

THE PURPOSE — OF MAN —



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INTRODUCTION

Why This Guide Exists

This volume was written at the request of faithful pastors and leaders of men in **Uganda**—men who labor daily to shepherd families, strengthen churches, and raise up young men in truth. Their concern was not theoretical. It was pastoral. They saw what many around the world are now seeing clearly:

Men are increasingly confused about who they are, what they are for, and what God requires of them.

Though this guide was requested by leaders in Uganda, its purpose is **not local**. The challenges facing men today are global. Culture presses relentlessly against God’s design for man, marriage, family, and responsibility. At the same time, darker spiritual forces quietly work to weaken men—through passivity, distraction, pride, sexual confusion, and isolation—because when men fall, families fracture, and when families fracture, communities suffer.

Scripture has always been clear: the breakdown of manhood carries serious consequence.

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” (Hosea 4:6)

This guide exists because that knowledge must be recovered.

The Challenge Facing Men

From the beginning, God created man with **purpose**, **responsibility**, and **calling**. He was created to walk with God, to work faithfully, to love sacrificially, to lead humbly, and to pass truth on to the next generation.

Yet throughout history—and especially in our time—those foundations have been attacked.

Culture tells men:

- strength is domination or indulgence
- responsibility is optional
- discipline is outdated
- marriage is temporary
- fatherhood is negotiable

Scripture says otherwise.

“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.” (1 Corinthians 16:13)

When men abandon God’s design, the cost is high—not only to themselves, but to their wives, children, churches, and nations.

This guide is written as a **warning**, but also as a **restoration**.

What This Guide Is — and Is Not

This is not a political document.

This is not a cultural manifesto.

This is not a call to dominance or self-assertion.

This is a **biblical training guide** designed to form men according to God’s revealed purpose.

It walks men through:

- why they were created
- how God designed man and woman
- the dignity of work
- leadership and accountability
- the battle with sin and temptation

- life in the Spirit
- living with eternity in view

Each section is:

- Scripture-anchored (Old and New Testament)
- deliberately reflective
- focused on inward transformation, not mere behavior
- written to be **taught**, not simply read

The goal is not information alone, but **formation**.

How This Guide Is Meant to Be Used

This volume was written to be **flexible**, allowing pastors and leaders to use it according to their context.

It may be used:

- as a weekly men's discipleship study
- in small groups or mentoring relationships
- in pastoral training settings
- as a personal formation guide for individual men

Each section includes:

- key passages to read aloud
- clear biblical teaching
- warnings and encouragement
- self-examination questions that should not be rushed or skipped

Leaders are encouraged to:

- move slowly
- invite discussion
- allow Scripture to do the convicting
- emphasize repentance, obedience, and grace

This guide is not meant to shame men, but to **call them higher**.

A Final Word to the Reader

This guide assumes one central truth:

Men do not drift into righteousness.
They are **trained** into it.

“Train yourself for godliness.” (1 Timothy 4:7)

The path outlined in these pages will challenge pride, expose complacency, and confront cultural lies. It will also offer clarity, hope, forgiveness, and strength through Christ.

The cost of ignoring God’s design has never been small.
The reward for obedience has never been greater.

May God use this work to strengthen men, restore families, and raise up faithful leaders—**in Uganda, and everywhere His name is called upon**.

THE PURPOSE OF MAN

Section One — Man's Created Purpose

Before God tells man what to do, He tells man who he is.

1. WHAT IS READ — THE TEXT

Primary Texts (Read Aloud Together)

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion...’

So God created man in His own image...”

(Genesis 1:26–27)

“Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living soul.”

(Genesis 2:7)

“The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”

(Genesis 2:15)

“It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”

(Genesis 2:18)

2. WHAT IT MEANS — GOD'S DESIGN

A. Man Was Created *After* the Environment Was Prepared

God did not place man into chaos.

He placed man into a **prepared world**.

- Light

- Land
- Food
- Order
- Purpose

This shows **intent**, not accident.

“The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof.” (*Psalms 24:1*)

Man enters creation as a **steward**, not an owner.

B. Man Was Created for Relationship With God

God did not speak man into existence like the animals.
He **formed** him and **breathed** into him.

This sets man apart.

“In Him we live and move and have our being.” (*Acts 17:28*)

Man’s first purpose was not work, marriage, or rule —
it was **communion**.

C. Man Was Created in God’s Image

To bear God’s image means:

- Moral responsibility
- Authority under God
- Reflection of God’s character

“You have crowned him with glory and honor.” (*Psalms 8:5*)

This gives man **dignity**, not arrogance.

3. WHAT IS OFTEN MISSED — THE HIDDEN DETAIL

A. Work Was Given *Before* the Fall

Work is not punishment.

“To work it and keep it” (*Genesis 2:15*)

Sin made work **hard**, not meaningless.

This means:

- Laziness is not neutral
- Passivity is rebellion against design

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord.” (*Colossians 3:23*)

B. Woman Was Not an Afterthought

“She is a helper fit for him” does **not** mean inferior.

The Hebrew word *ezer* is often used of **God Himself** as helper.

“The LORD is my helper.” (*Psalms 118:7*)

Woman was created to **complete**, not compete.

Together they reflect God more fully.

C. Family Was God’s First Classroom of Love

Marriage teaches:

- Covenant
- Sacrifice

- Faithfulness

Children reveal:

- Responsibility
- Patience
- Reflection of God's love

“As a father shows compassion to his children...” (*Psalms 103:13*)

This is a **training ground**, not a reward system.

4. WHAT THIS REVEALS ABOUT MAN

Man was created to:

- Walk with God
- Work with purpose
- Love sacrificially
- Lead responsibly
- Teach the next generation

“Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.” (*Ecclesiastes 12:13*)

Without this foundation:

- Strength becomes cruelty
- Leadership becomes domination
- Sex becomes misuse
- Work becomes slavery or avoidance

5. NEW TESTAMENT CONFIRMATION

Creation was not canceled by Christ — it was **restored**.

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works...”
(*Ephesians 2:10*)

“The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.”
(*1 Corinthians 15:45*)

Jesus restores man to what he was meant to be.

6. SELF-EXAMINATION (DO NOT SKIP)

Ask each man to answer **silently**:

1. Do I live as if my life belongs to God — or to myself?
2. Do I see work as a calling or something to avoid?
3. Do I respect God’s design for family and order?
4. Am I building something that will outlast me?

“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”
(*Psalms 90:12*)

7. SUMMARY STATEMENT (FOR MEMORY)

Man was created by God, for God, to reflect God — in relationship, responsibility, and obedience.

Section Two — Man and Woman: Oneness by Design

Before God speaks of leadership, work, or children, He speaks of oneness.

1. WHAT IS READ — THE TEXT

Primary Texts (Read Aloud Together)

“So God created man in His own image,
in the image of God He created him;
male and female He created them.”
(*Genesis 1:27*)

“Then the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I
will make him a helper fit for him.’”
(*Genesis 2:18*)

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his
wife, and they shall become one flesh.”
(*Genesis 2:24*)

“What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”
(*Mark 10:9*)

2. WHAT IT MEANS — GOD’S DESIGN

A. Male and Female Were Created Intentionally

God did not create humanity as one interchangeable being.

He created **two**, distinct yet equal in value.

“Male and female He created them.”

This distinction is **not cultural**, **not temporary**, and **not negotiable**.

It is part of creation itself.

B. Woman Was Created as a Complement, Not a Copy

Man was incomplete *alone*.

“It is not good that the man should be alone.”

This is the first thing in creation God calls “not good.”

Woman was created as a **helper fit for him** — suitable, corresponding, completing.

She was not:

- a servant
- an accessory
- an afterthought

She was **necessary**.

C. Marriage Is a Covenant of Oneness

Marriage is not primarily emotional.

It is **ontological** — something real happens.

“They shall become one flesh.”

This is why:

- Marriage is permanent
- Sexuality is sacred
- Divorce wounds deeply
- Casual sex damages the soul

You are not just sharing bodies.
You are binding lives.

3. WHAT IS OFTEN MISSED — THE HIDDEN DETAIL

A. Woman Was Taken From Man's Side

Not from his head — to rule over him
Not from his feet — to be trampled

But from his side.

“And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man He made into a woman...” (*Genesis 2:22*)

This symbolizes:

- Equality of worth
- Closeness of relationship
- Protection and unity

B. Leadership Was Given *Before* the Fall

Male leadership is not a result of sin.

It existed **before** sin.

Adam was given the command
Eve was formed afterward

This makes leadership a **responsibility**, not a privilege.

After the fall, leadership becomes **burdensome**, but not abolished.

C. Oneness Requires Leaving

“A man shall leave his father and mother...”

This means:

- Emotional independence
- Financial responsibility
- Loyalty transferred to wife

A man who will not leave cannot truly unite.

4. SEXUALITY — A WARNING AND A WISDOM

Sex is the **physical expression** of oneness.

Outside of marriage, it:

- Imitates covenant without commitment
- Creates attachment without protection
- Binds hearts that may not belong together

“Flee from sexual immorality... he who sins sexually sins against his own body.”

(1 Corinthians 6:18)

This is not restriction — it is **protection**.

5. THE MAN’S RESPONSIBILITY IN MARRIAGE

A. Leadership Through Love

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.”

(Ephesians 5:25)

Leadership means:

- Sacrifice before comfort
- Responsibility before rights
- Service before authority

B. Treasuring, Not Using

“He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.”
(*Proverbs 18:22*)

A wife is not a tool for pleasure or status.
She is a **gift entrusted** to the man.

C. Teaching the Next Generation

Marriage is not private.
Children are watching.

“These words... you shall teach them diligently to your children.”
(*Deuteronomy 6:6–7*)

A man teaches his children what marriage means by how he lives it.

6. NEW TESTAMENT CONFIRMATION

Jesus affirms Genesis — He does not revise it.

“Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female?”
(*Matthew 19:4*)

Paul reinforces it:

“Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman.”
(*1 Corinthians 11:11*)

Distinct — yet inseparable.

7. SELF-EXAMINATION (DO NOT SKIP)

Each man should ask himself:

1. Do I honor God's design for women?
2. Am I preparing myself to be responsible for another life?
3. Do I treat sexuality as sacred or casual?
4. Am I willing to lead with sacrifice, not control?

“Let marriage be held in honor among all...”
(*Hebrews 13:4*)

8. SUMMARY STATEMENT (FOR MEMORY)

Man and woman were created distinct, equal in value, and united by God to become one — not for convenience, but for covenant.

Section Three — Work: Man's Calling, Dignity, and Completeness

Before God gave man a wife, He gave him work.

1. WHAT IS READ — THE TEXT

Primary Texts (Read Aloud Together)

“The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.”

(Genesis 2:15)

“By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread...”

(Genesis 3:19)

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.”

(Colossians 3:23)

“If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.”

(2 Thessalonians 3:10)

2. WHAT IT MEANS — GOD'S DESIGN

A. Work Was Given Before Sin

Work is not a curse.

It existed **before** the fall.

Man was placed in the garden:

- to *work it*
- to *keep it*

This shows that work is part of **human purpose**, not punishment.

Sin made work:

- harder
- frustrating
- tiring

But sin did **not** make work meaningless.

B. Work Completes the Man

A man without work:

- drifts
- grows bitter
- becomes dependent
- seeks escape in pleasure or anger

Work gives:

- rhythm to life
- responsibility
- self-respect
- provision for others

“You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed.”
(*Psalms* 128:2)

C. Work Is Stewardship, Not Ownership

Man does not work to **possess** creation,
but to **care for** what belongs to God.

“The earth is the LORD’s...” (*Psalm 24:1*)

This guards against:

- greed
- exploitation
- pride

A man works *under* God, not *instead* of Him.

3. WHAT IS OFTEN MISSED — THE HIDDEN DETAIL

A. Adam Was Given Responsibility Before Companionship

God did not give Adam a wife first.

He gave him:

- boundaries
- instruction
- responsibility

This teaches:

- Provision precedes partnership
- Responsibility precedes leadership

A man who cannot manage work is not ready to manage a household.

B. Laziness Is Not Neutral

Scripture treats laziness as a moral issue.

“A little sleep, a little slumber... and poverty will come upon you.”
(*Proverbs 6:10–11*)

Laziness:

- weakens character
- burdens others
- dishonors God

It is not rest.

It is **avoidance of calling**.

C. Not All Work Is Visible — But All Work Matters

Some work is:

- physical
- public
- admired

Some work is:

- unseen
- repetitive
- humble

God sees all of it.

“Your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”
(*Matthew 6:4*)

Faithfulness matters more than status.

4. WORK AND MANHOOD

A man's work should:

- provide for himself
- prepare him to provide for others
- develop discipline
- build patience and endurance

“Aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands...”

(1 Thessalonians 4:11)

Work trains a man to:

- submit to authority
- persevere through difficulty
- delay gratification

These are marks of maturity.

5. NEW TESTAMENT CONFIRMATION

Jesus worked.

He did not begin His public ministry until after years of labor.

“Is not this the carpenter?” *(Mark 6:3)*

Paul worked with his hands:

“You yourselves know how you ought to imitate us... we worked night and day.”

(2 Thessalonians 3:7–8)

Work is not beneath a godly man.
It is **expected** of him.

6. A WARNING AGAINST IDENTITY IN WORK ALONE

Work is essential — but it is not salvation.

A man who builds his identity only on work will:

- collapse when work is taken away
- neglect family
- mistake success for righteousness

“What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?”
(*Mark 8:36*)

Work serves purpose.
It does not *define* worth.

7. SELF-EXAMINATION (DO NOT SKIP)

Each man should ask:

1. Do I work faithfully, even when unseen?
2. Do I avoid responsibility or embrace it?
3. Am I preparing myself to provide for others?
4. Do I honor God through the way I labor?

“Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.”
(*Proverbs 16:3*)

8. SUMMARY STATEMENT (FOR MEMORY)

God gave man work not to crush him, but to complete him — shaping responsibility, provision, and purpose.

Section Four — Accepting God’s Design: Identity, Contentment, and Gratitude

A man who rejects how God made him will struggle to accept what God calls him to do.

1. WHAT IS READ — THE TEXT

Primary Texts (Read Aloud Together)

“For You formed my inward parts;
You knitted me together in my mother’s womb.
I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”
(*Psalm 139:13–14*)

“But who are you, O man, to answer back to God?
Will what is molded say to its molder, ‘Why have you made me like this?’”
(*Romans 9:20*)

“As it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as He chose.”
(*1 Corinthians 12:18*)

“Godliness with contentment is great gain.”
(*1 Timothy 6:6*)

2. WHAT IT MEANS — GOD’S DESIGN

A. God Designed Every Man Intentionally

Nothing about you is accidental.

Your:

- body
- intellect

- temperament
- limitations
- strengths

were known to God before you existed.

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.”
(*Jeremiah 1:5*)

This means your life is not random.
It is **assigned**.

B. Differences Are Not Errors

God did not design all men the same.

Some are:

- strong
- quiet
- intellectual
- physical
- artistic
- practical

Comparison leads to pride or despair.
Both are forms of rebellion.

“If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing?”
(*1 Corinthians 12:17*)

God builds **unity through difference**, not sameness.

C. Contentment Is an Act of Trust

Discontent says:

- “God made a mistake”
- “God gave someone else more”
- “God owes me something different”

Contentment says:

- “God is wise”
- “God sees what I cannot”
- “God will use what He gave me”

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”
(*Psalms 23:1*)

3. WHAT IS OFTEN MISSED — THE HIDDEN DETAIL

A. Envy Is Not a Small Sin

Envy grows quietly but poisons deeply.

It leads to:

- bitterness
- comparison
- resentment toward God
- resentment toward others

“Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder.”
(*James 3:16*)

Envy says more about our **lack of trust** than our lack of opportunity.

B. Limitations Are Part of Calling

God often works *through* weakness.

“My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.”
(2 *Corinthians* 12:9)

A man who accepts his limits:

- becomes teachable
- depends on God
- avoids arrogance

Strength without humility destroys.
Weakness surrendered produces fruit.

C. Gratitude Shapes Character

A thankful man:

- works harder
- complains less
- honors God more
- endures hardship better

“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God.”
(1 *Thessalonians* 5:18)

Gratitude guards the heart.

4. IDENTITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Your identity is not:

- your wealth
- your job
- your strength
- your appearance
- your comparison to others

Your identity is:

- created by God
- redeemed by Christ
- assigned a purpose

“You are not your own, for you were bought with a price.”
(*1 Corinthians 6:19–20*)

Identity precedes obedience.

5. NEW TESTAMENT CONFIRMATION

Jesus accepted the Father’s will without complaint.

“Not My will, but Yours, be done.”
(*Luke 22:42*)

Paul learned contentment:

“I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.”
(*Philippians 4:11*)

Contentment is learned — not automatic.

6. A WARNING ABOUT REJECTION OF DESIGN

When a man rejects how God made him, he often:

- pursues false identities
- resents authority
- avoids responsibility
- blames others

“Professing to be wise, they became fools.”
(*Romans 1:22*)

Peace comes not from self-invention, but from **submission**.

7. SELF-EXAMINATION (DO NOT SKIP)

Each man should ask:

1. Where do I compare myself to others?
2. Do I complain about what God gave me?
3. Do I trust God’s wisdom in how He made me?
4. Am I grateful for what I have been entrusted?

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.”
(*James 4:10*)

8. SUMMARY STATEMENT (FOR MEMORY)

God designed each man with intention; peace comes when we accept His design with humility, gratitude, and trust.

Section Five — Purpose, Gifts, and Accountability: Use It or Lose It

God gives gifts freely. He does not ignore how they are used.

1. WHAT IS READ — THE TEXT

Primary Texts (Read Aloud Together)

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

(Ephesians 2:10)

“To whom much was given, of him much will be required.”

(Luke 12:48)

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”

(1 Peter 4:10)

“For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”

(Romans 11:29)

2. WHAT IT MEANS — GOD’S DESIGN

A. Every Man Is Entrusted With Something

God does not create spectators.

Every man is given:

- abilities
- opportunities
- influence

- time
- strength

These are **entrustments**, not possessions.

“It is required of stewards that they be found faithful.”
(*1 Corinthians 4:2*)

A man’s life is measured not by what he claims, but by what he does with what he was given.

B. Gifts Are Given for Service, Not Status

Gifts are not given to elevate self.
They are given to **build others**.

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit... to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”
(*1 Corinthians 12:4–7*)

When gifts become tools of pride, they lose their purpose.

C. Calling Requires Obedience

Calling is not discovered through comfort.
It is discovered through **faithful obedience**.

“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much.”
(*Luke 16:10*)

Men often wait for clarity before acting.
God often gives clarity *after* obedience.

3. WHAT IS OFTEN MISSED — THE HIDDEN DETAIL

A. Neglect Is a Sin of Omission

Many men fear obvious sin,
but ignore neglected obedience.

Jesus warns of this clearly:

“You wicked and slothful servant...”
(*Matthew 25:26*)

The servant was condemned not for misuse, but for **inaction**.

God judges not only what we do wrong —
but what we refuse to do right.

B. Gifts Can Be Taken Away

Scripture is clear and sobering.

“From the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”
(*Matthew 25:29*)

This does not mean salvation is lost,
but **opportunity** can be.

A wasted life cannot be replayed.

C. God’s Plan Moves Forward Regardless

God’s purposes are not dependent on one man.

“If you keep silent... relief and deliverance will rise from another place.”
(*Esther 4:14*)

But the man who refuses obedience loses:

- reward
- purpose
- joy

- participation

God loses nothing.

The man loses everything.

4. PURPOSE AND DISCIPLINE

Purpose without discipline becomes intention without action.

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize?”

(1 Corinthians 9:24–27)

Discipline shapes:

- habits
- consistency
- endurance
- trustworthiness

God entrusts more to disciplined men.

5. NEW TESTAMENT CONFIRMATION

Jesus modeled faithful obedience:

“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.”

(John 4:34)

Paul warns believers:

“So run that you may obtain it.”

(1 Corinthians 9:24)

Faith is not passive.
It is **active trust**.

6. A WARNING TO THE UNWILLING

A man who refuses to use his gifts often:

- blames circumstances
- envies others
- delays obedience
- excuses inactivity

Scripture offers no comfort to such a man.

“Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”
(*Luke 6:46*)

Obedience is the evidence of faith.

7. SELF-EXAMINATION (DO NOT SKIP)

Each man should ask:

1. What has God entrusted to me?
2. Am I using it faithfully or burying it?
3. Do I obey when unseen?
4. What would obedience cost me — and why do I resist it?

“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith.”
(*2 Corinthians 13:5*)

8. SUMMARY STATEMENT (FOR MEMORY)

God entrusts every man with gifts and purpose; faithfulness brings reward, neglect brings loss.

Section Six — Leadership and Responsibility: Loving Authority and Protection

*Biblical leadership is not about control.
It is about responsibility before God.*

1. WHAT IS READ — THE TEXT

Primary Texts (Read Aloud Together)

“Then the LORD God commanded the man...”
(*Genesis 2:16*)

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her.”
(*Ephesians 5:25*)

“For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church.”
(*Ephesians 5:23*)

“Whoever would be great among you must be your servant.”
(*Mark 10:43*)

2. WHAT IT MEANS — GOD’S DESIGN

A. Leadership Was Given Before the Fall

God addressed **Adam first**.

The command was given to the man before the woman was formed.

This establishes:

- responsibility
- accountability

- order

Leadership is not the result of sin.
It is part of God's design.

B. Leadership Is Burden, Not Privilege

Headship does not mean:

- superiority
- entitlement
- domination

It means **answerability**.

“Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required.”
(*Luke 12:48*)

A leader answers for:

- direction
- protection
- provision
- teaching

When leadership fails, God does not first ask the followers — He asks the leader.

C. Christ Defines Leadership

Christ does not lead by force.
He leads by sacrifice.

“The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

(Mark 10:45)

This is the pattern for men:

- sacrifice before comfort
- responsibility before rights
- obedience before authority

3. WHAT IS OFTEN MISSED — THE HIDDEN DETAIL

A. Abdication Is as Sinful as Abuse

Some men misuse authority.

Others abandon it entirely.

Both are condemned.

A man who refuses to lead:

- leaves others unprotected
- invites disorder
- avoids accountability

“If anyone does not provide for his relatives... he has denied the faith.”

(1 Timothy 5:8)

Silence and passivity are not humility.

They are negligence.

B. Leadership Begins at Home

Leadership does not start in public.
It starts in private.

“If someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church?”

(1 Timothy 3:5)

A man’s leadership is proven:

- in consistency
- in patience
- in integrity
- in daily faithfulness

C. Authority Exists for Protection

Authority is given to **protect**, not to dominate.

“He is God’s servant for your good.”

(Romans 13:4)

A godly leader:

- shields the vulnerable
- sets boundaries
- confronts sin with truth
- stands firm when it is costly

4. LEADERSHIP AND WOMEN

A man’s leadership toward women must reflect Christ’s posture toward the Church.

“Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor...”

(1 Peter 3:7)

This means:

- listening before commanding
- honoring without weakness
- strength without harshness

Leadership that wounds is not biblical leadership.

5. NEW TESTAMENT CONFIRMATION

Jesus rebukes worldly leadership models:

“The rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them... It shall not be so among you.”

(Matthew 20:25–26)

Paul reinforces accountability:

“Each of us will give an account of himself to God.”

(Romans 14:12)

Leadership always answers upward.

6. A WARNING TO MEN

A man who desires authority without sacrifice is dangerous.

“Not many of you should become teachers... for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.”

(James 3:1)

God takes leadership seriously.

Men should too.

7. SELF-EXAMINATION (DO NOT SKIP)

Each man should ask:

1. Do I lead by serving or by demanding?
2. Do I avoid responsibility when it is uncomfortable?
3. Am I accountable to God for others under my care?
4. Would those closest to me call me loving and firm?

“Let each one take care how he builds.”

(1 Corinthians 3:10)

8. SUMMARY STATEMENT (FOR MEMORY)

Biblical leadership is sacrificial responsibility before God, not control over others.

Section Seven — The Heart of Obedience: Law, Conscience, and Christ

*God does not merely command behavior.
He confronts the heart.*

1. WHAT IS READ — THE TEXT

Primary Texts (Read Aloud Together)

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart...”
(*Deuteronomy 6:4–5*)

“I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.”
(*Jeremiah 31:33*)

“You have heard that it was said... But I say to you...”
(*Matthew 5:21–22*)

“Man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”
(*1 Samuel 16:7*)

2. WHAT IT MEANS — GOD’S DESIGN

A. The Law Reveals God’s Character

God’s law was not given merely to control behavior.
It reveals:

- holiness
- justice
- love
- order

“The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul.”
(*Psalms 19:7*)

The problem was never the law.
The problem was the **human heart**.

B. Obedience Was Always About Love

From the beginning, obedience was relational.

“You shall love the LORD your God...”

Obedience without love becomes:

- pride
- self-righteousness
- hypocrisy

Love without obedience becomes:

- sentimentality
- excuse-making
- rebellion

God requires **both**.

C. The Conscience Is God-Given

Even before Christ, God placed moral awareness within man.

“They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts.”
(*Romans 2:15*)

The conscience:

- warns
- convicts
- guides

But it can also be:

- ignored
- dulled
- corrupted

Which is why God promises something deeper.

3. WHAT IS OFTEN MISSED — THE HIDDEN DETAIL

A. Jesus Raises the Standard — He Does Not Lower It

Jesus does not relax God's law.
He **intensifies** it.

“You have heard it said, ‘Do not murder’... but I say to you that everyone who is angry...”
(*Matthew 5:21–22*)

“You have heard it said, ‘Do not commit adultery’... but I say to you that everyone who looks with lust...”
(*Matthew 5:27–28*)

Jesus exposes:

- motives
- intentions
- inner desires

The goal is not condemnation —
it is **honest confrontation with the heart**.

B. External Obedience Can Hide Inner Rebellion

A man may:

- follow rules
- appear moral
- avoid obvious sin

And still be far from God.

“This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.”
(*Isaiah 29:13*)

Religion can mask rebellion.
Only humility reveals truth.

C. The Heart Determines Direction

Behavior follows desire.

“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”
(*Luke 6:45*)

If the heart is unexamined:

- sin multiplies quietly
- justification grows
- repentance fades

4. CHRIST AND THE NEW HEART

God knew the law alone was insufficient.

So He promised:

- a new covenant
- a new heart
- a new spirit

“I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.”
(*Ezekiel 36:26*)

Christ fulfills this promise.

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”
(*John 14:15*)

Obedience becomes **evidence of love**, not a means of earning favor.

5. NEW TESTAMENT CONFIRMATION

Paul explains the inner battle:

“I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.”
(*Romans 7:19*)

This reveals:

- the limits of willpower
- the need for grace
- the work of the Spirit

Victory is not achieved by effort alone,
but by **submission and renewal**.

6. A WARNING ABOUT SELF-DECEPTION

A man may believe he is obedient because:

- he compares himself to others
- he avoids major scandal
- he follows religious routines

Scripture warns strongly against this.

“Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”
(*James 1:22*)

God is not fooled by appearances.

7. SELF-EXAMINATION (DO NOT SKIP)

Each man should ask:

1. Do I obey from love or from fear?
2. Where do I excuse sin in my thoughts?
3. Is my conscience soft or hardened?
4. Do I invite God to search my heart?

“Search me, O God, and know my heart.”
(*Psalms 139:23–24*)

8. SUMMARY STATEMENT (FOR MEMORY)

True obedience flows from a transformed heart — not from rules alone, but from love for God.

Section Eight — How a Man Treats Others: Justice, Mercy, and Love in Action

*A man's faith is proven not by what he claims,
but by how he treats those around him.*

1. WHAT IS READ — THE TEXT

Primary Texts (Read Aloud Together)

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
(*Leviticus 19:18*)

“What does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?”
(*Micah 6:8*)

“You have heard that it was said...
But I say to you...”
(*Matthew 5:38–39*)

“By this all people will know that you are My disciples,
if you have love for one another.”
(*John 13:35*)

2. WHAT IT MEANS — GOD'S DESIGN

A. Love of God Is Proven Through Love of Others

Scripture never separates the two.

“Whoever loves God must also love his brother.”
(*1 John 4:21*)

A man may speak eloquently about God,
but if he is harsh, unjust, or cruel to others,
his faith is hollow.

B. Justice Is Not Optional

Justice means:

- honesty
- fairness
- restraint of power
- protection of the vulnerable

“The LORD loves righteousness and justice.”
(*Psalms 33:5*)

A man who uses strength to exploit others violates God’s design.

C. Mercy Reflects God’s Character

Mercy does not deny truth.
It applies truth with compassion.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.”
(*Matthew 5:7*)

Mercy recognizes:

- we are all dependent on grace
- judgment belongs ultimately to God

3. WHAT IS OFTEN MISSED — THE HIDDEN DETAIL

A. Jesus Internalizes Social Righteousness

Jesus does not merely forbid retaliation.
He addresses the *spirit* behind it.

“If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.”
(*Matthew 5:39*)

This does **not** mean weakness.
It means refusing revenge and pride-driven response.

B. Loving Others Requires Self-Control

Much harm is done not by hatred,
but by uncontrolled anger, pride, or impatience.

“Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.”
(*James 1:19*)

A man who cannot control himself will eventually wound others.

C. The Poor, the Stranger, and the Weak Matter to God

God repeatedly measures righteousness by how men treat those with less power.

“You shall not oppress a sojourner...
You shall love him as yourself.”
(*Leviticus 19:33–34*)

A man’s faith is exposed by how he treats those who cannot repay him.

4. CHRIST'S STANDARD FOR TREATING OTHERS

Jesus summarizes the law:

“Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them.”
(*Matthew 7:12*)

This applies to:

- family
- neighbors
- coworkers
- enemies

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”
(*Matthew 5:44*)

This is impossible without a transformed heart.

5. NEW TESTAMENT CONFIRMATION

Paul clarifies what love looks like:

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast...”
(*1 Corinthians 13:4–7*)

James gives a warning:

“Religion that is pure... is to visit orphans and widows in their affliction.”
(*James 1:27*)

Faith that does not move outward is incomplete.

6. A WARNING ABOUT HYPOCRISY

Jesus speaks most harshly to religious men who mistreat others.

“Woe to you... you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness.”

(Matthew 23:23)

God is not impressed by ritual without righteousness.

7. SELF-EXAMINATION (DO NOT SKIP)

Each man should ask:

1. How do I treat people when no one is watching?
2. Am I quick to anger or slow to listen?
3. Do I show mercy to those who fail?
4. Would others describe me as just and kind?

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger... be put away from you.”

(Ephesians 4:31–32)

8. SUMMARY STATEMENT (FOR MEMORY)

A godly man reflects God’s justice and mercy by how he treats others — not in word only, but in action.

Section Nine — Brotherhood and Discipline: Why God Gave Men Other Men

God never designed a man to stand alone in obedience.

1. WHAT IS READ — THE TEXT

Primary Texts (Read Aloud Together)

“It is not good that the man should be alone.”
(*Genesis 2:18*)

“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”
(*Proverbs 27:17*)

“Two are better than one... For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow.”
(*Ecclesiastes 4:9–10*)

“Exhort one another every day... that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”
(*Hebrews 3:13*)

2. WHAT IT MEANS — GOD’S DESIGN

A. Strength Was Never Meant to Be Isolated

From creation onward, isolation is dangerous.

God’s statement:

“It is not good that the man should be alone”

does not apply only to marriage —
it applies to **life, obedience, and spiritual warfare.**

A lone man:

- lacks perspective
- justifies sin more easily
- grows prideful or discouraged

B. Brotherhood Is God's Provision for Accountability

God places men together so they:

- encourage obedience
- confront sin
- strengthen resolve
- remind one another of truth

“Bear one another's burdens.” (*Galatians 6:2*)

Accountability is not control.

It is **care**.

C. Discipline Grows Best in Community

Discipline requires:

- consistency
- correction
- encouragement

Left alone, discipline fades.

In brotherhood, discipline is sustained.

“Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.”
(*Hebrews 10:24*)

3. WHAT IS OFTEN MISSED — THE HIDDEN DETAIL

A. Isolation Is the Enemy's Strategy

Scripture repeatedly shows temptation striking when men are alone.

David fell alone.

Samson drifted alone.

Elijah despaired alone.

“Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion.”

(1 Peter 5:8)

Lions hunt stragglers.

B. Brotherhood Requires Humility

Brotherhood fails when pride rules.

A man who cannot:

- receive correction
- admit weakness
- confess sin

cannot grow.

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

(James 4:6)

Strength begins with humility.

C. Not All Companionship Is Brotherhood

Many men have:

- friends
- coworkers
- drinking companions

But few have **brothers**.

Brotherhood is marked by:

- truth over comfort
- faithfulness over flattery
- commitment over convenience

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend.”
(*Proverbs 27:6*)

4. DISCIPLINE — TRAINING, NOT PUNISHMENT

Discipline is not harshness.
It is training.

“For the Lord disciplines the one He loves.”
(*Hebrews 12:6*)

A disciplined man:

- orders his time
- restrains his desires
- practices self-control
- submits to instruction

“I discipline my body and keep it under control.”
(*1 Corinthians 9:27*)

Discipline protects freedom.

5. NEW TESTAMENT CONFIRMATION

Jesus formed a brotherhood.

He did not walk alone.

He chose twelve.

“He appointed twelve... so that they might be with Him.”
(*Mark 3:14*)

Paul depended on fellow laborers:

“Luke alone is with me.”
(*2 Timothy 4:11*)

Even the strongest men of faith needed others.

6. A WARNING TO MEN WHO WALK ALONE

A man who refuses brotherhood often:

- hides sin
- resists correction
- confuses independence with strength

Scripture gives no praise to such men.

“Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire.”
(*Proverbs 18:1*)

Isolation feeds self-deception.

7. SELF-EXAMINATION (DO NOT SKIP)

Each man should ask:

1. Do I walk in isolation or community?
2. Who has permission to speak truth into my life?
3. Do I resist correction or welcome it?
4. Am I sharpening others — or dulling them?

“Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another.”
(*James 5:16*)

8. SUMMARY STATEMENT (FOR MEMORY)

God strengthens men through brotherhood; isolation weakens resolve and invites failure.

Section Ten — Temptation, Sin, and Self-Control: Fighting the Flesh

A man who does not understand temptation will be ruled by it.

1. WHAT IS READ — THE TEXT

Primary Texts (Read Aloud Together)

“Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”
(*James 1:14–15*)

“Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
(*Matthew 26:41*)

“Flee from sexual immorality.”
(*1 Corinthians 6:18*)

“I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”
(*Galatians 5:16*)

2. WHAT IT MEANS — GOD’S DESIGN

A. Temptation Is Not Sin — Yielding Is

Scripture is clear:
temptation itself is not sin.

Jesus was tempted.

“Jesus was led up by the Spirit... to be tempted by the devil.”
(*Matthew 4:1*)

Sin begins when desire is entertained, justified, and acted upon.

Temptation reveals **where vigilance is needed**, not where condemnation is required.

B. The Flesh Is Real — and Persistent

The flesh is the fallen human nature that resists God.

“For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh.”
(*Romans 7:18*)

The flesh:

- seeks comfort
- avoids discipline
- craves pleasure
- resents restraint

A man who ignores the flesh will be surprised by his own failure.

C. Self-Control Is a Fruit, Not a Talent

Self-control is not merely willpower.
It is cultivated by the Spirit.

“The fruit of the Spirit is... self-control.”
(*Galatians 5:22–23*)

This means:

- it must be nurtured
- it grows with obedience
- it weakens when neglected

3. WHAT IS OFTEN MISSED — THE HIDDEN DETAIL

A. Sin Begins in Small Compromises

Rarely does sin appear fully formed.

It begins with:

- rationalization
- secrecy
- delay of repentance

“Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart.”
(*Hebrews 3:12*)

What is tolerated today becomes bondage tomorrow.

B. Private Sin Always Has Public Consequences

Even hidden sin shapes:

- character
- tone
- relationships
- leadership

“Be sure your sin will find you out.”
(*Numbers 32:23*)

No sin remains isolated forever.

C. Fighting Sin Requires Fleeing, Not Negotiating

Scripture does not say “manage” temptation.

It says **flee**.

“Flee youthful passions.”
(2 Timothy 2:22)

A man who stays near temptation is already losing.

4. PRACTICAL SELF-CONTROL

A disciplined man:

- orders his time
- guards his eyes
- limits his exposure
- avoids idle hours

“Make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.”
(Romans 13:14)

Self-control grows through:

- habits
- structure
- accountability
- prayer

5. NEW TESTAMENT CONFIRMATION

Paul describes the battle honestly:

“I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.”
(1 Corinthians 9:27)

This is vigilance, not fear.

Victory is not perfection —
it is **persistence in repentance and obedience**.

6. FAILURE, REPENTANCE, AND RESTORATION

A man will stumble.
Scripture assumes this.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us.”
(*1 John 1:9*)

Failure does not define a man.
Refusal to repent does.

“The righteous falls seven times and rises again.”
(*Proverbs 24:16*)

God restores the humble.

7. A WARNING AGAINST HARDENING

Repeated sin without repentance:

- dulls the conscience
- weakens resolve
- invites greater bondage

“Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.”
(*Hebrews 3:15*)

Delay is dangerous.

8. SELF-EXAMINATION (DO NOT SKIP)

Each man should ask:

1. Where am I most vulnerable?
2. Do I flee temptation or entertain it?
3. Do I repent quickly or hide?
4. Who knows my struggles and prays with me?

“Create in me a clean heart, O God.”

(Psalm 51:10)

9. SUMMARY STATEMENT (FOR MEMORY)

Temptation is inevitable; surrender is not.

Victory is found in vigilance, repentance, and walking by the Spirit.

Section Eleven — Christ, the Cross, and True Manhood: Strength Through Surrender

*Manhood is not proven by independence,
but by submission to Christ.*

1. WHAT IS READ — THE TEXT

Primary Texts (Read Aloud Together)

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

(Mark 10:45)

“He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

(Philippians 2:8)

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”

(Galatians 2:20)

“If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”

(Luke 9:23)

2. WHAT IT MEANS — GOD’S DESIGN

A. Christ Redefines Strength

The world defines strength as:

- dominance
- self-assertion
- control

- independence

Christ defines strength as:

- obedience
- humility
- sacrifice
- submission to the Father

“Though He was in the form of God... He emptied Himself.”
(*Philippians 2:6–7*)

True strength is the ability to lay down one’s life in obedience to God.

B. The Cross Exposes False Manhood

At the cross:

- pride is stripped away
- self-reliance is shattered
- excuses are silenced

“God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.”
(*1 Corinthians 1:27*)

A man who avoids the cross will always protect his ego.

A man who embraces the cross will grow in Christlikeness.

C. Redemption Restores Purpose

Sin did not erase God’s design — it distorted it.

The cross restores:

- relationship with God
- clarity of purpose
- power to obey

“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”
(*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

Manhood is not reinvented.
It is **redeemed**.

3. WHAT IS OFTEN MISSED — THE HIDDEN DETAIL

A. Jesus Obeyed Under Pressure

Jesus was not spared difficulty.

“He learned obedience through what He suffered.”
(*Hebrews 5:8*)

Obedience is proven when it costs something.

Suffering does not negate sonship.
It refines it.

B. The Cross Precedes the Crown

Glory follows humility.

“Therefore God has highly exalted Him...”
(*Philippians 2:9*)

Men who seek authority without sacrifice misunderstand the Kingdom.

God exalts the humble — not the demanding.

C. Grace Does Not Remove Responsibility

Grace forgives sin.

It does not excuse disobedience.

“Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means!”
(*Romans 6:1–2*)

Grace empowers obedience.

It does not replace it.

4. TRUE MANHOOD IN CHRIST

A man in Christ:

- confesses sin quickly
- submits his will daily
- serves others sacrificially
- endures hardship faithfully

“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.”
(*1 Corinthians 16:13*)

Strength in Scripture is always tied to faithfulness.

5. NEW TESTAMENT CONFIRMATION

Paul rejects worldly measures of strength:

“When I am weak, then I am strong.”
(*2 Corinthians 12:10*)

This is not weakness celebrated —
it is **dependence on God embraced**.

Jesus tells Peter:

“When you are old... another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.”

(John 21:18)

Manhood matures toward surrender, not control.

6. A WARNING AGAINST A CROSSLESS FAITH

A faith without the cross:

- seeks comfort
- avoids repentance
- resists discipline
- produces shallow men

“They are enemies of the cross of Christ.”

(Philippians 3:18)

The cross offends pride.

That is why it must remain central.

7. SELF-EXAMINATION (DO NOT SKIP)

Each man should ask:

1. Do I follow Christ when obedience is costly?
2. Where do I resist surrender?
3. Have I accepted grace but avoided the cross?
4. Is Christ shaping my definition of strength?

“Search me, O God, and know my heart.”
(*Psalm 139:23*)

8. SUMMARY STATEMENT (FOR MEMORY)

True manhood is found at the cross — where pride dies, obedience begins, and Christ lives through us.

Section Twelve — The Fruit of the Spirit: Evidence of a Transformed Life

*The Spirit does not merely restrain sin.
He produces visible fruit.*

1. WHAT IS READ — THE TEXT

Primary Texts (Read Aloud Together)

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”
(*Galatians 5:22–23*)

“Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”
(*Galatians 5:16*)

“By their fruit you will recognize them.”
(*Matthew 7:20*)

“I am the vine; you are the branches... whoever abides in Me bears much fruit.”
(*John 15:5*)

2. WHAT IT MEANS — GOD’S DESIGN

A. Fruit Is Evidence, Not Effort

Fruit is not manufactured.
It is **produced**.

Fruit grows because a tree is alive.

The Spirit does not ask a man to *act holy*.
He transforms the man so holiness grows naturally.

“It is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”
(*Philippians 2:13*)

B. The Fruit Is Singular, With Many Expressions

Scripture says *fruit* (singular), not *fruits*.

This means the Spirit produces:

- a unified character
- not isolated traits

A man cannot claim patience while lacking kindness,
or self-control while lacking gentleness.

The fruit grows **together**.

C. Fruit Reveals Who Is Being Followed

The flesh produces:

- division
- anger
- impurity
- selfish ambition

(*Galatians 5:19–21*)

The Spirit produces life.

What grows in a man reveals who rules him.

3. WHAT IS OFTEN MISSED — THE HIDDEN DETAIL

A. Love Is the Root of All Fruit

Love stands first because it fuels the rest.

“If I have not love, I am nothing.”
(*1 Corinthians 13:2*)

Without love:

- patience becomes tolerance
- kindness becomes strategy
- self-control becomes pride

Love anchors everything.

B. Joy and Peace Are Not Circumstantial

Joy is not happiness.
Peace is not comfort.

“The joy of the LORD is your strength.”
(*Nehemiah 8:10*)

“Peace I leave with you... not as the world gives.”
(*John 14:27*)

A Spirit-led man remains steady when circumstances shake.

C. Self-Control Is the Capstone

Self-control protects the rest of the fruit.

Without it:

- love becomes indulgence
- joy becomes excess
- peace becomes avoidance

“Like a city broken into and left without walls is a man who lacks self-control.”

(Proverbs 25:28)

Self-control guards manhood.

4. THE FRUIT DISPLAYED IN DAILY LIFE

A man led by the Spirit will be:

- patient under pressure
- kind in authority
- faithful when unnoticed
- gentle in correction
- self-controlled in desire

“Put on then... compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.”

(Colossians 3:12)

Fruit is most visible **when tested**.

5. NEW TESTAMENT CONFIRMATION

Jesus ties fruit directly to abiding:

“Apart from Me you can do nothing.”

(John 15:5)

Paul reinforces:

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh.”
(*Galatians 5:24*)

Fruit is the sign of surrender.

6. A WARNING AGAINST IMITATION FRUIT

Some men attempt to *imitate* fruit without transformation.

This leads to:

- exhaustion
- hypocrisy
- pride
- eventual failure

“Having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power.”
(*2 Timothy 3:5*)

Fruit without roots will not last.

7. SELF-EXAMINATION (DO NOT SKIP)

Each man should ask:

1. What fruit is growing in my life?
2. Where am I resisting the Spirit?
3. Do others experience Christ through me?
4. Am I abiding or striving?

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith.”
(*2 Corinthians 13:5*)

8. SUMMARY STATEMENT (FOR MEMORY)

The Fruit of the Spirit is the visible evidence of Christ living within a man — shaping his character, conduct, and strength.

Section Thirteen — Living With the End in Mind: Legacy, Judgment, and Hope

A wise man lives today in light of eternity.

1. WHAT IS READ — THE TEXT

Primary Texts (Read Aloud Together)

“So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.”
(*Psalms 90:12*)

“It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.”
(*Hebrews 9:27*)

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.”
(*2 Corinthians 5:10*)

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”
(*Matthew 25:21*)

2. WHAT IT MEANS — GOD’S DESIGN

A. Life Is Temporary, Purpose Is Eternal

Scripture never hides the brevity of life.

“What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.”
(*James 4:14*)

This does not make life meaningless.
It makes it **urgent**.

A man who forgets death:

- wastes time

- delays obedience
- clings to comfort

A man who remembers death:

- chooses wisely
- forgives quickly
- invests eternally

B. Every Man Will Give an Account

Judgment is not only for unbelievers.

Believers will stand before Christ—not for condemnation, but for **evaluation**.

“Each one’s work will become manifest.”

(1 Corinthians 3:13)

This judgment asks:

- Were you faithful?
- Did you obey?
- Did you steward what was entrusted?

Grace saves.

Faithfulness is examined.

C. Legacy Is What Remains After You Are Gone

Legacy is not wealth.

It is not reputation.

It is not comfort.

Legacy is:

- faith passed on
- people shaped
- truth lived consistently

“The righteous who walks in his integrity—blessed are his children after him.”

(Proverbs 20:7)

A man’s life teaches long after his voice is silent.

3. WHAT IS OFTEN MISSED — THE HIDDEN DETAIL

A. Delayed Obedience Is Often Disobedience

Many men intend to:

- obey later
- repent later
- serve later

Scripture warns against this.

“Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.”

(Hebrews 3:15)

Tomorrow is not promised.

Obedience is always **now**.

B. Eternal Rewards Are Real

Scripture speaks of crowns—not as vanity, but as testimony of faithfulness.

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing My recompense with Me.”

(Revelation 22:12)

These rewards are not earned salvation.
They are acknowledgment of faithfulness.

A wasted life is forgiven,
but it is still **wasted**.

C. Hope Strengthens Endurance

Christian hope is not wishful thinking.

“Our citizenship is in heaven.”
(*Philippians 3:20*)

Hope allows a man to:

- endure suffering
- resist temptation
- remain faithful when unseen

Hope lifts the eyes beyond the moment.

4. FINISHING WELL

Scripture honors men who finished faithfully.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”
(*2 Timothy 4:7*)

Finishing well requires:

- perseverance
- humility
- repentance
- endurance

A strong start is good.
A faithful finish is better.

5. CHRIST'S PROMISE TO THE FAITHFUL

Jesus does not promise ease.
He promises presence.

“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”
(*Revelation 2:10*)

The ultimate reward is not crowns.
It is **Christ Himself**.

6. A FINAL WARNING — AND INVITATION

A man may:

- hear all this
- agree with it
- admire it

And still walk away unchanged.

“Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”
(*Luke 6:46*)

God does not call men to admire truth,
but to **live it**.

7. FINAL SELF-EXAMINATION (DO NOT SKIP)

Each man should ask:

1. If my life ended today, what would remain?

2. Am I living for comfort or obedience?
3. Have I delayed repentance or faithfulness?
4. Would I hear, “Well done”?

“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith.”
(2 Corinthians 13:5)

8. FINAL SUMMARY (FOR MEMORY)

A man who lives with eternity in view chooses faithfulness today, leaving a legacy that honors God and blesses others.

CLOSING CHARGE (FOR PASTORS TO READ)

*Men were not created to drift, indulge, or remain passive.
They were created to walk with God, love sacrificially, work faithfully, lead humbly, and finish well.*

*God’s purpose for man has not changed.
Only the cost of ignoring it has.*