

A Call for Christ

PLOTTING MY COURSE TO BIBLICAL MANHOOD

5-14-05

I. A Look Back:

General Observations:

After six trips through Journeymen now I have brought resolution to much of my past broken family relationships due to my Dad's adultery and remarriage. However, I still need to make significant regular contact with my parents and siblings to encourage their growth in the Lord or model this to them. I am physically distant to my parents and siblings. I need to make the extra effort to be able to minister to all the family.

Specific Measurable Action Items:

We will use half our vacation each year to visit family and will call each family member once a month. I will start looking for ways to encourage/challenge them in their spiritual walks.

II. A Look At Now

General Observations:

If I am not constantly on guard I allow myself to slide into passivity and lose site of God's eternal perspective. This is primarily visible in my personal relationships with Christ, _____, neighbors and to a smaller extent others such as co-workers and ministry partners.

Specific Measurable Action Items:

1. Continue my commitment to start each day with a personal quiet time, to include prayer, time in the Word, 1 scripture memory passage per week, and journaling.
2. To continue to be a purposeful spiritual leader of _____ and my home. We will have two "Getting Away to Get it Together" weekends a year to develop and execute annual, 5, 10 and 15 year goals and spiritual growth plan for each family member. I will also commit to have a minimum of five prayer times with _____ each week and share a praise/encouragement each time for her service to our family, at least one family devotional night a week (tent of meeting) tied to our family values, a date night with _____ at least

twice a month, breakfast with _____, _____, _____ at least three times each week and an individual date night/day with each twice a month. I will pray with/or over my kids each night as a part of their bed-time routine and use that time as a teaching opportunity through the night time books we read. We will do at least one family service project for others each quarter and we will have one family exclusive vacation each year camping or other memory making trip. I will also seek ways to be a more generous servant in the house. This will include doing supper dishes after getting kids down to bed, picking up the house, and cooking at least three times a week and laundry and/or cleaning at least one time a month.

3. I will meet weekly with an accountability group for accountability and encouragement based on the definition of real manhood. We will commit to open all the areas of our lives (spiritual, financial, relationships, and time/talents) and to submit to Biblical truth and accountability. If we are not, I will work to initiate changes in our structure or group. Will also continue to maintain accountability through the men in our REALife group.
4. To disciple at least one man a year and maintain a longer term mentoring relationship with one man.
5. I will strive to be more purposeful to reach out to neighbors and other individuals to build relationships and share the gospel at least once a month.
6. Exercise continuous self-discipline in my thought life by focusing on personal purity; physical wellness by not over eating, exercising three times a week, and remaining ± 5 lbs of 175; at work by purposefully controlling distractions, enhancing productivity by focusing on the majors, and by holding work/church ministry to 55-60 hours a week.
7. Manage personal finances by developing and regular monitoring of a budget. Giving 14% of our gross income to the Lord on a regular and systematic basis through the General Fund, additional 2% to HCBC special funds such as benevolence and missions, 2% to personal missionary support. Maintain a liquid savings account of three months gross income, and set aside 10% of salary for long-term savings. Not enter into or maintain any revolving credit debt.

III. A Look Ahead:

General Observations:

When Christ calls me home, I want to leave behind a Godly heritage for my family, ministry areas, and established relationships. My desire is to be characterized as "a

man after God's own heart" as was David, and to stand in the presence of God and hear "well done, good and faithful servant." To this end, I seek to personify our manhood definition to "Reject Passivity, Accept Responsibility, Lead Courageously, and Seek the Greater Reward." Over the course of my lifetime this will be directed by many different objectives and specific ministry plans. However, the major lifetime goals I seek to fulfill are as follows:

Specific Measurable Action Items:

1. To anticipate the different stage through which my marriage will pass and to involve _____ in casting a vision for what each of those stages will look like and how we might esteem God through our lives together at each stage.
2. To invest in each of my children through regular dates, modeling Christ's love, and teaching my son and daughters to know what biblical manhood and womanhood is and to have celebrated that with them in three ceremonies that leave lasting impressions. This will also involve continuously teaching through our family values and instilling them in our family members.
3. To invest in at least three other men through establishing a long term mentoring relationship with each.
4. To rest in God's provision through faith and invest heavily in building His kingdom now through my time, talents, and financial resources; and to trust in His provision for the future.