

Spiritual Leadership...

In today's fallen world, there is a definite lack of strong Christian men. Yet, if you are a young Christian man, God's plan for you is to be just that. You will one day be responsible for the spiritual leadership of your household, as every Christian man is. Unfortunately, not every man is the strong leader God desires him to be. The goal of this course is to change that fact, one young man at a time. In this course, you will study God's Word, and see for yourself exactly what God expects from a spiritual leader, as well as how to reach each goal. It is my prayer that the Lord will use this study to enrich your spiritual life, that you will grow closer to Him, and that you will reach your full potential for spiritual leadership. To God be the glory!

Lesson 1: It Is A Man's Job To Lead

"Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4

When we take a look at the verse above, we see that it is the job of the father in a family to bring their children up in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord." Just what does this mean?

In a dictionary, look up the word "nurture", and write the definition below:
Nurture -

Now, look up the word "admonition", and write the definition below:
Admonition -

When we consider the meanings of these two words together, we can see that Ephesians 6:4 is saying that the father's job is to instruct, gently reproof, and give direction.

In 2 Timothy 1:5, we see that Timothy was taught about the Lord by his mother and grandmother. While it is perfectly fine, and even recom-

mended for a Christian mother to teach her children about the Lord, Ephesians clearly tells us that it is the father's duty to oversee this, to set the example, and to lead the family.

Look up Ephesians 5:24, and copy it below:

What does it mean for a wife to be “subject” to their own husbands in everything? Look up the word “subject”, used as an adjective, in your dictionary, and write the definition below:

Subject -

Seeing that a woman is to be “under the power of, placed or situated under” her husband in everything, we can see that it is not right for a woman to take on the role of spiritual leader of her household when she has a husband.

Look up 1 Timothy 2:12, and copy it below:

What does it mean for a woman to “usurp authority over the man”? Look up the word “usurp” in your dictionary, and define it below:

Usurp -

This definition gives us a clear picture of the meaning of 1 Timothy 2:12. It is without right for the woman to take over the man's power in this area. Young man, it is YOUR duty to use the time of your young manhood to train for this most important role in your future! Purpose to apply yourself diligently to the task!

Lesson 2: Start Training NOW!

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”

1 Timothy 4:12

When a young man determines that he will become a spiritual leader “some day”, and continually puts it off for when he is older, not only is he being a poor steward of his youth, he is dishonoring the Word of God. As we see in the verse above, the Lord wants a young man to be “an example of the believers” in his walk. Just how does the Lord desire a young man to be an example? The example is given above. Let’s take a closer look at what it means. In a dictionary, look up and define the following words from this passage. Choose the definition that best reflects the meaning of a character trait.

Example -

Conversation -

Charity -

Spirit -

Faith -

Purity -

As we see from these definitions, this verse means much more than just “being a Christian”. God expects a Christian young man to be “that which is proposed or is proper to be imitated” in all of these above areas - your conversation, your charity, your spirit, your faith, and your purity. As a Christian young man, you cannot use the excuse that you are “just a youth”. God tells you here in His Word to be an example! For the sake of those younger brethren who come after you, who are watching you, please be a good one. This is part of God’s training for you in spiritual leadership. He has given you this time in your youth to practice being an example in all these areas to those around you, even while you are yet young, in preparation for the time when you will be a Christian husband and father, whose job it will be to spiritually lead your wife and children. Take advantage of this gift God has given you - the gift of time to practice.

Look up Luke 2:52, and copy it below:

Once again, God has given us an example in the life of His Son, Jesus, to follow. Jesus, the only One ever without sin - the perfect One, whom we are to follow by example. This verse talks about Jesus’ youth. As He increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man, purpose in your heart to do the same during this time of training and practice in your life.

Lesson 3: Die To Self

**“For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”
Phillipians 1:21**

Young man, put Christ first in your life. The Bible tells us over and over to put others before ourselves. How much more, then, should we put Christ and His desires before our own. Not only is this good practice in denying our own fleshly desires, but it pleases God.

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-9. Copy verses 2-4 below:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

What a sad view of the world. But, this is the world we live in. The Bible teaches that in the last days, before the return of Christ, this world will become more and more evil. “lovers of their own selves”, “lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God”, these things are evil in the sight of God. Yet, this is what we see all around us today. The unsaved person would see it as perfectly acceptable to look after their own desires and pleasures above all else.

But a Christian should not.

Look up Mark 12:30, and copy it below:

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