

# Standard of a Man





## first thoughts

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Within these pages lie the visions for what I want you, my son, to become.

Should you ever seek direction in becoming a true man, I pray that you find it here. In the event that I am absent when you run into the most difficult times of your life, I pray that you may find the things that were dearest to my heart in these pages.

You will discover that the roots of all that you find in these pages are also within the Scriptures, which is the Word of God. Cling to it and it will nourish you as long as you live. It will be a light to your path and lead you to everlasting life. I pray that you have full knowledge of 3 things in your life.

- That you know the love of God in a personal way.
- That you know that I love my King, my wife, and my children--in that order.
- That you know what it means to be a man, and that you know when you have become one.



# Vision for Manhood

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A REAL MAN is one who rejects passivity, accepts responsibility, leads courageously, and expects the greater reward...God's reward.

- **Rejects Passivity** - not being lazy, acting on what is right; intentionally moving toward bettering yourself and those around you.
- **Accepts Responsibility** - carrying the burden of responsibility faithfully for your actions, thoughts, influence, provision, and protection.
- **Leads Courageously** - bravely pushing forward in the face of fear to lead your friends, church and others. When leading a family, provide vision then the resources and encouragement to achieve it
- **Expecting the Greater Reward** - understanding that God is the ultimate Accountant of all that happens. Do the right thing because it is a matter of obedience to God and leave the results to Him.





# a Code of Conduct

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*“A man’s character is his fate.”*

- Heraclitus

**A real man has a standard by which he lives his life.**

That standard for my son and me will be grounded in the Word of God. There we will find what makes a true man and what principles govern the way he lives his life.

## **Loyalty**

A feeling or attitude of devoted attachment and affection; steadfast love

*“Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, but who can find a trustworthy man?”*  
(Proverbs 20:6)

*“Trust is the confidence that continues to believe, even if what you believe appears to be untrue. To my way of thinking, trust is one step deeper than faith.”* - Preston Gillham

## **Servant-Leadership**

It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead. (Robert K. Greenleaf in *The Servant as Leader*)

*“Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave.”* (Matthew 20:26-27)

## **Kindness**

Of a good or benevolent nature or disposition

*“What is desirable in a man is his kindness.”* (Proverbs 19:22)

*“This is the final test of a gentleman: his respect for those who can be of no possible value to him.”* - William Lyon Phelps

## Meekness/Gentleness

A calm temper of mind, not easily provoked; power under control.

*"Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom."* (James 3:13)

*"There are an abundance of opportunities to show meekness every day, do not let them pass by without notice."* - Timothy Morris

## Humility

Walking without wanting to be noticed.

*"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves."* (Philippians 2:3)

*"Humility is what allows men to achieve great things for a purpose higher than themselves."*  
- Rick Johnson

## Purity

Freedom from anything that debases, contaminates, pollutes

*"Let no one look down on our faithfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe."* (1 Timothy 4:12)

*"All is not gold that glitters. All is not good that tastes sweet. All is not real pleasure that pleases for a time."* - J. C. Ryle

## Honesty

*"Free from deception, truthful, genuine, real, reputable, credible, marked by integrity, frank, upright, just, conscientious, honorable 'Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.'" (Ephesians 4:25)*

*"A man's word is his bond. A man's word is the measure of his character."* - Rick Johnson

## Self-Discipline/Self-Control

Discipline and training of oneself, usually for improvement of some nature

*"Have nothing to do with worldly fables...On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come."*  
(1 Timothy 4:7-8)

*"Self-discipline is doing what we don't want to do but should. Self-control is not doing something we want to do but shouldn't."* - Rick Johnson

## Excellence

Of the highest or finest quality; exceptionally good of its kind.

*"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize" Run in such a way that you may win.* (1 Corinthians 9:24)

*"Those who attain any sort of excellence commonly spend life in one pursuit; for excellence is not often granted upon easier terms."* -Samuel Johnson

## Integrity

Soundness of moral character; the state of being whole, entire, or undiminished.

*"He who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will be found out."*  
(Proverbs 10:9)

*"Doing the right thing, the right way, for the right reasons."* - unknown

## Perseverance

Steady persistence in a course of action, a purpose, a state in spite of difficulties, obstacles, or discouragement; intestinal fortitude.

*"Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary."* (Galatians 6:9)

*"Nothing in this world will take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common that unsuccessful people with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent."* - Calvin Coolidge

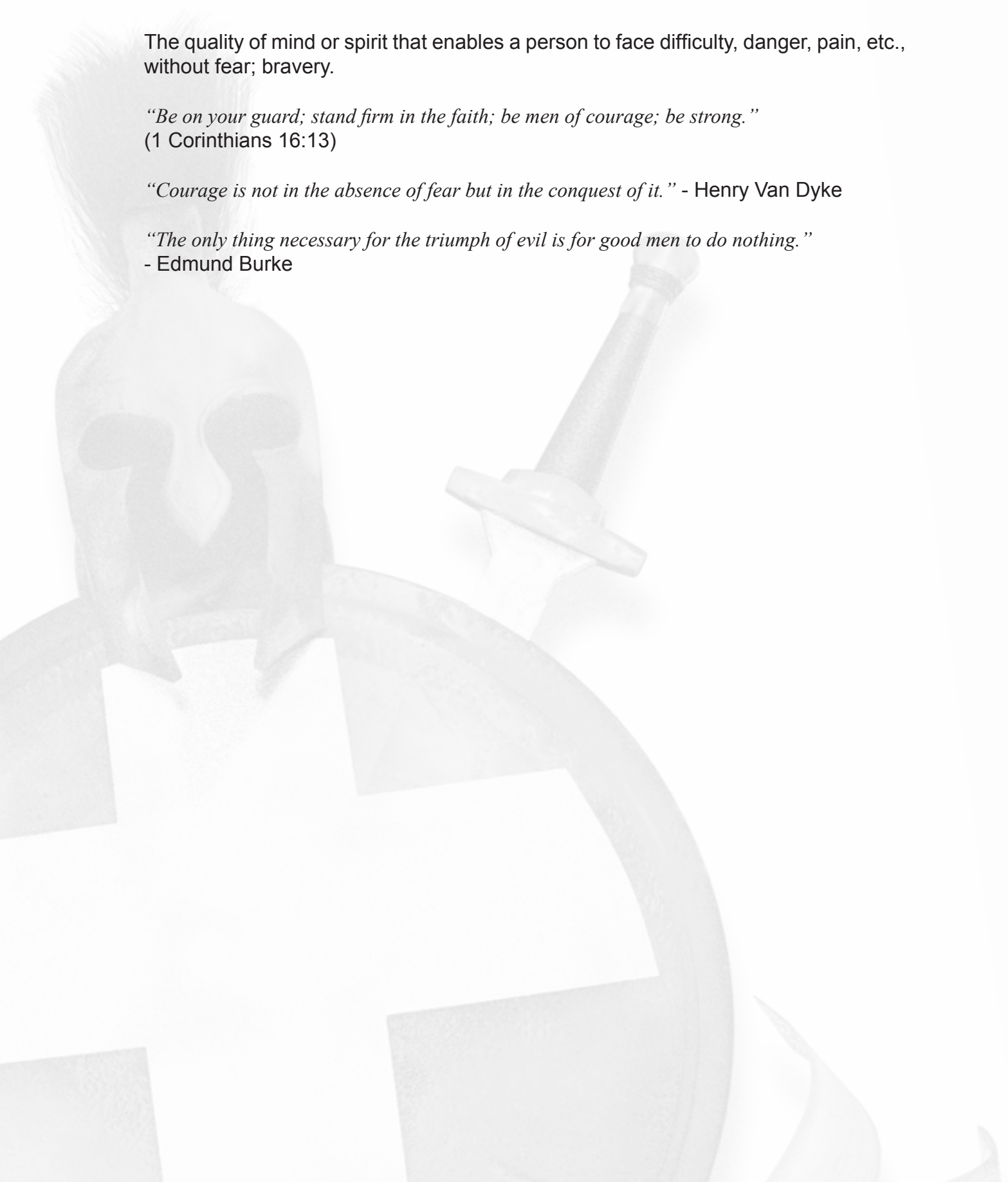
## Courage

The quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, pain, etc., without fear; bravery.

*"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong."*  
(1 Corinthians 16:13)

*"Courage is not in the absence of fear but in the conquest of it."* - Henry Van Dyke

*"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."*  
- Edmund Burke







# the transcendent Cause

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**A real man does not live merely for his own pleasure.**

He lives for something greater than himself; something outside of himself. While there are many things that you can live for, some are even valuable, they are not what you want to hold onto at the end of your life.

In the book of Ecclesiastes King Solomon wrestles with the question, "What is the point of life? What do I live for?" This is a very important question and each person will wrestle with it at some point in his or her life. Some at 40 and others at 12, but it will happen.

Solomon looks at multiple things that have the attention of many people around us. He looks at fame, money, success, rivalry, wisdom, and religion; all of which he determined were empty. Death is unavoidable and unpredictable; when it happens none of that matters.

However, Solomon does tell us what the point of our lives truly is. After looking at all of the options, King Solomon says in Ecclesiastes 12:13 *"The conclusion, after all has been heard, is this: 'Fear God and keep His commandments, for this applies to every person.'"*

This is the ultimate cause that I live for and will count for something after I die. I have chosen to live my life for the God of the Bible and the cause of His Son, Jesus Christ, to make Him known and to live my life in accordance with obedience to Him. I want you to live for that same transcendent cause.

Jesus Christ is the Son of God who came to the earth in the form of a man. He did this so that He could walk among us and ultimately die in our place so that we would have a way to heaven to be with God in eternal life.

Romans 3:23 - *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

Romans 6:23 - *"The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Romans 5:8 - *"But God demonstrated His own love towards us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*



John 14:6 - *“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”*

Romans 10:9-10 - *“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

2 Corinthians 5:15 - *“and He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”*

John 1:11-12 - *“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the children of God, to those who believe in His name.”*

**The cause is simply this** - To surrender your life to Jesus Christ as the Lord of your life because He died and rose again so that we might have everlasting life. We live not for ourselves but for Him (Jesus Christ) who died for us. This is the greatest noblest transcendent cause you can live for. Live to honor, glorify and make known the King of kings and Lord of lords.

There are a few things that you will help you in the moments that it seems to be too difficult. I want to share them with you. **You Can Trust Your Bible.** As you know, I believe the Bible to be God’s written word, inerrant and infallible. In it, you will find everything you need pertaining to wisdom, love, success, happiness and eternal life. You do not have to search the world for the most valuable treasure; you own it. That treasure is within these pages.

**The Spirit Will Teach You.** You will have many teachers and mentors throughout life, but whenever you read your Bible and do not understand something, simply ask the Holy Spirit to be your Teacher. Ask for wisdom and He will give it to you. As you open its pages, look for practical counsel, commands to obey, facts know, and promises to enjoy. The Bible holds the answers. It shows us what to do (doctrine), what not to do (reproof), what to do when we did not do what we were supposed to do (correction), and tells us how to stay on the right track (instruction in righteousness). 2 Timothy 3:16

**Have Faith.** Hebrews tells us that faith is having full confidence in the things for which we hope. It means being certain of the things which we cannot see. Your faith is what matters. Every person has faith and places it in something; place your faith in the Word of God.



# *the Love for a Woman*

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**A real man understands that he must learn to love a woman.**

There are a few areas that you must master in loving a woman. Focus on these few areas and you will love a woman in accordance with the transcendent cause instead of competing with the cause.

I am pursuing the same standard. I have not mastered all of these, but I am pursuing the very same causes that I urge you to pursue. Continue to watch me son, and I will do my best to teach you and show you all of what you need to do.

**Put Her First.** Paul writes that we are to love our wives as Jesus Christ loves the church. This is extremely difficult-- but at all times you need to put your wife first. This is not something that starts when you get married, it starts as a boy when you make the decision to fear God and keep His commandments.

**Pursue Her For Life.** Once you have made a decision to love her like Christ, you need to pursue her as the only woman in your life. This starts before you are married and well after. You must pursue her your whole life. Pursue her on her terms and not on yours.

**Communication Is Your Ticket.** When you think about how to win your wife's heart over and over, your ticket will be to consistently communicate with her. Make sure you talk with her about everything. Communication will make the difference between a good marriage and a miserable one. Honesty and vulnerability in your communication will make it great.

**Purity Matters.** There is no time too early to teach you about being pure. You will speak with different girls before you find the one who is to be your wife, but at all times you need to be sure that you keep yourself pure. The blessings that you will reap from this are far beyond anything that you could imagine. Simply put, your purity matters--to her and to God.

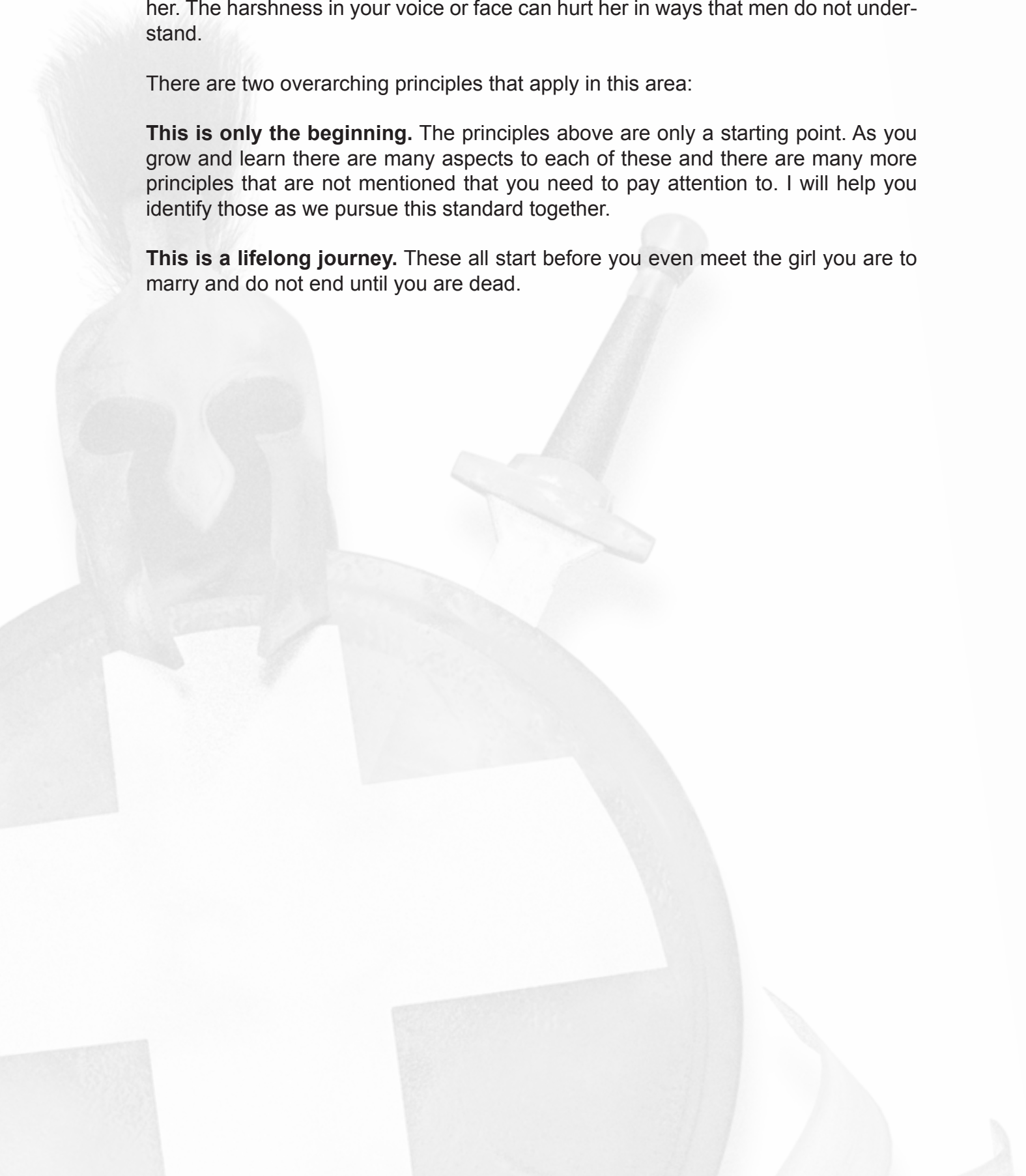
**Lead Her Always.** One of the most difficult things to do is lead your wife. Regardless of who your wife is, it is difficult because there will be times as a man that you will want to be passive. You will be scared, or you may disagree with her. Put her first and lead her. This is something that will be difficult, but will give her great security. You need to learn to lead graciously; not as a dictator but as a lover.

**Be Gentle With Her.** Your wife, as your mother is to me, will be the greatest gift in your life. You need to treasure her and cherish her in this way. This is accomplished not only in the way you touch her, but also in the way you speak to her and look at her. The harshness in your voice or face can hurt her in ways that men do not understand.

There are two overarching principles that apply in this area:

**This is only the beginning.** The principles above are only a starting point. As you grow and learn there are many aspects to each of these and there are many more principles that are not mentioned that you need to pay attention to. I will help you identify those as we pursue this standard together.

**This is a lifelong journey.** These all start before you even meet the girl you are to marry and do not end until you are dead.







# *the path we will walk*

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*“Direction, not intention, determines destination”*

- Andy Stanley

**Great ideals easily rally our spirits but without strategy, they are only ideals.**

Below are the ways I will teach my son to be a man.

- By teaching him the definition of manhood above and the meaning behind all that it entails.
- By my example - I am striving for the same vision of manhood as I will present to my son.
- By having a community of men along our side.
- By consistent teaching of spiritual truths.
- By sharing stories of failures and successes from my life as well as that of other men.
- By reinforcing obedience through affirmation, attention, and discipline.
- By teaching him how to love, respect, and protect a woman.
- By the use of Ceremonies. (listed below in greater detail)



# Ceremonies

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Each of the ceremonies that I use will include the following elements to make them significantly memorable for my son.

- **The Element of Surprise.** This will heighten the effect and will not allow him to act according to when it is to take place.
- **The Element of Spirituality.** Because all of what we see manhood to be is grounded in Scripture, it will be intensely spiritual.
- **The Element of Symbols.** Symbols become an ever-present reminder of the event and what it represents as a milestone toward manhood.
- **The Element of Blessing.** As a father, the opportunity to write something special to bless and encourage my son in his life will be a treasured opportunity. I plan on taking every opportunity to do so.
- **The Element of Community.** To illustrate to my son that there is a community of men that are worthy of respect and honor that he is aiming to become a part of. To show him that it is not a childish pursuit but one worth his effort.

I have chosen currently to use 5 key ceremonies to commemorate my sons path to manhood.

- **Puberty** - that great transition at the start of adolescence when a boy's body wreaks havoc with his mind.
- **Baptism** - this is when he commits to live his life in accordance to a transcendent cause and demonstrate his seeking the greater reward.
- **High School Graduation** - when, for the first time, a young man experiences unbridled freedom.
- **College graduation** - when a man must face the world and begin to provide for himself.
- **Marriage** - when a man assumes responsibility for a wife and the leadership of a family.



## Enlistment of Service

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, commit to joining a community of men that will stand with \_\_\_\_\_ as he grows to become a true man. A man who rejects passivity, accepts responsibility, leads courageously and expects God's greater reward. I commit to doing this through,

- My Prayers for him throughout his life, especially during times when called upon by his father.
- My Counsel that will be available to him at his request and, at times, without his request.
- My Presence throughout his life as I am able.
- My Example as I pursue my King, my wife, and my children.

On this day, the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_ I commit to these things as I have been enlisted by your father \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_





# the Standard

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A “standard” references the banner or flag that someone would ride behind or under. Each flag would represent a specific king. For a knight, it would represent the king he served. The American flag is the standard that we take into battle. It represents freedom and liberty. The crest you see before you is what sits upon the standard of men. I want to explain its pieces, as they are all there heavy with meaning.

**The Shield.** A Praetorian shield symbolizes the way you fight a battle. This shield by itself is not of much value, but when locked with the men on your right and left, forming a phalanx, it becomes impenetrable. In the same way, you cannot walk this journey alone. You need a community of men beside you to help you up, encourage you when you are weak, and guard your flank.

On the shield, you will notice a cross. This cross represents the King that we live and willingly would die for. It represents the cross of Jesus Christ. The red symbolizes his blood and the white reminds us of what we are because of his blood. If you look closely, you will notice that this shield is not shiny and polished; it is beaten, battered and used because this is not an easy path we walk. There is a real enemy and the battle is raging. Do not be deceived; we are still at war.

**The Crossed Swords.** The two swords represent the swords with which we wage battle. The first sword is the infallible Word of God. We study it and memorize it so that we may quote it to defeat the enemy.

The second sword is the weapon of prayer. We pray that God’s will would be done on earth as it is in heaven. We bring the concerns of our hearts before Him, but above our own concerns, we desire His name to be glorified. It is with these two weapons we fight the enemy, protect our brothers on our flanks, and lead our families.

**The Spartan Helmet.** The helmet reminds us as men that just as the Spartans saw battle in every aspect of life, we too must see all of life through the window of the transcendent cause. We must sift everything for its truth and purity in accordance to God’s Word. This is not a life of compartments and closets. All is known and all will be made known. Every part of our life matters.

**The Scroll.** Along the bottom of the shield, there is a scroll that reads “Walk with the King”. Written in Greek, it reminds us of the language of the New Testament. The phrase reminds us of our purpose; the ultimate course of life that will not vanish when we stand before judgment. It reminds us to “fear God and keep His commandments.”