

**A**

**MAN**

**IS:**

(A Guide To True Manhood)

# D. Emmanuel Porter

## DEDICATION:

This pamphlet is again dedicated to the memory of Deaconess Lula Jenkins Leath. As my godmother, she served as a guide and an example for my spiritual growth and development. Though I miss her, I rejoice in knowing that she now enjoys the eternal embrace of our Lord Jesus the Christ. And so I ask the Lord, who blessed me with aunt Lula, to guide the hearts and minds of those who read the selections of His word and my accompanying commentary.

## THANKS:

Thanks go to my father, Reverend Anderson E. Porter. He has continued to be an example of a Christian man and the object of my greatest human admiration. His help and support is always there.

Thanks to my mother, Carolyn Jenkins Porter. Her overwhelming love has bolstered me throughout my life. Her editing skills proved to be another gift provided by God to aid in the completion of this work.

## INSPIRATION

The inspiration to develop this pamphlet flowed from a Mrs. Sherry Archer. Through discussion we decided that there was a need for clear cut character objectives to be defined. These would be character objectives that a true man would seek to achieve. These are needed so as to provide a positive example of manhood and to counter the negative stereotypes of manhood that the world presents us.

So through prayer and spiritual guidance I was able to compose commentaries and compile scriptural references that specify the characteristics of a man. These scriptural references were taken from the Good News Bible (G) and the Living Bible (L) in order to aid in understanding and learning. The Bible is God's guide for our lives so from it I was able to attain the characteristics of true manhood.

The following is a result of a human spirit attempting to answer a need. A labor of love for God and the human race which He created.

My prayers are with those who read these commentaries and scriptures. For if you follow the scriptural guidelines you, your family and your children will be blessed.

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D. EMMANUEL PORTER

A MAN IS ONE WHO:

- I. HEEDS THE GUIDANCE OF HIS PARENTS
- II. SEEKS WISDOM
- III. POSSESSES GOOD JUDGMENT AND COMMON SENSE
- IV. IS TRUTHFUL, KIND AND RIGHTEOUS
- V. IS LOVING
- VI. CONTROLS HIS AFFECTIONS
- VII. IS FAITHFUL TO HIS WIFE
- VIII. CONTROLS HIS TONGUE
- IX. KEEPS THE COMPANY OF GOOD MEN NOT EVIL
- X. MAINTAINS HIS BODY
- XI. IS INDUSTRIOUS
- XII. PAYS HIS DEBTS
- XIII. IS LAW ABIDING
- XIV. IS PRINCIPAL OF THE FAMILY
- XV. IS THANKFUL

## **A MAN IS ONE WHO:**

### **I. HEEDED THE GUIDANCE OF HIS PARENTS**

Guidance is a commodity that we are given and one for which we often seek. The problem is not in getting enough guidance. For there is an unlimited supply of counselors and guides ready to advise us in how to conduct ourselves in varied situations and circumstance. No quantity is not the problem. The problem often lies in the sources of this guidance and how we choose them.

When we seek guidance from someone we must consider two factors: one, the counselor's motivation and two, the counselor's qualifications. A counselor like any other person is not and can not be completely objective. Every piece of advice is laced with their own feelings and built on the foundation of their own desires and motivations. This is nearly always the case no matter how sincere the guidance or advice may be. Often a person will provide you with advice based on what they think should happen in your life. They have derived this position from their own experiences, values and desires. This being the case it is important that the personal motivations of the counselor be examined in order for your best interest to be served by their advice. Considering this factor alone, there is no better source for advice than from those people in the role of your parents. For who but they have a more unselfish desire for your eventual success. Their child's well being and success has, is, and will be the paramount concern of a loving parent. The parents advice and counsel is laced with the concern for your safety, security and contentment and built on the foundation of desires for your physical and spiritual success in the journey of life. The parents' motivations are the least tainted and the most beneficial of the counseling sources that you may encounter.

When considering a source for counsel, the factor of their qualifications must also be considered. So often we utilize advice because it came from the loudest, the most articulate, the prettiest, the strongest etc. without really examining their qualifications to give advice on that particular subject. This examination process may seem to be a lot of thought to put forth just to get advice on a problem. But when you consider that the decisions you make based on that advice may alter your life and its direction it is well worth the trouble. Consider how often people go to complainers and ask them how to improve their attitude. Or how often do people ask a bitter divorced person how to improve their marriage. Would you ask your plumber to cut your hair? Would you ask your barber to fix your car? Of course not, but every day we ask our peers about the great questions of life, relationships, careers etc.. Our peers know nothing more about these subjects than we do and probably less. We should take these questions to people who have succeeded. People who are living happy, prosperous and honest lives. They have found the key to succeeding in this life and are often willing to share this information. Your parents represent the most available source for this type of information. Even though they have grown up in a different generation they have witnessed first hand what behaviors breed success and contentment and the behaviors that reap failure and resentment. The times and the faces may have changed but the characters have not. Your parents are a wealth of experience. They are gold mines of advice on human behavior and relationships. Their spirit guided direction can steer you clear of many a heartache. This source of information should be tapped. For it is the source of information whose motivations are squarely directed for your success and its qualifications have

been accumulated over a life's worth of experiences. By maintaining God as our heavenly and spiritual source of guidance and our parents as immediate sources of direction and information, we will find ourselves avoiding the snares and heartbreaks of life's relationships and quest for success.

### **PROVERBS 1:7-9 (G)**

**To have knowledge, you must first have reverence for the Lord. Stupid people have no respect for wisdom and refuse to learn. Son, pay attention to what your father and mother tell you. Their teaching will improve your character as a handsome turban or a necklace improves your appearance.**

### **PROVERBS 6:20-23 (G)**

**Son, do what your father tells you and never forget what your mother taught you. Keep their words with you always, locked in your heart. Their teaching will lead you when you travel, protect you at night, and advise you during the day. Their instructions are a shining light; their correction can teach you how to live.**

### **PROVERBS 23:22-25 (L)**

**Listen to your Father's advice and don't despise an old mother's experience. Get the facts at any price, and hold on tightly to all the good sense you can get. The father of a godly man has a cause for joy--what pleasure a wise son is! So give your parents joy!**

## **II. SEEKS WISDOM**

It is important that men seek wisdom throughout their lives. Men often are in roles of leadership in life's relationships. In these relationships it is not only important that a man lead but lead wisely. This can only be accomplished if the leader possesses wisdom.

When we seek wisdom we are seeking a quiet and peaceful thought pattern that keys into the universal workings of the world around us. When wisdom is sought we begin to gain an understanding of ourselves, our actions and the actions of others and how they affect and interact with the workings of the world. In short we begin to understand ourselves, our lives and our direction.

When seeking wisdom we should not waste our time and efforts with false prophets like swamies, gurus, astrologers, and channelers. We should direct our efforts to searching out the truths born throughout the pages of the Bible. This is the true source of wisdom. Written by God inspired hands it unveils the timeless truths about human behavior and circumstance. The scriptures should be read as often as possible. For each reading is another stride in your journey for wisdom. The scriptures should also be read with a prayerful mind. This means that each time we read the scriptures we should pray asking the Lord to reveal to us more than the printed word is able. In this way we will gain a greater understanding of these eternal truths.

I cannot emphasize how important reading the scriptures is to gaining wisdom and spiritual growth. It is like a plant's roots reaching deeper into the soil of truth. As your reading increases you become strong in the spirit and deeply rooted in wisdom and truth. We must seek God's wisdom always. We must go straight to the source and prayerfully and continually read the Bible.

#### **PROVERBS 2:6-22 (L)**

**For the Lord grants wisdom! His every word is a treasure of knowledge and understanding. He grants good sense to the godly--his saints. He is their shield, protecting them and guarding their pathway. He shows how to distinguish right from wrong, how to find the right decision every time. For wisdom and truth will enter the very center of your being, filling your life with joy. You will be given the sense to stay away from evil men who want you to be their partners in crime--men who turn from God's ways to walk down dark evil paths, and exult in doing wrong, for they thoroughly enjoy their sins. Everything they do is crooked and wrong. Only the wisdom of the Lord can save a man from the flattery of prostitutes; these girls have abandoned their husbands and flouted the laws of God. Their houses lie along the road to death and hell. The men who enter them are doomed. None of these men will ever be the same again. Follow the steps of the godly instead, and stay on the right path, for only good men enjoy life to the full; evil men lose the good things they might have had, and they themselves shall be destroyed.**

#### **PROVERBS 3:13-18 (L)**

**The man who knows right from wrong and has good judgment and common sense is happier than the man who is immensely rich! For such wisdom is far more valuable than precious jewels. Nothing else compares with it. Wisdom gives:**

**A long, good life  
Riches  
Honor  
Pleasure  
Peace**

**Wisdom is a tree of life to those who eat her fruit; happy is the man who keeps on eating it.**

#### **PROVERBS 28:26 (L)**

**A man is a fool to trust himself! But those who use God's wisdom are safe.**

#### **I CORINTHIANS 13:11 (L)**

**It's like this: When I was a child I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child does. But when I became a man my thoughts grew far beyond those of my childhood, and now I have put away the childish things.**

### **III. POSSESSES GOOD JUDGMENT AND COMMON SENSE**

There is a saying that common sense is not so common. You will find that many people have acquired large amounts of knowledge and continue to learn information. The problem is that many do not know how to apply and utilize this bank of knowledge they have compiled. Their discussions seem flighty and off base. Their source of knowledge is also limited by their human short-comings.

It is important in our male development that we strive for the development of the capacity of good judgment. Good judgment is the key to which sound decisions are formulated. It is the means by which we steer clear of endangering ourselves and others by our everyday actions. Consistent good judgment or consistent common sense are not a product of human effort or skill. Consistent good judgment can only be attained through prayer and heavenly guidance. Our view of life is similar to being in a forest and not being able to see the shortest and safest route to the edge. But from above, being able to view the entire forest, the direction would be made plain. This is how God is able to give direction to our lives. We, being in the midst of the trees of a forest. Only God, with his view of the entire forest can provide true, safe and righteous direction. So remember, when making decisions, to always pray so that your direction may be straight and the results of your actions will be beneficial to all of God's people. Pray! because good judgment and common sense do not truly occur without God's direction.

#### **PROVERBS 3:4-6 (L)**

**If you want favor with both God and man, and a reputation for good judgment and common sense, then trust the Lord completely; don't ever trust yourself. In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct and crown your efforts with success.**

#### **PROVERBS 4:7-9 (L)**

**Determination to be wise is the first step toward becoming wise! And with your wisdom, develop common sense and good judgment. If you exalt wisdom, she will exalt you. Hold her fast and she will lead you to great honor; she will place a beautiful crown upon your head.**

## **IV. IS TRUTHFUL KIND AND RIGHTEOUS**

The importance of leading a righteous life can not be over stated. A life of doing the right things is as important to your growth and sustenance as the food you consume. Leading a righteous life means that you strive and search for the good, the truth and the compassionate aspects of living. Your eyes search as your heart and body yearns for goodness and truth. You start to find that these are the desires underpinning the foundations of your decisions and actions. And with the practice of righteous living these actions become as natural to you as walking.

Righteous living is necessary to sustain us. We must realize that every good action by us builds us up. Conversely every evil action by us works to tear us down. This applies not only to our spiritual well being but to our physical as well. The kind and righteous actions of giving are like the planting of a seed. We are adding to and not taking away. We are providing for future growth and development. The actions of taking and leading a selfish existence do nothing but take away. These selfish actions lessen the substance of our person with each occurrence. It is like harvesting a crop and not planting in its place. It shall be depleted one day and there will be nothing to sustain you. But planting, or giving to others produces crops not only in your own fields but also in the fields of others to sustain and enrich you and your fellow man. For as you multiply your giving you multiply your sources of genuine love, caring and affection. Living a righteous life is the key to our spiritual and physical growth and sustenance.

Leading a righteous life is a way in which we can demonstrate a love for God and our faith in his word. For in living his words through our deeds we not only provide our own form of mortal acclamation we tune ourselves into God's message. We by striving to be truthful, kind, and righteous open our spiritual ears to God's message. Our spiritual receiver is tuning into God's frequency with every sincere act of kindness, every defense of the truth, and every righteous action. God's message and the wisdom and the guidance within become clearer to us. Similar to being in a fog as you get closer shadows become forms, forms become faces, faces become people. So it is with the word of God, our righteous acts are like the steps that bring us closer to the loved one in the fog. Enabling us to hear and see with clarity the truth and the wisdom of God's way. When we move closer to the loved one in the fog we also are close enough to receive the comforting, protection and love of our maker. It is imperative that we take the steps of kind and righteous living for it is our only way to move through the fog towards our Lord. This is the fog of selfishness, greed, lust, and evil deeds. The fog of this world. Though we must exist for a time in this fog we can be closer, and more receptive to the love nurturing and guidance of our Lord and Saviour by continually yearning and striving to be truthful, kind and righteous.

### **PROVERBS 3:3 (L)**

**Never forget to be truthful and kind. Hold these virtues tightly. Write them deep with your heart.**

### **PROVERBS 4:11-13 (L)**

**I would have you learn this great fact: that a life of doing right is the wisest life there is. If you live that kind of life, you'll not limp or stumble as you run. Carry out my instructions; don't forget them, for they will lead you to real living.**

## **V. IS LOVING**

To love is to give. Christian love is equivalent to unceasing giving. Every aspect of Christian love is directly related to unselfish giving. A man's traditional expression of love is through providing. A man works to provide a home, protection, and leadership.

A man's love is demonstrative and must be shown in various ways. Not just in the affections given to those who are emotionally close to him. A man must demonstrate his capacity for love in his everyday treatment of his fellow man. It is important that you make a practice of giving of yourself to others daily. In this way you will demonstrate in a tangible way the love of our Lord and Savior.

### **I CORINTHIANS 13:4-7 (L)**

**Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices when truth wins out. If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, and always stand on your ground defending him.**

### **GALATIANS 5:22-23 (L)**

**But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; and here there is no conflict with Jewish laws.**

### **I CORINTHIANS 16:13-14 (L)**

**Keep your eyes open for spiritual danger; stand true to the Lord; act like men; be strong; and whatever you do, do it with kindness and love.**

### **EPHESIANS 5:2 (L)**

**Be full of love for others, following the example of Christ who loved you and gave himself to God as a sacrifice to take away your sins. And God was pleased, for Christ's love for you was like sweet perfume to him.**

### **I PETER 4:8 (L)**

**Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love makes up for many of our faults.**

### **JAMES 2:8 (L)**

**Yes indeed, it is good when you truly obey your Lord's command, "You must love and help your neighbors just as much as you love and take care of yourself.**

## **VI. CONTROLS HIS AFFECTIONS**

When it comes to controlling our affections, the world and God present us with two opposed views. The world's view on handling our affections is based on selfish satisfaction of our own desires. Our only true concern is what we want out of a relationship. Relationships that only exist for our utilization and satisfaction of selfish desires.

This is totally contrary to what Christ teaches. For godly relationships are based on the concept of giving and sharing. Continually giving of yourself and being constantly concerned with the needs of your mate or friend is the only way to discover true love in a relationship. You find yourself, only by losing yourself to another. Only by giving of yourself completely, you can experience true satisfaction and contentment. When a relationship exists where two give to the point of loss of self this relationship is nurturing the love that Jesus speaks of as selfless. A love that bonds you to the recipient. Search carefully for someone who can accept, appreciate, and reciprocate this love. When you find them hold on for there are few joys you will experience that match the joy of loving and being loved. Save your affections for this kind of love and this kind of love only. For the other forms of love and lust will leave you empty, unsatisfied and possibly destroyed.

### **JOB 31:1 (New International Version)**

**"I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.**

### **PROVERBS 4:23-27 (L)**

**Above all else, guard your affections. For they influence everything in your life. Spurn the careless kiss of a prostitute. Stay far from her. Look straight ahead; don't even turn your head to look. Watch your step. Stick to the path and be safe. Don't sidetrack; pull back your foot from danger.**

### **PROVERBS 5:3-14 (G)**

**The lips of another man's wife may be as sweet as honey and her kisses as smooth as olive oil, but when it is all over, she leaves you nothing but bitterness and pain. She will take you down to the world of the dead; the road she walks is the road of death. She does not stay on the road to life; but wanders off, and does not realize what is happening. Now listen to me, sons, and never forget what I am saying. Keep away from such a woman! Don't even go near her door! If you do, others will gain the respect that you once had, and you will die young at the hands of merciless men. Yes, strangers will take all your wealth, and what you have worked for will belong to someone else. You will lie groaning on your deathbed, your flesh and muscles being eaten away, and you will say, "Why would I never learn? Why would I never let anyone correct me? I wouldn't listen to my teachers. I paid no attention to them. And suddenly I found myself publicly disgraced."**

## **VII. IS FAITHFUL TO HIS WIFE**

Being faithful to your wife is equivalent to being faithful to God. For when you marry you not only make a covenant with your wife you make a covenant with God. Your promise and your relationship with God and your wife forms the foundation of your true strength. From your wedding day on you can no easier separate yourself from this covenant and remain whole than you could cut off a limb and remain physically whole. When you break the marriage covenant your spirit becomes damaged and less capable of properly performing the Lord's work. Your spirit is not able to provide the God like nurturing love that your family needs.

DO NOT destroy or diminish your spirit by committing adultery. Strengthen and bolster your spirit by committing your affections to your God and to your wife. By this you will be filled with the strength of spirit, mind and body that is able to uplift and direct your family.

### **PROVERBS 5:15-23 (G)**

**Be faithful to your wife and give your love to her alone. Children that you have by other women will do you no good. Your children should grow up to help you, not strangers. So be happy with your wife and find your joy with the girl you married--pretty and graceful as a deer. Let her charms keep you happy; let her surround you with her love. Son, why should you give your love to another woman? Why should you prefer the charms of another man's wife? The Lord sees everything you do. Wherever you go, he is watching. The sins of a wicked man are a trap. He gets caught in the net of his own sin. He dies because he has no self- control. His utter stupidity will send him to his grave.**

### **PROVERBS 6:27-35 (L)**

**Can a man hold fire against his chest and not be burned? Can he walk on hot coals and not blister his feet? So it is with the man who commits adultery with another's wife. He shall not go unpunished for this sin. Excuses might even be found for a thief, if he steals when he is starving! But even so, he is fined seven times as much as he stole, though it may mean selling everything in his house to pay it back. But the man who commits adultery is an utter fool for he destroys his own soul. Wounds and constant disgrace are his lot, for the woman's husband will be furious in his jealousy, and he will have no mercy on you in his day of vengeance. You won't be able to buy him off no matter what you offer.**

**MALACHI 2:13-16 (New International Version)**

**13 Another thing you do: You flood the LORD's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. 14 You ask, "Why?" It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.**

**15 Has not the LORD made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. <sup>[e]</sup> So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.**

**16 "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself <sup>[f]</sup> with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty.**

**So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.**

**EPHESIANS 5:25-33 (New International Version)**

**25Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26to make her holy, cleansing<sup>[b]</sup> her by the washing with water through the word, 27and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— 30for we are members of his body. 31"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."<sup>[c]</sup> 32This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.**

## **VIII. CONTROLS HIS TONGUE**

When we control our tongues we begin to take control of our world. In an inverse fashion when we do not control our tongues we set events in motion that could destroy our worlds and the lives and well being of others. It must always be remembered that negative word said about someone, some organization, or some event will most likely be repeated. The words repeated to such an extent that they often get back to the subject of the initial negative conversation.

Our tongues have a great ability to build up and edify. They conversely have an even greater ability to tear down and destroy. Note though that the tongue has a very limited ability to repair what it has been used to destroy. Our tongues are like the faucets to our minds and souls. When we pour out positive words thoughts and language this positive Christ emulating energy flows through us. It enriches our minds, bodies and spirits. It becomes a means for having God's love move as a stream within us. Nourishing us as a river nourishes the land around it. It provides us with life energy and true forward motion. When we open the negative faucets to our minds to hurt tear down or destroy we cause negativity to flow through us. Where as positiveness builds and nourishes our bodies this negative flow is corrosive. It eats away and erodes our being. With every curse word, every story of destructive gossip, every word of malicious intent, we loose a piece of ourselves to this corrosive flow. Negative words continue to erode until our spirits become shallow and empty pits that are hopelessly cynical and jaded. The dead spirits move bodies and control tongues that nothing but evil for our fellow man.

The examples of what an unbridled tongue can do are as numerous as people with tongues. So I ask that you remember, for your sake, the sake of your soul, your relationship with God, and your fellow man, **IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING GOOD TO SAY DO NOT SAY ANYTHING AT ALL**

### **PROVERBS 9:7-8 (G)**

**If you correct a conceited man, you will only be insulted. If you reprimand an evil man, you will only get hurt. Never correct a conceited man; he will hate you for it. But if you correct a wise man, he will respect you.**

### **PROVERBS 25:15 (G)**

**Patient persuasion can break down the strongest resistance and can even convince rulers.**

### **PROVERBS 23:9 (G)**

**Don't try to talk sense to a fool; he can't appreciate it.**

### **I TIMOTHY 5:1-2 (G)**

**Do not rebuke an older man, but appeal to him as if he were your father. Treat the younger men as your brothers, the older women as your mothers, and the younger women as your sisters, with all purity.**

## **IX. KEEPS THE COMPANY OF GOOD MEN NOT EVIL**

There are many old proverbs written about this subject. If you lay down with dogs you will get up with fleas. This is just one of them. They all emphasize the point that your character, personality, judgment and moral strength can be detrimentally influenced by associating with evil men. Our associations can influence us either positively or negatively. The characteristics of the people that we constantly associate with often become our own. Therefore it is important that we strive to associate with people that we want to be like or people that share the same desire to become good and righteous men.

The lives of evil men looks so appealing--nice clothes, big money, and endless women. But it is like the mouse going after the cheese in the trap. The cheese is very easy for the mouse to attain. This easy cheese also results in the mouse's violent death. As the mouse starts to nibble and pull at the cheese the trap is sprung. Before the mouse can escape his back is crushed by the trap. In the same way the evil enjoy their booty but die in short term as their backs will be crushed by the trap they have set for themselves.

They will try to lure you with their fine material items. For some their main purpose in life is to lure and destroy the righteous. So stay clear of friends, family and associates that rob, steal, do drugs, drink too much for deep in their souls they know they are dying and do not wish to die alone.

### **PROVERBS 1:10-19 (L)**

**If young toughs tell you, "Come and join us"-- turn your back on them! "We'll hide and rob and kill," they say. Good or bad, we'll treat them all alike. And the loot we'll get! All kinds of stuffs! Come on, throw in your lot with us; we'll split with you in equal shares." Don't do it, son! Stay far from men like that, for crime is their way of life, and murder is their speciality. When a bird sees a trap being set, it stays away, but not these men; they trap themselves! They lay a booby trap for their own lives. Such is the fate of all who live by violence and murder. They will die a violent death.**

### **PROVERBS 4:14-19 (L)**

**Don't do as the wicked do. Avoid their haunts--turn away, go somewhere else, for evil men don't sleep until they've done their evil; deed for the day. They can't rest unless they cause someone to stumble and fall. They eat and drink wickedness and violence! But the good man walks along in the ever brightening light of God's favor; the dawn gives way to the morning splendor, while the evil man gropes and stumbles in the dark.**

### **PROVERBS 23:6-8 (L)**

**Don't associate with evil men; don't long for their favors and gifts. Their kindness is a trick; they want to use you as their pawn. The delicious food that they serve will turn sour in your stomach and you will vomit it, and have to take back your words of appreciation for their "kindness."**

### **PROVERBS 23:17-21 (G)**

**Don't be envious of sinful people; let reverence for the Lord be the concern of your life. If it is, you have a bright future. Listen, my son, be wise and give serious thought to the way you live. Don't associate with people who drink too much wine or stuff themselves with food. Drunkards and gluttons will be reduced to poverty. If all you do is eat and sleep, you will soon be wearing rags.**

### **PROVERBS 24:1-2 (G)**

**Don't be envious of evil people, and don't try to make friends with them. Causing trouble is all they ever think about; every time they open their mouth someone is going to be hurt.**

## **X. MAINTAINS HIS BODY**

Sexual sin is not the only way in which we fail to protect and maintain our bodies. As human beings existing on this planet we are randomly susceptible to diseases, sickness, injury and death. By chance or circumstance we may be made to suffer. In spite of this a man does what is within his power to maintain his physical body. This body cannot be maintained if it is knowingly poisoned with smoking, excessive drink, and drug use. A man does not poison his body. He utilizes safe methods to nourish it, exercise it, clean it, and rest it. All of these things a man does as thanks to God for the gift of our spiritual containers. These containers or bodies are to be kept in good shape so we will be capable of peak performance when called upon to perform God's will.

### **I CORINTHIANS 3:16 (G)**

**Surely you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you!**

### **I CORINTHIANS 6:15-20 (G)**

**You know that your bodies are parts of the body of Christ. Shall I take a part of Christ's body and make it part of the body of a prostitute? Impossible! Or perhaps you don't know that a man who joins his body to a prostitute becomes physically one with her? The scripture says quite plainly, "The two will become one body." But he who joins himself to the Lord becomes spiritually one with him. Avoid immorality. Any other sin a man commits does not effect his body; but the man who is guilty of sexual immorality sin against his own body. Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourselves but to God; he bought you for a price. So use your bodies for God's glory.**

## **XI. IS INDUSTRIOUS**

The desire to work hard is a desire that a man possesses. The desire to do what it takes to honestly complete a job or task is a desire that a man possesses. The desire to perform and to constantly better ones skills is a desire that a man possesses. These desires are scorned by some and misunderstood by others but should always be an essential characteristic of a man. These desires are the foundations of prosperity and dignity. Do not deny yourself of the joy that can be found in honest and diligent work. It will bolster your spirit and be an example of the proper use of some of your God given gifts and blessings.

PROVERBS 28:19 (L)

Hard work brings prosperity; playing around brings poverty.

## **XII. PAYS HIS DEBTS**

Make no mistake about it. If you borrow money and promise to pay it back and intentionally do not pay it back you are stealing. It is one thing to borrow money and to then fall on hard times and not be capable of paying it back. It is quite another to be able and just to choose not to. This includes owing someone money and using funds that should be used to repay the loan to purchase some material desire. For example, if you purposely spent your money on some fancy shoes that you wanted even though you knew that this would leave you without enough money to pay back the loan, you are not operating in good faith. A good faith effort must always be made to pay back debts regardless of your situation. As a Christian stealing can not be a part of our lives. As people trying to lead a righteous life we must always try to pay back our debts, because it is the right thing to do.

**PROVERBS 3:27-28**

**Don't withhold repayment of your debts. Don't say "some other time," if you can pay now.**

## **XIII. IS LAW ABIDING**

As Christians we have a mandate from God to obey the laws of the societies in which we live. This is by no means an order to follow man's laws blindly. We should strive to do our part to maintain an orderly society. We should also not put man's laws above God's laws. The laws of justice, fair treatment, and love for our fellow man contain a spirit. That spirit must be contained in the laws we follow. Laws that contradict that spirit and God's mandates must be challenged and changed. Pay your taxes, park in the right spot, don't drink and drive, and obey the laws. Most importantly obey the spirit of God's laws as you strive to be a productive citizen of the society in which you live.

### **EXODUS 20:1-17 (L)**

**THEN GOD ISSUED this edit:**

**"I am Jehovah our God who liberated you from your slavery in Egypt. You may worship no other god than me. "You shall not make yourselves any idols: any images resembling animals, birds or fish. You must never bow to any image or worship it in any way; for I, the Lord your God am very possessive. I will not share your affection with any other god! "And when I punish people for their sins, the punishment continues upon the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of those who hate me; but I lavish my love upon thousands of those who love me and obey my commandments. "You shall not use the name of Jehovah our God irreverently, nor use it to swear a falsehood. You will not escape punishment if you do. "Remember to observe the Sabbath as a holy day. Six days a week are for your daily duties and your regular work, but the seventh day is a day of Sabbath rest before the Lord your God. On that day you are to do no work of any kind, nor shall your son, daughter, or slaves--whether men or women--or your cattle or your house guests. For six days the Lord made the heaven, earth, and sea, and everything in them, and rested on the seventh day; so he blessed the Sabbath day and set it aside for rest.**

**"Honor your father and mother, that you may have a long, good life in the land the Lord your God will give you.**

**"You must not murder.**

**"You must not commit adultery.**

**"You must not steal.**

**"You must not lie.**

**"You must not be envious of your neighbor's house, or want to sleep with his wife, or want to own his slaves, oxen, donkeys, or anything else he has."**

### **TITUS 3:1 (G)**

**Remind your people to submit to rulers and authorities, to obey them, and to be ready to do good in every way.**

### **PSALM 119:9 (L)**

**How can a young man stay pure? By reading your Word and following it rules.**

## **XIV. IS PRINCIPAL OF THE FAMILY**

In today's modern society there have been many different definitions of the man's role in the family. His duties, tasks and responsibilities are not as seemingly cut and dry as before. The position as principal or leader of the family has been continually contested and attacked. The basic elements of this role of leadership remain the same as when it was delineated in the scriptures. A man is one who takes care of his family. It is a man's duty to lead the family spiritually and physically.

A man leads the family spiritually by seeking the direction of God through prayer and consistent worship. Then he uses these directions to guide his family. These directions and goals for the family are provided with confidence and steadfast assuredness as a result of their Godly foundation. A man is not a tyrant or a dictator to his family. A man is more often than not a cooperative partner and coordinator with his mate. It is a man's charge to make sure all respective family members are working in a coordinated effort towards the same God directed goals.

A man leads the family physically first by being a physical presence in the home. This is done by dedicating one's time and effort to home activities that enable our families to prosper and flourish. This often means sacrificing some of the time spent on self indulgent activities outside the home. There will be times when evenings out with the boys, ball games, projects, and work will have to be set aside in order that you can spend time with your family. They will often need this demonstration of their importance in your life. They will in a greater sense need your presence to fulfill their needs for completeness and security. You cannot properly fulfill your role as the principal of the family if you are not a physical presence in the home.

### **PROVERBS 23:13-14 (G)**

**Don't hesitate to discipline a child. A good spanking won't kill him. As a matter of fact, it may save his life.**

### **PROVERBS 29:17 (G)**

**Discipline your son and you can always be proud of him. He will never give you reason to be ashamed.**

### **JOSHUA 24:15 (L)**

**But if you are unwilling to obey the Lord, then decide today whom you will obey. Will it be the gods of your ancestors beyond the Euphrates or the gods of the Amorites here in this land? But as for me and my family we will serve the Lord.**

## **XV. IS THANKFUL**

One of the most important attitudes that you should develop during your life is what my father once described as an attitude of gratitude. We should open our minds to the realization that every good thing flows from God. Even the common every day gifts such as health strength, sound mind, friends and family. These are not factors in our lives that we can take for granted. Especially when we examine the circumstances of our existence. Disease, disaster, heartache, and pain are all consequences of our lives here on earth. So every good thing which we receive from God should be greeted with gratitude and praises of thanksgiving and never taken for granted. If we can walk, if we can talk, if we can hear, if we can speak, if we can love if we can share, if we can breathe, if we can think clearly, if we can hope, if we can dream, if we can do any or all of these things we can be and should be thankful. For these are just some of the gifts of God. Gifts which grow in value as our wisdom and knowledge of God in Christ grows. Continually strive to develop an attitude of gratitude.

### **EPHESIANS 5:20 (L)**

**Always give thanks for everything to our God and Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **PSALM 92:1-2 (L)**

**It is good to say, "Thank you" to the Lord, to sing praises to God who is above all gods. Every morning tell him, "Thank you for your kindness," and every evening rejoice in all his faithfulness.**

### **PSALM 150:6 (L)**

**Let everything alive give praises to the Lord! You praise him! Hallelujah!**

### **I TIMOTHY 2:8 (G)**

**In every church service I want the men to pray, men who are dedicated to God and can lift up their hands in prayer without anger or argument.**

A MAN IS:

COMPASSIONATE NOT CALLOUS

DEPENDABLE NOT DERELICT

DEVOTED NOT DISLOYAL

FAITHFUL NOT A PHILANDERER

GIVING NOT GREEDY

INDUSTRIOUS NOT INDOLENT

LOVING NOT LECHEROUS

A PROVIDER NOT A PARASITE

RESPECTFUL NOT RUDE

WISE NOT WHIMSICAL

D. EMMANUEL PORTER