

FAITHFUL, GODLY MEN—PART 1
PSALM 112

Introduction

As we approach Father's Day next week, I feel that God would have me to take a couple of weeks to see some things in Scripture that are directed primarily to our men. But which should be of keen interest to our women also and I'll tell you why here in just a little bit.

Now I want us men to understand that this is NOT about what we've done in OUR PAST! There is NOT ONE of us who can do much of anything about our past, so we are going to focus on OUR PRESENT DIRECTION, about OUR PROGRESS, and about OUR FUTURE!

Have you noticed how much the media likes to shine a bad light on men? Unfortunately, there are plenty of men who aren't what they should be, so it is easy to find some bad apples to shine a light on.

But thank God there are also some men who are making a difference with their life and are at least attempting to live their life pleasing to God. Though those men are normally NOT the ones the world likes to put a spotlight on!

All around us it is apparent that there are those in our society who are trying to wage a WAR ON FATHERHOOD and on real MANHOOD! Attempts are being made to emasculate men and to tear men down and show men to be unimportant! But could I tell you that MEN ARE IMPORTANT!

Would you agree with me that what the world needs today is **not** more men with bad behavior? What the world really needs today is more men who are **FAITHFUL, GODLY MEN!** (That's my title)

Proverbs 20:6 asks a very sobering question. It says, "*Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness, but a faithful man who can find?*" If ever there was a day when our world needed "faithful men," today is the day!

As I said, today's message is directed primarily toward the men. But of course there are some things in this message that have an application in women's lives too!

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I believe that today's men need a "*wake-up call.*" Our world needs us today, more than ever before! This world NEEDS US to be FAITHFUL MEN... GODLY MEN!

- If you are married, your wife needs you to be a Faithful, Godly man...
- If you have children or grandchildren they need you to be a Faithful, Godly man...

I am convinced that if our families are going to survive in this 21st century: They will need some strong male leadership to do so! They will have to be led by Faithful, Godly husbands and fathers.

The family is the basic building block of all social structures. Would you agree with the statement that "*as the family goes, so goes all of society!*" I believe that's true! But, listen to me, "*as men go, so goes the family!*"

The family unit needs the proper leadership of men. When men are fulfilling their God-given assignment as spiritual leaders in their homes, the home is stable, secure and satisfying.

However, where you see families crumbling and falling apart, it is most often (though not always) the result of men failing in their God-given roles of spiritual leadership! When men fail, the home falls apart and the repercussions reverberate through all of society!

When men are not faithful to God, the home suffers and society suffers! When men ARE faithful to God, the home is strengthened and society is better for it!

- Your church needs you to be a Faithful, Godly man...
- Your business or employer needs you to be a Faithful, Godly man...
- Your community and your nation needs you to be a Faithful, Godly man...to give direction and an example to the next generation!

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I'm saying that what the world really needs today are some **“FAITHFUL, GODLY MEN!”**

Our text this morning is one of many passages that speak directly to the issue of **FAITHFUL, GODLY MEN**. Before we read this Psalm, understand that it was penned primarily for men...even though all Scripture is for all our benefit!

Let's first notice David, the earthly author that God used to write many of the Psalms: (Although no author is given here!)

- **David was a Man's man!** He wasn't, what would be termed in our day, a *“girly man.”* Remember that even as a lad, David killed a lion and a bear while shepherding his sheep and he courageously stood up to the giant, Goliath, and killed him and cut off his head! David was a warrior! He was a man's man!
- **David, as a young man, behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him.** (So says 1 Samuel 18:5, 14, 30.) David had some discretion about Him. Rather than force issues by his own hand, he was one who waited on God. (Esp. in the matter of the kingship of Israel and Saul.)
- **David was a family man!** He had the responsibilities of being a husband and father. In fact, this is one area of David's life where he produced his greatest failures. Like many men today, David allowed other things to distract him from the priority and attention that should have been given to his family.
- **David was a leader, a business man, a man with great responsibilities!** He was one of the most successful kings of all history. He was a builder and an administrator. The kings that came after him were often compared to him.
- **David was a spiritual man.** He was *“a man after God's own heart.”* (1 Samuel 13:14) David spent a lot of time in personal worship of the Lord. He wrote Psalms and hymns of praise. But David was also a leader in corporate worship. (i.e. He joined with the people in public worship of God.)
- **David could relate to every man in this room today.**

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He experienced most everything you experience as a man. And he usually excelled in everything he did. David can relate to us as men and most of us can relate to him as man.

Now I want you to listen to what the writer of this Psalm, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, said about **“FAITHFUL, GODLY MEN.”**

Let's READ PSALM 112.

Every day score's of men become fathers for the first time. (I remember well the day that I became a father for the first time. There is not a tag that comes attached to the baby telling you the instructions for care.) And, most fathers become fathers without any training or instructions on how to be a father. That ought not be the case in Christian circles, but sadly it is.

If the men who become fathers, would learn how to be FAITHFUL, GODLY MEN, think of how it would change the world!

William Raspberry, a columnist with the Washington Post, once wrote this... *“If I could offer a single prescription for the survival of America, . . . it would be: restore the family. And if you asked me how to do it, my answer would be: ‘save the boys.’ ”* (5 Lies? p.96)

The process of teaching men to be FAITHFUL, GODLY MEN needs to begin in the home while they are still boys!

Psalm 112 tells us exactly where the whole process has to begin. Look closely again at verse 1.

vs. 1 – This gets right to the root of the problem for most men:

- **Problem #1—Too many men do not have a healthy fear of God!** The last verse of Psalm 111 says: *vs 10 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.”*

Although men may look everywhere for happiness, the secret of happiness is simple—***blessed, or happy, is the man who fears the LORD!***

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Remember in the book of Ecclesiastes how King Solomon recounted his search for happiness?

He thought he could find happiness in *thought*, so he gave himself to wisdom and knowledge.

He became a man whose wisdom was literally proverbial even in his own day. But that did not make Solomon happy!

He thought he could find happiness in *thrills*, so he dedicated himself to pleasure. He tried everything that money could buy or that his mind could conceive—wine, women and song! Yet none of it made him happy!

He thought he could find happiness in *things*, so he gave himself to accumulating riches and the things that riches could buy. He had his agents search the markets of the world for new and exotic things.

He had everything that money could buy in his day.

Yet, it did not make him happy!

At the end of his book he says this: *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.*”

That was the way he originally started life when he was a young man. However, he traded spiritual truth for the world and it cost him dearly!

To abandon the fear of the LORD is to open the door to every wicked philosophy which the mind of man is capable of devising.

Colossians 2:8—“*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*”

Problem #1—Many men do not have a healthy fear of God!

• **Problem #2—Too many men do not find great delight in God’s commands!**

This too is a thought carried over from the last verse of Psalm 111.

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It is also the subject of the very first Psalm. (Quote)

It is also the subject of Psalm 119. (Read verses 1-16)

Society has tried to discredit the Bible and, as a result, it is unhappy, unsatisfied, and unsettled.

When the Bible is emphasized, it makes people good and makes nations great!

When a man truly fears God and truly loves God’s Word, that man is on his way to true faithfulness, godliness and happiness in his life! His life is going to be productive and successful!

Conclusion

Now that’s just the introduction. I want us to come back next time, Lord willing, and look at Psalm 112 in detail and see some of the promises given here that are associated with a man who fears God and finds great delight in His commands!

So, do you have a healthy fear of the LORD?

Do you find a great delight in the LORD’s commands?