

What Men Ought to Do  
(Father's Day 2009)  
I John 2:4-6

INTRO: The Bible, God's inspired, authoritative book, tells us that there are character traits that ought to be a part of every man's life. Men who are fathers need to be especially aware of those precepts in the scriptures that ought to govern their lives as Christians.

Why are these principles so very important? First of all, they are important because God gave them to us that our lives might be enriched. Secondly, they are important because there are eyes and ears that are watching and listening to us.

The word "ought," according to the *Oxford University Dictionary*, "is used to indicate duty or correctness." There are duties as men that we ought to fulfill. You ought to do your duty as a leader in your family, church, and other relationships.

The Bible tells us what our whole duty is; it tells us who is to have first place in our lives. Note with me Ecclesiastes 12:13: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." This is the whole duty of man; this is what we ought to do; and if we do, all other things will fall into place.

As we seek the face of God and serve Him, what is it that the scriptures tell us that we ought to do?

I. MEN OUGHT TO LOVE THEIR WIVES

A. The Word of God tells that the man is to have a sacrificial love for the wife (Eph 5:28).

1. Whatever you do to your wife, you do to yourself. If you mistreat your wife, you are mistreating yourself for you are one flesh with her.
2. When a man loves his wife as he ought to do, he is loving his own body.

B. In Ephesians 5:25, we are told that men are to love their "wives, even as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it."

1. Christ's love for the church is our example as to how we are to love our wives.
2. The love of Christ for the church is a sacrificial love. Selfishness is a sure way to be unhappy in marriage.

II. MEN WE OUGHT TO BE FORGIVING

- A. In II Corinthians 2:7, we have the advice of Paul concerning the case of a young man who was sleeping with his stepmother (I Cor 5:1). He had been disciplined by the church, had come to repentance, now Paul says to the church: “ye ought rather to forgive him. . .”
- B. Forgiveness is to be a great part of what a real man ought to be (Eph 4:32). Unforgiving men become bitter and mean.

### III. MEN OUGHT TO PRAY

- A. Luke 18:1 says: “... men ought always to pray and not to faint.”
- B. When we struggle in prayer and do not know what we ought to pray, the Bible says that the Holy Spirit will help us (Rm 8:26).
  - 1. Pray for your wife, your children, this church, our country, etc.
  - 2. “Pray without ceasing” (I Thes 5:17).

### IV. MEN OUGHT TO BE HUMBLE

- A. “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think....”
  - 1. I believe that this verse has a lot to say about pride and priorities.
  - 2. In the early 1960's, Thomas Monaghan, founder of Domino's Pizza, started out with a \$900 loan from his brother. In 1985, the company owned 900 stores. In the 1980's, he bought the Detroit Tigers Baseball team. He bought airplanes, antique cars (one a 1929 Bugatti which cost \$8.1 million). He bought a lodge on 3,000 acres of land, built a golf course, bowling alley, airstrip, and hotel. This property is worth \$30,000,000. He also financed missions trips in Honduras. He enjoyed the mission work so much he decided to sell the company, but Domino's sales had begun to drop because he had not kept his mind on the business. He had been too busy chasing rainbows. Pizza Hut and Little Caesar's had expanded taking a lion's share of the pizza trade. Offers for the company were not very good, so Monaghan took the company off the market, rolled up his sleeves and took over the helm. After one and a half of closing unprofitable stores and closing regional offices Domino's was turned around. Now, Domino's

operates in no less than 38 countries.

3. What happened to Thomas Monaghan? He got his priorities out of wack. He not only had things, they had him. He said this in a *Success Magazine* interview: “My life is less complicated now. I spend more time with my family. I don’t watch TV. I feel good about having gotten the distractions out of my system– maybe a little proud.” Proverbs 11:2 says: “When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.”

- B. A know it all attitude is not good for men of God. If you think that you are too smart to learn anything, then you are headed to trouble (I Cor 8:2). The old, old story of Jesus is precious, and the true believer should never tire of hearing the Gospel (Heb 2:1; 5:12). “I love to tell the story, for those who know it best, seem hungering and thirsting, to hear it like the rest. And when in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new son, twill be the old, old story that I have love so long.....”

#### V. MEN OUGHT TO BEAR THE BURDENS OF THOSE WHO ARE WEAK

- A. Romans 15:1 says: “We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.”
  1. The Greek word for ought is *opheilo* meaning, “to have a strong obligation, duty.”
  2. Men, we have a duty to the weak. So many fathers today will not take care to their obligations to their wives and children. Everything is about what they want and the toy they desire. Dad, you are to be the strong one. The one who can sacrifice for your children.
- B. “Bear” in Romans 15:1 means to pick up and carry a burden, like carrying a man. We are to bear the weaknesses of our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are to be considerate and kind as we bear burdens that are not our own. There are weak ones among us who need a helping hand. Men must bear their own burdens (Gal 6:5) as well as bearing the burdens of others (Gal 6:2).

#### VI. MEN OUGHT TO BE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

- A. We are to represent the government of heaven. We are ambassadors for our Captain, Jesus Christ, and the Gospel like Paul was in prison (Eph 6:20).
- B. II Corinthians 5:20 says: “Now then we are ambassadors for

Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

VII. MEN OUGHT TO BELIEVE IN THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

- A. God is Sovereign! He is the one who knows the beginning and the end. Keeping this in mind, you are to serve Him and not yourself.
- B. Learn to say if the Lord is willing, I will do thus and so. James 4:15 says: "For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." We do not know what time we have (James 4:14), so we must trust in our Sovereign God and serve Him day by day.

CONCLUSION: Let us do what we ought. Let us meet our obligations and fulfill our duty.

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