

HOW TO BE A GREAT HUSBAND

What is involved in being a real man?

The quality of the product depends on the quality of the material used. Its corollary is also true: The cheaper the merchandise, the higher the gloss.

Today, perhaps more than at any time in history, we need strong men: men who know who they are, why they are here, where they are going, and how they are going to get there. Today, we need men who do not know compromise when it comes to their character. Today, we need men who will not trash the values by which they live for a moment's comfort or pleasure.

1. The husband as a leader.

1.1 He leads by providing for the needs of his family.

1 Timothy 5:8: "But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."

The word for "provide" in 1 Timothy 5:8 is *pronoeeo* (pronoeeo) = to think of beforehand; take care of; provide for.

Care for every exigency!

Have you provided adequate life insurance?

Do you have an emergency fund in case you are laid off your job?

What will happen to your family if you are incapacitated and can no longer work?

Does your wife trust your leadership as you plan the future?

Have you given her any reason to trust your judgment?

Does your family know for whom you are working?

Caution: Proverbs 23:4, 5:

- 4 Do not overwork to be rich; because of your own understanding, cease! Will you set your eyes on that which is not?
- 5 For *riches* certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle *toward* heaven."

Some men begin by working to provide for their families, but soon are consumed by their own greed to possess more and more. If such men are confronted with their desire to possess more material wealth, they defend themselves by saying that they are working to provide the things their families need (just a smokescreen to distract any inquiry into their real motivations and ambitions, which are selfish).

1.2 He leads them by giving them direction.

1.2.1 As to life goals.

Matthew 6:33: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you."

Elijah on Mount Carmel: 1 Kings 18:20, 21:

- 20 So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel.
- 21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

One of the responsibilities of the head of a home is to point out the spiritual direction that the family unit is to take.

It begins with his irrevocable decision, then instructions to those who follow him as to the direction they must take while under his protection.

Joshua on the banks of the Jordan: Joshua 24:14-16, 18b.

- 14 "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!
- 15 "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."
- 16 So the people answered and said: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods;
- 18 "And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, even the Amorites who dwelt in the land. We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God."

1.2.2 As to lifestyle.

1 Kings 2:1-4:

- 1 Then the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying:
- 2 "I go the way of all the earth; yourself a man.
- 3 "And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn;
- 4 "that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'"

David's instructions to Solomon.

1.3 He leads them by teaching them.

1.3.1 He is to teach his wife.

- 1 Corinthians 14:35: And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.

Note that this is in reference to speaking in tongues and prophesying, which Paul forbids women to do in church.

The husband is to be the primary source of spiritual knowledge, direction, and wisdom for his wife.

1.3.2 He is to teach his children.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9:

- 4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!
- 5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might.
- 6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart;

- 7 "you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.
 8 "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.
 9 "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

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

The price of failure: Proverbs 17:25:

A foolish son is a grief to his father,
 And bitterness to her who bore him.

On his death bed, Billy Sunday, the great evangelist, said that he had won the world to Christ but had lost his children. Men, look to your family as your first and greatest ministry!

1.4 He leads them by modeling Christlikeness.

Philippians 3:17-19:

- 17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.
 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:
 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame; who set their mind on earthly things.

Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be followers of God as dear children.

1 Corinthians 4:16 Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

1 Corinthians 11:1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

2. The husband as a lover.

2.1 He loves by being a one-woman man.

1 Timothy 3:2: A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife

The theme song of the Christian husband must be "I Only Have Eyes For You."

Even a dog can live out the Playboy philosophy.

2.2 He loves by loving sacrificially.

Ephesians 5:25 (submission): Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it.

Ecclesiastes 9:9: Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun, all your days of vanity; for that is your portion in life, and in the labor which you perform under the sun.

Loving our wives: as we learn to love sacrificially, Christian wives will respond in kind.

Loving our children: is it not true that your children want to play with you as soon as you pull in the driveway after work, when you are usually at your lowest physical ebb?

Sacrificial love will find some resource of energy to spend even a few minutes with them.

2.3 He loves by spending quality time (love is spelled t-i-m-e).

2.3.1 Date night for wife ("why? we're already married!").

Song of Songs 7:11-13:

- 11 Come, my beloved, let us go forth to the field; let us lodge in the villages.
- 12 Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine has budded, whether the grape blossoms are open, and the pomegranates are in bloom. There I will give you my love.
- 13 The mandrakes give off a fragrance, and at our gates are pleasant fruits, all manner, new and old, which I have laid up for you, my beloved.

It is interesting that the wife planned this getaway.

2.3.2 Quality playtime and teaching time with children (no TV, but hobbies, reading, playing, family altar).

3. The husband as a learner.

3.1 Concerning his roles.

3.1.1 He learns from the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:16-17:

- 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
- 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

3.1.2 He learns from mature Christians.

2 Timothy 2:2: And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

3.2 Concerning his walk with the Lord.

Ephesians 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to have a walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

4. Steps to correct past mistakes:

4.1 Get right with God.

4.2 Ask forgiveness of wife and children.

4.3 Set goals for improvement (write them down and hold yourself accountable to them).

4.4 Find a man of God who will disciple you.

4.5 Study the Bible and pray for help.

James 1:5: But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.