about your view of your wife?

4. Why can't an unsatisfied man think effectively about serving others with his leadership?
5. How does your view of your wife affect your view of God and impact your leadership?

## AN EXAMPLE OF REPROACH - KING DAVID



**Note:** Even though King David was called a man after God's own heart, he still made some bad leadership choices.

### 2 Samuel 11:1-5, 12:7-14

*<sup>1</sup>In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem.*

*<sup>2</sup>One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, <sup>3</sup>and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "Isn't she Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" <sup>4</sup>Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (She had purified herself from her uncleanness.) Then she went back home. <sup>5</sup>The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant."*

David had Bathsheba's husband Uriah brought home, but Uriah wouldn't sleep with his wife as David tried to set him up to do. David then proceeded to have Uriah sent into battle in such a way that he would be killed. God sent Nathan the prophet to rebuke David for his sin. Nathan told David a story and when David got angry with the man in the story, Nathan accused him of being that man.

### 2 Samuel 12:7-14

*<sup>7</sup>Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. <sup>8</sup>I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel*

and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. <sup>9</sup> Why did you despise the word of the LORD by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. <sup>10</sup> Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'

<sup>11</sup> "This is what the LORD says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. <sup>12</sup> You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.'"

<sup>13</sup> Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. <sup>14</sup> But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the LORD, the son born to you will die."

1. In terms of his leadership what were the first things David did that were self-serving? (vs. 1-2)

What did that lead to?

2. What was the outcome of David's self-serving leadership? (vs. 11-14)

## THINKING IT THROUGH

1. If being happily married makes it easier to be a man of one wife, what can be done to promote a happy marriage?

## 2. 1 Corinthians 7:2-5

*<sup>2</sup>But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each woman her own husband. <sup>3</sup>The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. <sup>4</sup>The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife. <sup>5</sup>Do not deprive each other except by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

What does Scripture say about the necessity of a satisfactory sex life?

Does that mean a husband can force his wife to have sex with him?

3. What are differences between men and women in the way they view and approach sex?
4. Why do men and their wives need to understand the differences between the way men and women view sex?

What does that mean in terms of your approach to sex with your wife?

5. How should single men prepare themselves for faithfulness in marriage?



# PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

## PERSONAL EVALUATION

Remembering King David's failure and the problem of self-serving leadership, what are some practical steps you can take to avoid similar failure?

1. He wasn't out with his troops when he should have been.
2. He got up late in the evening and was wandering around his rooftop.
3. He let himself gaze on Bathsheba and then inquired who she was.
4. He sent for Bathsheba.
5. He had Bathsheba's husband killed to cover up what he did.

## PERSONAL PROTECTION

Memorize Proverbs 5:3-6 and commit yourself to God and his plan.

*<sup>3</sup>For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; <sup>4</sup>but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. <sup>5</sup>Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. <sup>6</sup>She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths wander aimlessly, but she does not know it.*

## PRAYER

Pray that your heart would be fully inclined toward and satisfied with your wife. Pray that the Holy Spirit would reveal any wrong thinking that you engage in that is hurting your marriage relationship.



## LESSON 9

# BEING TEMPERATE



## INTRODUCTION

### REVIEW

1. What is noble about being an overseer?
2. Why is being above reproach necessary to maintain nobility?

3. What does it mean to be the husband of one wife?

4. Why can't a man who is not satisfied with one wife ever be satisfied?

## LESSON FOCUS

The focus of this lesson is the next qualifying characteristic of being a noble leader, which is being temperate. What does it mean to be temperate?

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

## BEING TEMPERATE

### 1 Timothy 3:1-13

*<sup>1</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup>Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup>not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. <sup>5</sup>(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup>He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.*

*<sup>8</sup>Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup>They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.*

*<sup>10</sup>They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.*

*<sup>11</sup>In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.*

*<sup>12</sup>A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.*

*<sup>13</sup>Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.*

1. What are some qualities a man must have to be temperate?

Synonyms:

2. What does being temperate and walking in the Spirit have to do with each other?
3. In what kind of situations do we prove we are temperate?
4. What is the result of being intemperate?
5. What is it like to be overtaken by emotion?



## AN EXAMPLE OF INTEMPERANCE - KING SAUL

### 1 Samuel 18: 6-11

<sup>6</sup> When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with tambourines and lutes. <sup>7</sup> As they danced, they sang: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands."

<sup>8</sup> Saul was very angry; this refrain galled him greatly. "They have credited David with tens of thousands," he thought, "but me with only thousands. What more can he get but the kingdom?" <sup>9</sup> And from that time on Saul kept a jealous eye on David.

<sup>10</sup> The next day an evil spirit from God came forcefully on Saul. He was prophesying in his house, while David was playing the harp, as he usually did. Saul had a spear in his hand <sup>11</sup> and he hurled it, saying to himself, "I'll pin David to the wall." But David eluded him twice.



**Note:** The way Saul was prophesying meant he was in a frenzy and under the influence of a spirit, whether good or bad.

1. What action showed that Saul was intemperate?
2. What was wrong with Saul's focus? (vs. 8)
3. What caused him to act intemperately?
4. What can we learn from the example of Saul?



**Remember:** Whatever we focus on is what will be magnified in our life.

# THINKING IT THROUGH

1. What emotions threaten our being temperate?
2. What is a knee-jerk reaction?
3. What is the problem with knee-jerk reactions?
4. How do we overcome knee-jerk reactions?

*Proverbs 14:15 – A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.*

5. When we are filled with anxiety, what are we focused on?

Why is being anxious a threat to being temperate?

6. When we are filled with fear, what are we focused on?

Why is fear a threat to our being temperate?

7. When we get angry, what are we focused on?

Why is anger a threat to our being temperate?

8. When you experience jealousy, what is your focus on?

Why is jealousy a threat our being temperate?

9. When we are consumed with greed, what is our focus on?

Why is greed a threat to our being temperate?

10. When we are stressed out, what are we focused on?

How is being stressed out a threat to our being temperate?

11. How does a lack of temperance affect a man's honor?

12. How do we overcome the emotions that threaten our being temperate?

*2 Corinthians 10:5 - 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*



**Note:** Sometimes minor irritations can cause us to lose control more easily than major provocations. We can tend to rely on self, rather than God, in the small things of life.

# CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

## THE TEMPERATE MAN

**Ecclesiastes 7:18b-19**

*The man who fears God will avoid all extremes. Wisdom makes one wise man more powerful than ten rulers in a city.*

Why does a man who fears God avoid all extremes?

# PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

## ATTITUDES THAT PROMOTE TEMPERANCE

Read through the Bible verses for any area that you tend to be intemperate and make a note of how to remain temperate. You may want to memorize the verse so you can fill your mind with what is true.

1. Anxiety – Philippians 4:6
2. Anger – James 1:19-20
3. Greed – Luke 12:15
4. Jealousy – Proverbs 27:4
5. Fear – 1 Corinthians 16:13
6. Stress – Matthew 6:25-34

### PRAYER

Pray that God would enable you to see emotions that you give into that lead you into impulsive, intemperate actions. Pray that you would learn to react in measured ways, with reason rather than emotions.





## LESSON 10

# EXERCISING SELF-CONTROL



## INTRODUCTION

### REVIEW

1. What is the relationship between leadership and masculinity?
2. When is the desire to lead others a noble desire?

3. How does our reputation affect our ability to lead?

4. How do we know that we are being temperate?

## LESSON FOCUS

The focus of this lesson is the next qualifying characteristic of being a noble leader, which is self-control.

What do you think is the difference between temperance and self-control?

**Proverbs 25:28**

*Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control.*

What does the proverb mean?

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

## SELF-CONTROL

**1 Timothy 3:1-13**

*<sup>1</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup>Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup>not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. <sup>5</sup>(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup>He must not be a*

recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup>He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

<sup>8</sup>Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup>They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.

<sup>10</sup>They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

<sup>11</sup>In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

<sup>12</sup>A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.

<sup>13</sup>Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

1. What does it mean to have self-control?



**Note:** The word in this passage translated as self-control is the Greek word *sophron*. Its meaning comes from a compound word whose component parts are *so*, which means safe, and *phren*, which is the inner part of our soul where our passions come from. The meaning of *sophron* then is to be safe from the control of our passions. To be self-controlled is to be able to analyze a situation and act out of disciplined reason rather than passion, emotion or desire, meaning one is safe-minded, sound-minded, prudent and sensible.

2. What does being self-controlled enable us to do?

3. What is the consequence of an absence of self-control?

4. What is the outcome of having self-control?

5. What does the fulfillment of our commitments as men and self-control have to do with each other?
  
6. Why is the absence of self-control so harmful to good leadership?
  
7. Why do we tend to resist being self-controlled?

## AN EXAMPLE OF EXERCISING SELF-CONTROL - JOSEPH

### Genesis 39:1-23

*39 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.*

*2 The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. 3 When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD gave him success in everything he did, 4 Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. 5 From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. 6 So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.*

*Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, 7 and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"*

*8 But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. 9 No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" 10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.*

<sup>11</sup> One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. <sup>12</sup> She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

<sup>13</sup> When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, <sup>14</sup> she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. <sup>15</sup> When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

<sup>16</sup> She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. <sup>17</sup> Then she told him this story: "That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. <sup>18</sup> But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

<sup>19</sup> When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, "This is how your slave treated me," he burned with anger. <sup>20</sup> Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined.

But while Joseph was there in the prison, <sup>21</sup> the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. <sup>22</sup> So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. <sup>23</sup> The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

1. What enabled Joseph to exercise self-control when he was faced with relentless temptation?
2. What was the outcome of his exercising self-control?
3. What is always the good result of exercising self-control?

# THINKING IT THROUGH

## BECOMING SELF-CONTROLLED

Galatians 5:16-18, 24-25

*<sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

*<sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

1. How can a man gain self-control?
2. What does it mean to walk in the Spirit?
3. What does verse 18 mean?



**Note:** There is a difference between being Spirit-empowered and Spirit-controlled. If we are empowered, we are enabled to do some particular action. If we are Spirit-controlled, we are kept safe from our own impulsive actions. Samson in the Old Testament is an example of being Spirit-empowered but not Spirit-controlled. God gave Samson great power to do amazing physical feats, but he failed to act in accordance with God's law. He acted immorally and impulsively, which led to his downfall.

4. How does the way most men try to gain self-control compare to how Paul tells us we can truly gain self-control?

5. What must we do to maintain self-control?
6. What is the relationship between humility and self-control?

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

### CHRIST'S STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN OUR WEAKNESS

2 Corinthians 12:9

*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*

1. What does it mean to be weak?
2. How is Christ's power made perfect in our weakness?
3. How does that relate to exercising self-control?



# PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

## STEPS TO SELF-CONTROL

1. Confess to God and others areas where you need to gain self-control.
2. Confess to God that without his help you will not be able to have self-control in those areas.
3. Acknowledge that it is God's will to help you gain self-control.
4. Ask God to help you gain self-control.
5. Remain dependent upon God to help you maintain your self-control.
6. Memorize: Proverbs 25:28  
*Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control.*

### PRAYER

Thank God that he is your source of power and strength to exercise self-control and do what is right. Pray that you would be keenly conscious of the leading of the Holy Spirit and depend upon him to lead you so that you respond rightly in every situation.



## LESSON 11

# BEING RESPECTABLE



## INTRODUCTION

### REVIEW

1. What is the relationship between a man's character and the honor a man receives?
2. Does a man with a weak character desire honor less than a man with a strong character?

3. Why can't a man without self-control ever be satisfied as a man?

4. What are the steps to gaining self-control?



**Note:** The steps to gaining self-control loosely follow the steps of AA, which have helped so many people gain sobriety.

## LESSON FOCUS

The focus of this lesson is the next qualifying characteristic of being a noble leader, which is to be respectable.

What makes a man worthy of respect (respectable)?

Synonyms:

What is the difference between being respectable and above reproach?

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

## BEING RESPECTABLE

### 1 Timothy 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup>Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup>not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. <sup>5</sup>(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup>He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

<sup>8</sup>Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup>They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.

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<sup>12</sup>A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.

<sup>13</sup>Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.



**Note:** The word respectable is translated from the Greek word *kosmios* from the Greek *kosmos*. The English word *cosmos* comes from this word. *Kosmos* means, well-ordered, honorable, virtuous, respectable. To be *kosmoios* (respectable) means to conduct oneself in a well-ordered, morally respectable fashion.

1. What are recent real-life examples of how a man's conduct retarded his influence?

2. Do we generally have an accurate view of ourselves?

Why not?

3. Why do we need honest evaluations from our wives?

4. Is criticism the same as honest evaluation?

## AN EXAMPLE OF BEING RESPECTABLE - DAVID

### 1 Samuel 24:1-22

*24 After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, "David is in the Desert of En Gedi."<sup>2</sup> So Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Craggs of the Wild Goats.*

*<sup>3</sup> He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave. <sup>4</sup> The men said, "This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said to you, 'I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.'" Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul's robe.*

*<sup>5</sup> Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. <sup>6</sup> He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD's anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the LORD."<sup>7</sup> With these words David rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.*

*<sup>8</sup> Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, "My lord the king!" When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground. <sup>9</sup> He said to Saul, "Why do you listen when men say, 'David is bent on harming you'?" <sup>10</sup> This day you have seen with your own eyes how the LORD delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, 'I will not lift my hand against my master, because he is the LORD's anointed.'<sup>11</sup> See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand!*

*I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. Now understand and recognize that I am not guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life. <sup>12</sup> May the LORD judge between you and me. And may the LORD avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you. <sup>13</sup> As the old saying goes, 'From evildoers come evil deeds,' so my hand will not touch you.*

*<sup>14</sup> "Against whom has the king of Israel come out? Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea? <sup>15</sup> May the LORD be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand."*

*<sup>16</sup> When David finished saying this, Saul asked, "Is that your voice, David my son?" And he wept aloud. <sup>17</sup> "You are more righteous than I," he said. "You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly.*

*<sup>18</sup> You have just now told me of the good you did to me; the LORD delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me. <sup>19</sup> When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the LORD reward you well for the way you treated me today. <sup>20</sup> I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. <sup>21</sup> Now swear to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father's family."*

*<sup>22</sup> So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.*

1. What made David respectable?
2. Why wasn't Saul respectable?
3. What was the difference in the outcomes of their lives?

# THINKING IT THROUGH

1. Should we want everyone to respect us?
2. What does the type of people who respect us reveal about us?
3. Why should we want to be generally respected by the unbelieving world?

4. **1 Thessalonians 4:10-12**

*<sup>10</sup> And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, <sup>11</sup> and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, <sup>12</sup> so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.*

What are things we are to do to win the respect of the world?

5. How does the way we conduct ourselves in the general population affect people's eternal destiny?



# CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

## MAKING THE GOSPEL ATTRACTIVE

Titus 2:9-10

*<sup>9</sup>Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, <sup>10</sup>and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.*



**Note:** The word kosmios (attractive) is used in verse 10 to convey the idea of well-ordered behavior making the teaching of God our Savior attractive. In other words, the way a Christian slave conducts himself with his non-Christian master affects his master's receptivity to the Gospel.

1. What does this passage teach us about the extent of our influence?
2. In what way can a slave be a leader?

**Illustration from Richard's life:** In high school I played basketball. My junior year I had a lot of influence over the other players. The coach saw that and made me the captain of the team my senior year. As captain I thought I had power and could boss the other players around. In doing so, I lost whatever positive influence I had had.

3. What is the difference between positional authority and true influence?

How does that relate to our leadership as a husband and father?

# PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

## PERSONAL EVALUATION

1. What are things you do that cause you to lose respect of other people?
2. In what ways does your conduct make the Gospel more or less attractive to unbelievers?
3. In what ways does your speech bring honor to God?
4. In what ways do you make it easier for your wife and children to respect you?

### **PRAYER**

Pray that God would show you any way that you are not worthy of respect. Pray that in all things you would learn to conduct yourself in a manner that truly brings honor and glory to God.



## LESSON 12

# BEING HOSPITABLE



## INTRODUCTION

### REVIEW

1. What does it mean to be respectable?
2. How does being respectable contribute to our need for honor as men?

3. How does being respectable contribute to the spread of the Gospel?

4. What are the boundaries of the influence of respectable conduct?

## LESSON FOCUS

The focus of this lesson is the next qualifying characteristic of being a noble leader, which is being hospitable. What is the consequence of being inhospitable?

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

## BEING HOSPITABLE

1 Timothy 3:1-13

*<sup>1</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup>Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup>not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. <sup>5</sup>(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup>He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.*

*<sup>8</sup>Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup>They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.*

*<sup>10</sup>They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.*

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<sup>12</sup>A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.

<sup>13</sup>Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

1. What does it mean to be hospitable?



**NOTE:** The Greek word translated by the word “hospitable” is *philoxenos*. It is a compound word joining *philo* (kind affection or brotherly love) with *xenos* (foreigners or strangers). The word means having a fondness or open and kind response toward new people in our lives, to pursue the love of strangers.

Synonyms:

2. Why is hospitality an important characteristic of nobility?

3. How was the characteristic of hospitality demonstrated in the life of Christ?

4. How does the hospitality of Jesus affect us today?

5. How does being hospitable relate to the Great Commission?

## AN EXAMPLE OF NOT BEING HOSPITABLE - THE RICH MAN

Luke 16:19-31

<sup>19</sup> "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. <sup>20</sup> At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores <sup>21</sup> and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

<sup>22</sup> "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

<sup>25</sup> "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

<sup>27</sup> "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

<sup>29</sup> "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

<sup>30</sup> "'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

<sup>31</sup> "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

1. Why did the rich man ignore Lazarus and his needs?
2. In order to be hospitable, what do we need to keep in mind?

# THINKING IT THROUGH

## WILLINGNESS TO BE HOSPITABLE

1. Why are we sometimes resistant to meeting and getting to know people we haven't met before?
2. What do we fail to gain by being inhospitable?

**Note from Richard's wife:** When I first met Richard he was an introvert and not very sociable. As the Holy Spirit did his transforming work, there was a tremendous change in Richard. By the end of his life, no one was a stranger to him. He would engage everyone he met, which gave him tremendous opportunity to share the gospel and influence people.

3. If we are inhospitable, how does that affect how people respond to us?
4. What are ways we can practice hospitality?

# CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

## ANGELS UNAWARE

### Hebrews 13:1-2

<sup>1</sup>Keep on loving each other as brothers. <sup>2</sup>Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

### Matthew 25:31-40

<sup>31</sup>"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

<sup>34</sup>"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup>I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

<sup>37</sup>"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

<sup>40</sup>"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

1. What might we be unaware of when we are extending hospitality?
2. How should what we might be unaware of motivate our hospitality?

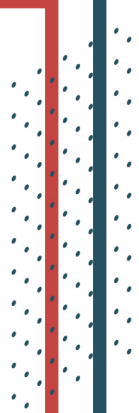
# PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

## PERSONAL EVALUATION

1. What are some ways you can improve your practice of hospitality?
2. What are some of the habits you need to break that keep you from practicing hospitality?

### PRAYER

Thank God that he has welcomed you into his house. Pray that your heart would be open to serving others and being hospitable as God would have you be.





## LESSON 13

# ABLE TO TEACH



## INTRODUCTION

### REVIEW

1. How does the quest for honor relate to being a man?
2. How does Christ's teaching on the subject of gaining honor contrast with the world's ways for gaining honor?

3. What is the irony of self-promotion?

4. How does being hospitable relate to being a man of honor?

## LESSON FOCUS

The focus of this lesson is the next qualifying characteristic of a noble leader, which is being able to teach. Why is being able to teach important for a good leader?

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

## ABLE TO TEACH

### 1 Timothy 3:1-13

<sup>1</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup>Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup>not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. <sup>5</sup>(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup>He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

<sup>8</sup>Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup>They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.

<sup>10</sup>They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

<sup>11</sup>In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

<sup>12</sup>A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.

<sup>13</sup>Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

1. What does it mean to be able to teach?

2. Titus 1:9 says, *He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.*

What must a man do to become able to teach?

3. Why doesn't a man have to be a gifted teacher to be able to teach?



**Illustration:** A father teaching his son how to change a tire doesn't require any giftedness in teaching. It does require the father to know what he is doing, relate well to his son and for the son to be teachable.

4. What does the quality of being teachable have to do with being able to teach?

5. What are some things that hinder a man's ability to teach?

## AN EXAMPLE OF BEING ABLE TO TEACH

### Acts 18:23-28

<sup>23</sup> After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

<sup>24</sup> Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. <sup>25</sup> He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. <sup>26</sup> He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

<sup>27</sup> When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On arriving, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. <sup>28</sup> For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

1. What was the problem with Apollos' teaching (vs. 25)
2. How did Priscilla and Aquila remedy that?
3. What was the result of their being able to teach?



Paul taught Priscilla and Aquila. They in turn taught Apollos who in turn taught many people and so the Gospel spread. To be able to teach we have to be teachable.

# THINKING IT THROUGH

1. What do we need to do to effectively teach those who are under our leadership?
2. What are different ways that we are able to teach and influence others?
3. How does our Christian maturity affect what we are able to or not able to teach?
4. Why can't we effectively teach anything that we haven't mastered ourselves?
5. Who are we primarily called to teach?
6. What does it mean to have a biblical worldview?
7. In teaching others, why is it important to hold to a biblical worldview?

8. How does a man gain a biblical worldview?

# CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ABLE TO TEACH

Psalm 78:1-8

*<sup>1</sup>O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. <sup>2</sup>I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old-- <sup>3</sup>what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. <sup>4</sup>We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. <sup>5</sup>He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children, <sup>6</sup>so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. <sup>7</sup>Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. <sup>8</sup>They would not be like their forefathers-- a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.*

1. What does the Psalmist tell fathers that they are to teach their children? (vs. 4-5)
2. What do the deeds and statutes of God entail?



**Note:** In terms of formal education, teaching the deeds and statutes of God would include all the sciences (biology, chemistry, etc.) and the humanities (economics, sociology, government, etc.)

3. What will be the result of the children learning these things? (vs. 6-7)

4. What will be the result if the children aren't taught these things? (vs. 8)
5. Why do you think our current times are like they are?

## WE OUGHT TO CONTINUALLY BE TEACHING

### Deuteronomy 6:4-8

*4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.*

1. What has to happen to us for us to effectively teach others? (vs. 6)
2. When and how are we to teach others? (vs. 7-8)

# PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

## PERSONAL EVALUATION

1. What are the steps that you need to take to become more able to teach?
2. What are you currently doing to teach those in your sphere of influence?
3. What are the methods you can use to best teach those you've been called to lead?

### PRAYER

Thank God for his word that enlightens your way and enables you to think rightly about life. Pray that you would desire to learn, apply what you learn in your life and through both your conversations and actions you would teach and influence others.



## LESSON 14

# WHAT NOT TO BE



## INTRODUCTION

### REVIEW

1. What is a higher priority to a noble man than his own well-being?
2. Why is being respected more important to a man than being loved?

3. How do the ways we seek respect sometimes bring us disrespect?
4. What is the relationship between being able to teach and being able to lead?

## LESSON FOCUS

This lesson will focus on the four things that a noble leader should not be as listed in 1 Timothy 3:3.

In what way does one negative characteristic disqualify a man from being a noble leader even if he has many positive characteristics?

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

## THE NOT TO BE LIST

1 Timothy 3:1-13

*<sup>1</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup>Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup>not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. <sup>5</sup>(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup>He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.*

<sup>8</sup>Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup>They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.

<sup>10</sup>They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

<sup>11</sup>In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

<sup>12</sup>A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.

<sup>13</sup>Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

1. What are the four things in verse three that an overseer should not be?
2. What do these four things have in common?
3. How much alcohol is too much for a leader to drink?
4. How does it affect a man's ability to lead if he is combative and belligerent?



**Illustration:** Using a hammer to swat a fly may kill the fly but it will cause a lot of damage in the process.

5. Does being gentle mean being weak and easy to manipulate?



**Illustration:** The foreign policy of President Theodore Roosevelt was based on the idea of speaking softly but to carry a big stick. Roosevelt saw speaking softly as the exercise of intelligent forethought with the ability to follow through if necessary (carrying a big stick).

6. Why is quarreling to get your way an ineffective leadership technique?



**Note:** Quarrelling leads to winners and losers. In contrast, noble leadership inspires unity of purpose.

7. How does the love of money harm a man's ability to lead?



**Illustration:** In the TV series *Breaking Bad*, the lead character Walter White's desire to make money to secure his family's future turned into a pursuit of money that led him more deeply into making drugs and destroying himself and his family in the process.

## AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO BE - NABAL

1 Samuel 25:1-38

<sup>25</sup> Now Samuel died, and all Israel assembled and mourned for him; and they buried him at his home in Ramah. Then David moved down into the Desert of Paran.

<sup>2</sup> A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was shearing in Carmel. <sup>3</sup> His name was Nabal and his wife's name was Abigail. She was an intelligent and beautiful woman, but her husband, a Calebite, was surly and mean in his dealings.

<sup>4</sup> While David was in the desert, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep. <sup>5</sup> So he sent ten young men and said to them, "Go up to Nabal at Carmel and greet him in my name. <sup>6</sup> Say to him: 'Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours!'"

<sup>7</sup> “Now I hear that it is sheep-shearing time. When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel nothing of theirs was missing. <sup>8</sup> Ask your own servants and they will tell you. Therefore be favorable toward my young men, since we come at a festive time. Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them.”

<sup>9</sup> When David’s men arrived, they gave Nabal this message in David’s name. Then they waited.

<sup>10</sup> Nabal answered David’s servants, “Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days. <sup>11</sup> Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?”

<sup>12</sup> David’s men turned around and went back. When they arrived, they reported every word. <sup>13</sup> David said to his men, “Put on your swords!” So they put on their swords, and David put on his. About four hundred men went up with David, while two hundred stayed with the supplies.

<sup>14</sup> One of the servants told Abigail, Nabal’s wife, “David sent messengers from the desert to give our master his greetings, but he hurled insults at them. <sup>15</sup> Yet these men were very good to us. They did not mistreat us, and the whole time we were out in the fields near them nothing was missing. <sup>16</sup> Night and day they were a wall around us all the time we were herding our sheep near them. <sup>17</sup> Now think it over and see what you can do, because disaster is hanging over our master and his whole household. He is such a wicked man that no one can talk to him.”

<sup>18</sup> Abigail lost no time. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, five seahs of roasted grain, a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys. <sup>19</sup> Then she told her servants, “Go on ahead; I’ll follow you.” But she did not tell her husband Nabal.

<sup>20</sup> As she came riding her donkey into a mountain ravine, there were David and his men descending toward her, and she met them. <sup>21</sup> David had just said, “It’s been useless—all my watching over this fellow’s property in the wilderness so that nothing of his was missing. He has paid me back evil for good. <sup>22</sup> May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!”

<sup>23</sup> When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground. <sup>24</sup> She fell at his feet and said: “My lord, let the blame be on me alone. Please let your servant speak to you; hear what your servant has to say. <sup>25</sup> May my lord pay no attention to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name is Fool, and folly goes with him. But as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my master sent.

<sup>26</sup> Since the LORD has kept you from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, as surely as the LORD God lives and as you live, may your enemies and all who intend to harm my master be like Nabal. <sup>27</sup> And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my lord, be given to the men who follow you.

<sup>28</sup> "Please forgive your servant's offense for the LORD will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my master, because he fights the LORD's battles. Let no wrongdoing be found in you as long as you live. <sup>29</sup> Even though someone is pursuing you to take your life, the life of my master will be bound securely in the bundle of the living by the LORD your God. But the lives of your enemies he will hurl away as from the pocket of a sling. <sup>30</sup> When the LORD has done for my master every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him leader over Israel, <sup>31</sup> my master will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the LORD has brought my master success, remember your servant."

<sup>32</sup> David said to Abigail, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. <sup>33</sup> May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. <sup>34</sup> Otherwise, as surely as the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, who has kept me from harming you, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one male belonging to Nabal would have been left alive by daybreak."

<sup>35</sup> Then David accepted from her hand what she had brought him and said, "Go home in peace. I have heard your words and granted your request."

<sup>36</sup> When Abigail went to Nabal, he was in the house holding a banquet like that of a king. He was in high spirits and very drunk. So she told him nothing until daybreak. <sup>37</sup> Then in the morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his heart failed him and he became like a stone. <sup>38</sup> About ten days later, the LORD struck Nabal and he died.

1. Even though Nabal was very wealthy, why didn't people respect him?
2. How did that contrast with his wife's character?

3. How did Nabal's bad character affect the people under his leadership?
4. How did Abigail's good character and influence affect David?
5. Nabal had a very great asset in his wife Abigail, but his behavior shows that she didn't have much of an influence on him. Why do you think that was and what can you learn from that?

## THINKING IT THROUGH

### A LEADER'S PRIORITIES

1. What does drunkenness reveal about a man's priorities?
2. What does being violent and belligerent reveal about a man's priorities?
3. What does being quarrelsome reveal about a man's priorities?
4. What does the love of money reveal about a man's priorities?
5. How do all these priorities differ from the priorities of a noble leader?

**Note from Richard's wife:** Richard would always say to me, "People are more important than anything else." You can substitute money, possessions, being right, getting your way, etc. for anything else. It was something that he would say to me regularly that would help me keep my priorities straight.

# CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

## A LEADERS MOTIVATION

### 1 Peter 5:1-5

*<sup>1</sup>To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: <sup>2</sup>Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers --not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; <sup>3</sup>not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. <sup>4</sup>And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.*

*<sup>5</sup>Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

1. What is the right motivation for leadership?
2. What is the wrong motivation for leadership?
3. If a man leads well, what will be the outcome?
4. Being h \_\_\_\_\_ will protect a man and enable him to be a noble leader. Being p \_\_\_\_\_ will destroy a man's ability to lead well.



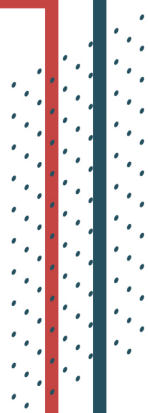
# PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. What are ways we as men try to get those we lead to follow?
2. What are your motivation for leadership?
3. Do you seek your wife's insight for help in improving your leadership?

### **PRAYER**

Pray that God would reveal any way in which your leadership isn't what it ought to be. Pray that he would deal with any selfish motives that you might have.



## LESSON 15

# MANAGING A HOUSEHOLD



## INTRODUCTION

### REVIEW

1. What is the irony about what we hope to gain from engaging in behaviors that actually bring us dishonor?
2. What is the term we have used to describe Christ's model of noble manhood?

## LESSON FOCUS

This lesson will focus on what a man's management of his home reveals about his qualification as a leader.

1. How are our families a reflection of ourselves?
2. What is the likely result of a father choosing any of the following in terms of his position of leadership?
  - Abdication of leadership
  - Tyrannical leadership
  - Servant leadership
3. How does a father's leadership affect his children's relationship with God?

## SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

### FAMILY MANAGEMENT

1 Timothy 3:1-13

*<sup>1</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup>Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup>not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with*

proper respect. <sup>5</sup>(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup>He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

<sup>8</sup>Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup>They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.

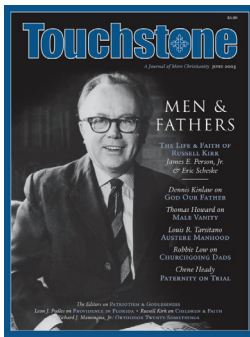
<sup>10</sup>They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

<sup>11</sup>In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

<sup>12</sup>A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.

<sup>13</sup>Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

1. Does verse four mean that a man must have a family to be a leader in the church?
2. Why is a man's family a gage of his qualification for leadership?
3. How imperfect must a family be to disqualify a man for leadership?
4. What is a father ultimately responsible for?
5. How does a father's leadership differ from a mother's leadership in a family?



**Illustration:** A 1994 Swiss survey found a father's faith to be the number one critical factor for determining if a parent's religion will be carried through to the next generation. A summary of the findings were reported in Touchstone Magazine, June, 2003.

*If a father does not go to church, no matter how faithful his wife's devotions, only one child in 50 will become a regular worshipper. If a father does go regularly, regardless of the practice of the mother, between two-thirds and three-quarters of their children will become churchgoers (regular and irregular). If a father goes but irregularly to church, regardless of his wife's devotion, between a half and two-thirds of their offspring will find themselves coming to church regularly or occasionally.*

*A non-practicing mother with a regular father will see a minimum of two-thirds of her children ending up at church. In contrast, a non-practicing father with a regular mother will see two-thirds of his children never darken the church door. If his wife is similarly negligent, that figure rises to 80 percent.*

## AN EXAMPLE OF POOR FAMILY MANAGEMENT - ELI

### 1 Samuel 2:27-33

*<sup>27</sup> Now a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "This is what the LORD says: 'Did I not clearly reveal myself to your ancestor's family when they were in Egypt under Pharaoh?' <sup>28</sup> I chose your ancestor out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod in my presence. I also gave your ancestor's family all the food offerings presented by the Israelites. <sup>29</sup> Why do you scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?'*

*<sup>30</sup> "Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: 'I promised that members of your family would minister before me forever.' But now the LORD declares: 'Far be it from me! Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained. <sup>31</sup> The time is coming when I will cut short your strength and the strength of your priestly house, so that no one in it will reach old age, <sup>32</sup> and you will see distress in my dwelling. Although good will be done to Israel, no one in your family line will ever reach old age. <sup>33</sup> Every one of you that I do not cut off from serving at my altar I will spare only to destroy your sight and sap your strength, and all your descendants will die in the prime of life.*

### 1 Samuel 3:11-14

*<sup>11</sup> And the LORD said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears of it tingle.*

*<sup>12</sup> At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup> For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.' "*

1. Was Eli accountable for the evil his sons did?
2. What was Eli accountable to God for?
3. What are we accountable to God for in the management of our families?

## THINKING IT THROUGH

### LEADERSHIP WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE HOME

1. How does a man's leadership style in his house affect his leadership style outside of the home?
2. What happens if a father leads one way in public and another way at home?
3. Is it more important in God's eyes to be a good leader at home or in the world?

# CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

## THE RESULT OF A WELL-MANAGED HOME

Proverbs 23:24

*The father of a righteous child has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him.*

How does the good management of our homes and children affect us?

Ephesians 6:1-3

*<sup>1</sup>Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup>“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—<sup>3</sup>“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”*

1. What is the implicit command for parents in verses 1-2?
2. How does the good management of our homes and children affect our children?

# PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

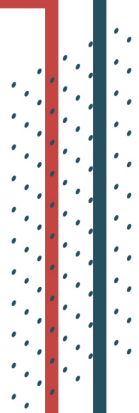
1. In what ways are you doing everything you can to resist evil choices in your family?
2. In what ways are you an example of what you want for your children?



3. In what ways would you trust your own leadership if you were your wife?

**PRAYER**

Thank God for the family that he has placed under your leadership. Pray that he would show you any way that you are not leading well and any sin that you need to deal with in your own life that affects your leadership of your family.



## LESSON 16

# THE DEVIL'S TRAPS



## INTRODUCTION

### REVIEW

1. Why is good character indispensable to good leadership?
2. How does our leadership at home affect our leadership outside the home?

3. Why does a man's character have greater lasting impact on others than a leadership position?

## LESSON FOCUS

This lesson will focus on the traps Satan has set for us to undermine our leadership.

1. How can being given a position of leadership actually affect negatively our influence on others?
2. How does our reputation in the community impact our leadership at home or in the church?



**Illustration:** A pastor of a large church in Southern California told his congregation that they would never have church bumper stickers. He said that if they did, any bad driving or behavior on the members' part would reflect poorly on Jesus and their body and might actually harden people's hearts.

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

## THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A NOBLE MAN

1 Timothy 3:1-13

*<sup>1</sup>Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. <sup>2</sup>Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, <sup>3</sup>not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. <sup>4</sup>He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. <sup>5</sup>(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) <sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the*

same judgment as the devil. <sup>7</sup>He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.

<sup>8</sup>Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. <sup>9</sup>They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.

<sup>10</sup>They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons.

<sup>11</sup>In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

<sup>12</sup>A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well.

<sup>13</sup>Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

## THE DEVIL'S JUDGMENT

### 1 Timothy 3:6

<sup>6</sup>He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.

1. What is conceit?
2. What does conceit have to do with the devil's judgment?
3. Why is a recent convert more subject to conceit than a more mature believer?



**Note:** The Greek word for recent convert means newly planted. A recent convert hasn't had time to put down deep and strong roots to be made aware of and protected from Satan's traps. Understanding takes time and experience to develop.

4. Why is conceit an enemy of good leadership?

5. What is humility?

6. Why does experience tend to develop humility?

**Illustration from Richard's life:** I went to seminary at the International School of Theology, which was part of the ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ (now Cru). During that time, I had some opportunities to interact with Bill Bright who founded the ministry and was the head of it at that time. I was so impressed by his humility, genuineness, and caring interactions with everyone he met. My esteem for him and his ministry were greatly increased by who he was as a man and he became a role model for me of a good leader.

## THE DEVIL'S TRAPS

1 Timothy 3:7

*<sup>7</sup>He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap.*

1. Why is having a good reputation in the larger community important to our leadership within the church?
2. How does the devil seek to trap us if we do wrong things in the community?
3. Why isn't it always wrong to be rejected by unbelievers?

4. What are the different reasons that the unbelieving community might reject us?

Which of these reasons is 1 Timothy 3:7 referring to?

## AN EXAMPLE OF REPROACH

### Titus 1:10-16

*<sup>10</sup> For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. <sup>11</sup> They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. <sup>12</sup> One of their own prophets has said: “Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.” <sup>13</sup> This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith <sup>14</sup> and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth.*

*<sup>15</sup> To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. <sup>16</sup> They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.*

1. What characterizes rebellious people? (vs. 10, 16)

2. What is the outcome of what they do?

Why is that?

3. Why do they do what they do?



**Note:** Dishonest gain is sordid, disgraceful, base or shameless gain. It doesn't honor God as the person's motive is all wrong.

4. What shows people who we are and our motives for doing what we do?

## THINKING IT THROUGH

1. Why does the devil want to trap us?
2. What is the threat of godly male leadership to the devil?
3. If the devil can't prevent our salvation, why does he want to destroy our leadership?

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

### DOING GOOD TO OUTSIDERS

1 Peter 2:12

*Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

1. What is our hope in doing good to all people?
2. What are wrong attitudes or ideas that would keep us from doing good to all people?



Why is that the devil's trap?

## THE GOLDEN RULE

**Matthew 7:12**

*<sup>12</sup> So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*

How does following the Golden Rule protect us from the devil's trap?

# PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

1. In what ways do you let being in charge go to your head?

If so, how do you need to change your perspective?

2. How do you see people outside of your circle of influence as being important to God?

3. Do you think more about how your leadership is a benefit to you or about how your leadership is a benefit to others?

### PRAYER

Pray that in all things you would learn to look to the interests of others rather than your own. Pray for a greater awareness of the things you do and say that could bring reproach to the gospel.



**CONCLUSION**

# **NOBLE MANHOOD IN ACTION**



## **INTRODUCTION**

### **REVIEW**

What have you learned about being a noble man by going through this study that you hadn't thought much about before?

## LESSON FOCUS

The concluding lesson will be a look at nobility in contrast with compromise.

# SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

## GOD COMMANDS HIS PEOPLE TO BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

Joshua 1:7-9

*<sup>7</sup> "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. <sup>8</sup> Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. <sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*

1. What would enable the Israelites to be prosperous and successful?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What would enable them to be strong and courageous?

## THE EXAMPLE OF DANIEL

Daniel 6:1-28

*<sup>1</sup>It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, <sup>2</sup> with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. <sup>3</sup> Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. <sup>4</sup> At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. <sup>5</sup> Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God."*

<sup>6</sup> So the administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: "O King Darius live forever!" <sup>7</sup> The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the lions' den. <sup>8</sup> Now, O king, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed." <sup>9</sup> So King Darius put the decree in writing.

<sup>10</sup> Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. <sup>11</sup> Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. <sup>12</sup> So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or man except to you, O king, would be thrown into the lions' den?"

The king answered, "The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

<sup>13</sup> Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day." <sup>14</sup> When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

<sup>15</sup> Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, "Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed."

<sup>16</sup> So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

<sup>17</sup> A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. <sup>18</sup> Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

<sup>19</sup> At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. <sup>20</sup> When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

<sup>21</sup> Daniel answered, "O king live forever!" <sup>22</sup> My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king."

*<sup>23</sup> The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.*

*<sup>24</sup> At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.*

*<sup>25</sup> Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language throughout the land: "May you prosper greatly!*

*<sup>26</sup> "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.*

*"For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end.<sup>27</sup> He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."*

*<sup>28</sup> So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.*

1. Why did the king plan to set Daniel over the whole kingdom?
2. What was the motivation of the other leaders in getting the king to issue the decree?
3. How did Daniel respond when he heard the king's decree?
4. How did Daniel's exemplary behavior impact the king?
5. What enabled Daniel to exhibit courage in the face of opposition?

### Luke 12:4-5 – Daniel’s perspective

*<sup>4</sup> “I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. <sup>5</sup> But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.*

## THINKING IT THROUGH

1. Amos 6:3 (NIV) - *You put off the evil day and bring near a reign of terror.*

What is the role of appeasement in the spread of evil?

**Example:** Nevil Chamberlain was the prime minister of Great Britain when Hitler began expanding German territory. Chamberlain engaged in a policy of appeasement. In the hope of avoiding war, he allowed Hitler to go unchecked as he invaded other countries. It took a world war to put an end to Hitler’s reign of terror and the extermination of the Jews.

2. What does noble manhood have to do with the resistance of evil?

**Illustration from Richard’s wife:** One night our family was with a group of people at our neighbor’s house and the children were all playing out in the front yard. Some wannabe thugs from the neighborhood walked by. One of them grabbed our middle daughter who was about five at the time and said something like, “This one looks like a good one.” Our daughter dug her fingers so deeply into his chest that he put her down and said, “I guess not this one,” and they walked away.

She and the other children came running into the house to tell us what had happened. Richard immediately got up to chase after and confront them. Another man in the group said, “Don’t go after them; they may come back and do something worse.” That of course didn’t deter Richard who went to find them. ➤

I realized at that moment how grateful I was to be married to a man who was willing to confront evil, even at personal cost. I also saw how important it was for me to support him in that, without being afraid of what might happen. I saw that being afraid can paralyze a man and keep him from doing what needs to be done to protect his family.

3. Jeremiah 4:14 – *O Jerusalem, wash your heart from evil, that you may be saved. How long shall your wicked thoughts lodge within you?*

What is the relationship between internal evil and external evil?

4. Why do our families, our churches and our country need us to be noble men?

Edmund Burke, an important Irish statesman and philosopher in the 1700s said, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

5. What is the consequence if we fail to be noble men?

6. What are the obstacles we face in being noble men?

7. What are some things we can do to increase in nobility?



8. How should we respond to those who try to retard our growth in nobility (even our own wives)?
  
9. What is our hope as we increase in nobility?
  
10. Romans 12:9 - *Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.*

What is the price we have to pay to become noble men?

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

### DOING RIGHT

Proverbs 3:5-6

<sup>5</sup> *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;* <sup>6</sup> *in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

What will enable us to do right in all circumstances?

# PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

## PRAYER

Write out a prayer for the work you would like God to do in your life.