

## **PLOTTING MY COURSE TOWARD BIBLICAL MANHOOD**

### **I. A LOOK BACK**

A. What unfinished business undercuts my journey to manhood?

1. What wounds have not been addressed?
2. Have I made a decision to move through the pain rather than be crippled by it?
3. Do I have a fear of accepting responsibility?
4. Are there past mistakes I still need to deal with fully? (i.e., confess and be forgiven for, make restitution for, accept responsibility for, etc.)

B. How am I going to deal with unfinished business?

1. What steps do I need to take?
2. Whose help do I need? (Friend, pastor, group leader or member, a professional counselor?)

C. How will I know when I am finished? Can I describe it?

**TAKE ALL THE ABOVE INFORMATION AND WRITE IT INTO SPECIFIC ACTION STEPS WITH MEASUREABLE GOALS FOR ADDRESSING THE FOUNDATION OF YOUR MANHOOD**

- Example: I will talk to my Dad about our relationship and ask him face-to-face whether he loves me or not and whether he is proud of me or not. I will do this by September 1.
- Example: I see my Heart (depravity) Wound and now know how little I understand about spiritual life. I will approach someone to come alongside me to help me build a strong spiritual foundation by June 30.
- Example: I will ask forgiveness from the wife and children I left in a divorce and make whatever restitution necessary by June 1.

**II. A LOOK AT NOW**

- A. How do I evaluate myself in light of the definition of Authentic Manhood? (rejects passivity, accepts responsibility, leads courageously, invests eternally)
- B. What biblical responsibilities do I have as a man at this stage of my life? List below with biblical support for each, where possible.
1. Do I accept these with conviction?
  2. Am I willing to pursue these by faith?
- C. Where am I succeeding as a man, right now?
1. How can I use these strengths to further my growth?
- D. Where am I struggling or failing as a man?
1. Practically, how can I reverse this?
  2. What would be a first step I need to take now?
- E. Where do I tend to be passive?
- F. How willing and committed am I to accept responsibility? What can I do differently?
- G. How well do I love, honor and lead my wife? (Or, in general, the women in my life?)
- H. How clear is my perspective on eternity...seeking God's reward?
- I. Who is there to help me in my pursuit of real manhood? Who will listen to my goals for manhood, observe my efforts, and cheer for me when I succeed?

**TAKE THE ABOVE INFORMATION AND WRITE OUT SPECIFIC, MEASURABLE GOALS FOR ADDRESSING YOUR PRESENT PURSUIT OF BIBLICAL MANHOOD.**

- Example: I will take my first "Getting Away to Get it Together" with my wife by September 1. (Ephesians 5:25-28)
- Example: I will start a regular Bible reading program using the "One-Year Bible" on July 1. (2 Timothy 2:15)
- Example: I will connect with a community of men for ongoing accountability and support. (Proverbs 27:17)

**III. A LOOK AHEAD**

- A. What sort of “old man” do I want to be? Describe in detail...character, accomplishments, ministry, etc., in light of the manhood definition (initiatives, responsibilities, leadership, reward).
- B. What do I want to make sure my children receive from me before they leave home?
- C. What adjectives would I want my wife to use to describe me over the years of our marriage?
- D. How do I want to be remembered by those who knew me?
- E. What is my spiritual mission in life?
- F. What goals must be accomplished for me to say I achieved Authentic Manhood by the end of my life? List below and give biblical support, if applicable for you. Include under each some specific “how-to’s” that will help you accomplish each goal.

**TAKE ALL THE ABOVE INFORMATION AND WRITE OUT SPECIFIC, MEASURABLE GOALS FOR ADDRESSING YOUR PURSUIT OF AUTHENTIC MANHOOD OVER A LIFETIME.**

- Example: I want to know what my spiritual gift(s) are and I want to have used them in some effective way for the glory of God. (1 Peter 4:10-11)
- Example: I want each of my sons and daughters to know what biblical manhood and womanhood is and to have celebrated that with them in ceremonies that leave a lasting impression. (Ephesians 6:4)

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## 2021 MANHOOD PLAN

### LOOKING AT MY PAST

#### 👉 The Year in Review

This year saw many victories unfold as I came to understand for the first time what it means to embrace a biblical definition of manhood.

- I gained an understanding of how the absent father, overly bonded to mother, and lack of a mentor wounds had negatively influenced my life. As this information sank in, I realized that if life was going to be different from now on, I was the one who was going to make it different. And I made a commitment to do so.
- I entered into an accountability relationship with \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ which has been extremely helpful in moving me along in some important areas of fleshing out the definition of an authentic man. This relationship has been instrumental in helping me follow through on action steps in several specific areas:
  1. I took the necessary steps and resolved an issue that had hung around for 19 years relating to \_\_\_\_\_.
  2. I am being held accountable to a weekly list of activities and a strategy to overcome my procrastination problem.
- My relationship with \_\_\_\_\_ and the kids has never been better. \_\_\_\_\_ and I had a superb "Getting Away to Get it Together" weekend in April. Individually, I visit with each of the kids over breakfast or lunch: on a weekly basis with \_\_\_\_\_ and alternating weeks with \_\_\_\_\_.
- This past year I read through the Bible for the first time in my life. That's pretty embarrassing to admit but accomplishing this was a major breakthrough for me in the area of learning to be a finisher (*I had started the process numerous times before*). I'm well into my reading schedule for this year. This discipline is becoming very transformation for me.

I know God is not through sharpening me, but I am not aware of any areas in my past with which I have not now dealt. I know I need to move on, forgetting what is behind, and reaching ahead to what God has in store (Luke 9:62, Philippians 3:12-16, Ephesians 2:10). As I look forward to the future, I am expecting the greater reward, God's reward!

## LOOKING AT MY PRESENT

### ☞ **What biblical responsibilities do I have as a man at this stage of my life?**

**Christ's Follower**

*Matthew 4:19, Mark 8:34-37, John 10:27-30*

**Husband**

*Ephesians 5:21-33, Colossians 3:18,19, 1 Peter 3:7*

**Father**

*Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Ephesians 6:1-4, Colossians 3:21*


**Servant to the Body of Christ**


*Mark 10:43-45, Romans 12:1-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, Ephesians 4:11-16, Philippians 2:1-11, 1 Peter 4:10-11*


**Boss**


*Ephesians 6:5-9, Colossians 3:22-4:1*

### ☞ **Where am I succeeding as a man?**

 As one of **Christ's Followers**, I am succeeding in looking to Him for wisdom and leadership in my life through daily Bible reading. I am open and ready to learn what He wants to teach me at this stage of my life. I am excited about my accountability relationships. My efforts at evangelism are much more intentional than they were this time a year ago. I am engaged in a discipling relationship with \_\_\_\_\_.

 As a **Husband**, I am providing leadership. \_\_\_\_\_ and I have some goals we are working on that we identified during our Getting Away to Get it Together weekend. Our marriage has never been stronger.

 As a **Father**, I have begun to make some strides in my relationship with my \_\_\_\_\_ to teach and model what it means to be a real man. I have a good relationship with my \_\_\_\_\_. We meet two or three times a month to add material to a Life Notebook that we've started.

 As a **Servant to the Body of Christ**, I have identified my spiritual gifting, and I am committed to using my gifts in the areas of Leadership, Teaching and Helps to serve as God directs. I am serving in the \_\_\_\_\_ Ministry as a member of the leadership team and developing curriculum for our weekly equipping sessions. \_\_\_\_\_ and I are praying about and investigating what it would look like for us to be Small Group leaders. I am also considering going on a short-term mission trip.



As a **Boss**, I am attempting to manage my branch according to biblical principles. I am learning to apply the definition of manhood to my workplace.



### ☞ **Where am I struggling and failing as a man?**

- ⇒ As one of **Christ's Followers**, my prayer life and journaling are sporadic.
- ⇒ As a **Husband**, I need to be praying more with \_\_\_\_\_. I need to encourage and enable her to fully utilize her gifts and passion in service to the body.
- ⇒ As a **Father**, my leadership role still needs some work, especially in the area of rejecting passivity when I come home in the evening. My relationship with my son is not where I want it to be. I have been moving forward here but there is room for improvement. I need to take a harder line in the area of discipline with the kids.
- ⇒ As a **Servant to the Body of Christ**, I seem to be doing pretty well (if you consider someone with the above-mentioned struggles to be a good church member).
- ⇒ As a **Boss**, I need to become more proactive in creating the environment that I want in the office.

### ☞ **What action steps will I take in light of these observations?**

- I will take full advantage of the mentoring and accountability relationships into which God has led me, especially asking them to hold me accountable to pursuing this plan.
- I will pray three times a week with \_\_\_\_\_. I will work with her on her Life Plan twice a month.
- I will work with \_\_\_\_\_ to develop a Life Plan for the overall development of each of our children. We will have these in their initial format by June 30. Then, I will spend some intentional time with each of my children on an individual basis at least twice a month and as a group at least twice a month to implement our plan.
- I will develop a business plan for my office that includes a strategy for creating the environment I desire. The plan will be completed by July 31<sup>st</sup>.
- I will lead my family to reduce our living expenses by 60% in order to be a better steward of the resources with which God has entrusted us and be prepare for opportunities to use the surplus for ministry needs as they arise.

## LOOKING AT MY FUTURE



### What do I want said at my funeral?

\_\_\_\_\_ had a fully devoted heart for Jesus.

\_\_\_\_\_ had a loving heart for his wife, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ had a nurturing heart for his kids, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ had a servant's heart for the church.

\_\_\_\_\_ had a reaching heart for the nations.



### What legacy do I want to leave to my wife and kids?

I want my family to know how to have and be walking in a loving relationship with Jesus.

I want \_\_\_\_\_ to have experience love from me that she knows she couldn't have found in another man. I want to have partnered with God to help her be all He created her to be.

I want \_\_\_\_\_ to have learned from me what it means to be a real man. I want him to be teaching the same principles to his sons.

I want \_\_\_\_\_ to know what it means to be a real woman. I want to see her passing along the same truths to her daughters.