

A MAN WHO IS A GODLY MAN

INTRODUCTION:

- A. This lesson begins a series on the home and family
- B. Difficult to know where to start & approach subject. I'm no authority on subject. Yet, study & experience gives insight.
- C. Starting at place where there has been greatest breakdown in home & family: husbands & fathers over world and particularly in this country and in the Lord's church.
- D. Material in first three lessons based on material from book I SOUGHT FOR A MAN by Robert Harkrider.

DISCUSSION:

I. MASCULINITY - IS IT ONLY PHYSICAL?

- A. In Ezek 22:30 God says he looked for a man & couldn't find one. See also Jer 5:1 Were there only females there?
 1. Shows masculinity involves more than physical body
 2. God made them male and female Gen 1:27 so there is a difference in physical makeup, but it takes more than that to be the kind of man God is looking for
- B. God gave man role of leadership 1Tim 2:11-15; Eph 5:23
 1. Woman is described as the "weaker vessel" 1Pet 3:7
 - a. This by no means implies inferiority, but that men generally are physically stronger than women
 - b. Man given role of providing for family Gen 3:17-19
 - c. Woman was given the role of childbearing and guiding the house Gen 3:16; 1Tim 5:14
 2. The responsibility of a successful family and righteous society depends on the direction men give it.
 3. How well one develops strength of character & takes leadership determines whether he is a "real man"!
 4. Problems stem from fact man has abdicated his role
- C. Men who had everything physically but were weaklings
 1. Samson Jud 14,15,16: stronger than any man but gave his strength away to the allurements of a woman
 2. Saul taller than any man and began his reign in humility, yet pride became his downfall 1Sam 15:11-23
 3. Absalom 2Sam 14-18 most handsome in all Israel, but greed and conceit caused him to lead an insurrection against God's chosen leader, David, his own father
- D. Physical appearance not everything, must remember to exercise ourselves unto godliness 1Tim 5:7,8; 1Cor 9:27

II. SHOW THYSELF A MAN (given to Solomon 1Ki. 2:1-3)

- A. Supreme quality of manhood is strength of noble character and the foundation of a noble character is self-mastery
- B. Examples of men who showed strength of character
 1. Joseph was tempted sexually like no other Gen 39
 - a. Taken from home at age 17 as a slave Gen 37
 - b. Tempted more than once Gen 39:10,12,20

- c. Not only tempted to gratify, but refusal meant prison
2. Daniel tempted with the king's meat and wine Dan 1
 - a. Though a captive he was honored to eat king's meat
 - b. Purposed not to defile himself: strength of character
3. Moses tempted with affluence (treasures of Egypt) while in his youth Ex 2; Acts 7:20-22; Heb 11:24-27
- C. What made these different? Same qualities that make men different today. Masculinity is not determined only by physical appearance, but is the result of properly managing oneself - being in control of one's emotions rather than letting one's emotions control him 1Pet 2:11

III. YOUR BODY - ASSET OR LIABILITY?

- A. What is your attitude toward your body, how is it to be used
 1. Victorian attitude: thinks the body must be treated with distrust, distaste, and disgust, as being without question the seat of sin. Also the attitude of some religionist
 2. Playboy attitude: The body is a toy, a plaything to be exposed and exploited with selfish greed
 3. Businessman attitude: average thinking is: body is to be driven as machine to limit of endurance, simultaneously pouring into it alcohol, pep pills, tranquilizers, and food
 4. Christian attitude: "Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost... glorify God in body" 1Cor 6:19,20; Psa 139:14
- B. Are you the master of your body?
 1. A mark of maturity is self-mastery 1Cor 9:24-27
 2. Undisciplined horse no value to farmer; undisciplined athlete never reaches top; undisciplined Christian is under control of Satan Rom 12:1,2; Gal 5:19-26
 3. Self discipline easier when we realize body is a gift from wise and loving Father to whom we will give account of abusing that trust 2Cor 5:10;
- C. Whether an asset or liability depends on self-discipline
 1. Overeating 2. Alcohol 3. Drugs and Tobacco
 4. Sex Heb 13:4; 5. Tongue

CONCLUSION:

- A. Crying need today in the church, families, countries is for MEN, REAL MEN, GODLY MEN. Men who have courage of their convictions and the strength of character to act like men.
- B. Need men who take leadership & providing roll seriously.
- C. Until willing to accept responsibilities God has given men; not only will church suffer, but our country will continue to suffer, because family will not be what God designed and as the family goes, so goes the church and the country.
- D. So, men as we continue to look at our responsibilities let's purpose in our hearts to be the kind of men that God would have us to be.