

God's Original Plan For Masculinity

"...But the Lord looks at the heart." (Genesis 1-2, 1 Samuel 16, Ephesians 5)

1. God made men and women similar, but different.
 - a. Similar in love.
 - b. Similar in our responsibility to the message of the gospel.
 - c. Similar in that we're both created in the image of God.
 - d. Different in role.
 - e. Different in function.
 2. God looks at one thing when giving an individual to accept the spiritual responsibility of His people: the heart.
 - a. But the heart is deceitful (Jer. 17:9).
 - b. That's why David said, "Search me, O God, and know my heart..." (Ps. 139:23-24.)
 - c. Many men spend their lives chasing good things while failing to dedicate their lives to the greatest thing, a personal relationship with Jesus.
 - d. The condition of your heart today will affect the quality of your life tomorrow.
 3. Adam was given a position of authority in the garden.
 - a. God made the earth, but He wanted Adam to oversee what was going on in it.
 - b. God wanted man to accept the responsibility of being a physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual leader within his home.
 - c. To do this effectively, one must:
 - i. Check your heart daily.
 - ii. Love the wife God has entrusted you to care for.
 4. "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless." (Eph. 5:25-27)
 - a. An effective spiritual leader in the home:
 - i. Realizes God's love for you.
 - ii. Requires complete selflessness.
 - iii. Rejoices in presenting his wife to God better than He found her.
- Have you personally trusted Jesus to be your one and only Savior, knowing His death and resurrection is all that was needed to pay for your sins? _____ If not, would you do this tonight? _____
 - When was the last time you did a heart check _____? How's it looking? _____

 - Will your friends and family members be nearer to the Lord if they follow your footsteps or further from Him? _____ If further, how can you improve, through God's grace? _____
 - Does your wife and do your kids know that you love them? _____ How can you continue to improve in how you communicate that to them daily? _____
