

Old Man – New Man “Program 13”

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Jesus: a Man’s Man.

Many have the idea of Jesus as a pale faced weak man. Then there’s the idea that the religion of Christ is for women, children, and old people. It seems that Christianity and its message is not for real men. But nothing can be further from the truth. For instance, consider Jesus, a carpenter leading a gang of fishermen and other tuff guys and outcasts. Two of them were known as the “Sons of Thunder.” There’s nothing “mild-manner” about the stories in the Bible nor about Jesus. In this lesson we’ll explore how Jesus is truly “A Man’s Man.”

Declare

1. The best way to destroy a bias or preconceived idea is to talk about it. What are some of the negative concepts you hear “out there” concerning Christianity and its teachings? Give candid answers.
 - a. _____
2. How have you seen or experience true-manhood in Christianity? If so, how?
 - a. _____

Dig

3. Bible challenge. Think of five good “manly” characteristics and try to find a match in a Bible story. I’ll give you two examples¹:
 - a. Physical strength – Samson in Judges 13 – 16
 - b. Endurance – Jesus fasted for forty days in Matthew 4:1-11
 - c. _____ - _____
 - d. _____ - _____
 - e. _____ - _____
 - f. _____ - _____
 - g. _____ - _____
4. Sadly we are living in a time when the wrong or negative traits of manhood are made into manly role models or “heroes.” To illustrate let’s take an image from Hollywood, like James Bond agent 007. Many kids and some adult men think of 007 as a role model for a man, however, think of the qualities of this fantasy-character:
 - a. An adulterer, womanizer, violent, killer [has a license to kill], with access to endless amounts of money to travel the world in luxury, uses people for his convenience, etc.

¹ Drawing a blank? Here are more suggestions: Valor – Gideon in Judges 7:7, 12, 22. Moral strength – Joseph in Genesis 39. Craftsmanship – Noah in Genesis 6:13-22 because he built a boat and never has seen one and this boat or ark saved the human race. Faithfulness - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego in Daniel 3 all chapter but more clear in verses 16-18. Wisdom – Jesus in Matthew 22:15-22, but in Jesus’ case his manly behavior is seen perfectly throughout his life.

5. Following #4 above expand on the qualities that Hollywood and the world glamorizes concerning a men which in reality are negative qualities of manhood.
 - a. _____
6. Elder Ron Halvorsen talks about the time when a Christian shared with him his own impression of Jesus and as this person shared, Ron understood Jesus to be a powerful man, the fisherman, the table turner, with no fear. What could you say about Jesus? What can you tell others that will help them see Jesus as “A Man’s Man?”
 - a. _____
7. Above all things Jesus was a man of prayer. This is another area where we think “weak.” Is prayer for the weak or the strong? Elder Halvorsen gave prayer a total new perspective when he wrote a book on the subject of prayer and it gave it a name with which men connect in a deeper level.
 - a. The name of the book is _____.²
8. How is prayer a weapon? Is prayer the battle or is it help for the battle?
 - a. _____
9. Elder Halvorsen talked about claiming the “Blood of Jesus.” Read the following verses and then answer: What role does “claiming the Blood of Jesus” play in the spiritual battle we are all involved in?
 - a. Ephesians 2:13; Hebrews 10:19, 12:24, 13:12, 20; and 1 John 1:7.
 - b. _____

Devote

10. God wants us to engage the enemy and the battle’s ground is often our home. We are conditioned to think that we men are to provide, but we don’t realize that our greatest task is the defense of the souls at our home, our children, and our wife.
11. Think of your role as a man from a spiritual perspective. What’s your role at home, at work, or in your community? How can you change that concept of “religion” being for the weak?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
12. The “End” is the great battle, the Second Coming, and we need to be ready. God needs men who are ready to die for Christ, like the gangbanger. Christianity is not for the weak!

The powerful testimony of a “gangbanger” turned Christian truly is an inspiration. Then this gangbanger turned into a “prayer warrior.” God needs more men to turn into prayer warriors in order to join Him in the battle against evil. As you close your session today make decisions concerning how your group will join the prayer warriors’ movement. Make definitive action plans that will motivate others to join you in prayer. Here are just a few ideas: Quarterly prayer vigils or prayer rallies, sending teams “prayer walking” through the community around your church, setting up prayer partners and groups within the church family, and having small groups dedicated to prayer.

² Prayer Warriors.