

# Standard of a Man

Development Guide







## Standard of a Man

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Layout and Graphics by Leo Moralina





# first thoughts

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Everything about this book starts with the correct understanding of what a man is. If you can provide a vision of what manhood is supposed to be, it gives the goal to reach for. This is what we are looking to become ourselves or what we are trying to help a young man become. I have read much on the topic of manhood, and, due to my lack of complete understanding, have searched for someone to define a man in such a way that would help me paint a picture for what I want my son to pursue and what I want to pursue as well. I have long known the qualities of a man, but to pursue them as a whole is a bit like trying to make bird shot exit a barrel like a slug. There are just too many pieces. Below is what has become the foundation for how I have chosen to raise my son.

I will try to explain each of these sections as they come to help you better understand why each of the parts is important by itself. I believe that as you see each of the pieces individually they will begin painting a picture of all that I want for my son, and for yours. Feel free to add to the content wherever you believe it will benefit you and your son.

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

I never could come up with a definition of what it meant to be a man. I have come across many attempts, some written and some not, but I have always struggled to find the one that encompasses all of what I have discovered to be a facet of what a man is. Robert Lewis presented this definition in his book, *Raising a Modern Day Knight*. I have found it to be fitting; including of all the things that I have found to be true about what a man should be. I hung a framed copy of this definition in my room as well as my son's room. My goal is to have a visual representation of the fact that we are pursuing the same thing. I want him to walk in my room and see the same goals.

"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

I have found that boys, as well as men, have an uncanny ability to rise or fall to the standard presented. If it is higher, though there may be many struggles, they seem to rise to the occasion. I want to rise to a high standard and call my son to it as well. These characteristics are a compilation of what I believe to be the most important for a man to own for himself. I do not believe that this is an all-inclusive list but that it is a solid foundation. For each, I have attempted to acquire a solid definition, a quote from someone respected, and a verse of Scripture, as that is very important to this process.

*"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

Men live under many banners. Men seem to think that with so many different banners, it does not matter which you live for. Pick what you desire; what works best for you. I believe that one banner that surpasses them all. I have chosen to live my life as I fly this banner and walk with the King. In this section, I have started with what Scripture tells us the point of life is. I have also included the way to walk with the King, and a few things that you need to remember of at the most difficult moments of the journey.

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

I do not believe that one must have a woman to be a man, but the simple truth is that boys become men, and most men get married. I want to teach my son what it means to love a woman in case he is in that majority. There is great joy in being married and I believe that we must love our wives in a manner consistent with the transcendent cause. I have tried to lay out the foundation, not only for my son, but also for myself. Focus on these few areas and you will love a woman in accordance with the transcendent cause instead of competing with the cause.

Just like the rest of these areas, I am pursuing the same standard. I have not mastered all of these areas but I am pursuing the same standard. 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 continues well after. You need to 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 probably 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 to 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 my wife is to me, will be the greatest gift in your life. You need to treasure her and cherish her in this way. This is done 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*

These may be different for you and your son but I think they are a great starting point. I intend on using them as a starting point and am sure I will do more along the way as he gets older. I am hoping that you will be able to do the same. Feel free to take this list in whole or in part; add to it wherever you can. The goal here is intentionally setting a path that will lead to your son becoming a man.

*“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

This is the most involved portion of the strategy that I will use to help my son become a man. Ceremonies have been used for centuries to make a moment and seal it as a memory. Will Durant, the great historian, speaks of the ceremony of knighting in this way,

“From the early days of knights who were simple fighting men to the extravaganza of the most elaborate kind of chivalry, the ceremony of knighting was the central moment in a knight’s life. Its roots lay in the initiation ritual, by which primitive societies marked the coming of age of adolescents.”

I want to use that kind of moment in my son’s life to help him mark not only coming of age but also the growing in the process. I have chosen five ceremonies that I want to use with my son to highlight such moments. You may have other moments that come to mind that you would like to highlight as well. Please do just that. I have tried to give a little more detail for each of the ceremonies than I did for my son in attempts to help you see them as they are intended to be.

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** - This ceremony marks that great transition at the start of adolescence when a boy's body wreaks havoc with his mind. It is at this ceremony that my son and I will spend a day together surrounding his interests and any events that we could do together.

At the end of the day, it will culminate with a nice dinner out, in suit and tie, for a thick steak and all that comes with it. I would like to explain to him the definition of manhood, explain the code of conduct, and share the expectation of change in his behavior moving forward as he begins becoming a man. I will present him with a copy of all of these standards so that he begins to see the path that he is on and the standard that I am calling him to. I will make a point to show him each of the men that have enlisted themselves to see him succeed.

- **Baptism** - This is when he commits to live his life in accordance to a transcendent cause and demonstrate his seeking the greater reward. Salvation is the point in time when he will ask for God's forgiveness and will be justified, but baptism is the time when he will make the public statement of which cause he will live for. This ceremony is when I will give him his first leather bound Bible with a note and the important definitions discussed above written inside the cover. Notes from his mother and me will be written inside. I will contact all the enlisted men (this is discussed next) and notes from them will be folded inside. Shortly after his baptism, we will throw a large party with all of our friends and family in attendance to celebrate this moment in his life, identifying him with a cause. I would love to do this on the day of his baptism, but willingly will move to a time when everyone will be able to attend. We will have a book that all the guests will have the opportunity to sign. That will be the place where they can encourage him, challenge him, and speak truth into his life.
- **High School Graduation** - This ceremony is when, for the first time, a young man experiences unbridled freedom. He will begin a portion of his life without the immediate control of his mother and me. For this ceremony, I will be taking him on a trip alone where we will be spending time in the woods together, time with God praying for his future, discussing the road that brought him to that point, and where the road goes from there. After our trip, we will



come back home, clean up, and formally meet up with the community of men that have enlisted themselves to help him succeed. We will all eat a large meal and I will ask each of the men to speak to my son directly, telling him of their own stories, telling him what they see in him, what they admire about him, and then give him advice that he can take with him on the next part of his journey. I will also ask each man to write it down so that my son will have it to return to in the years ahead of him.

- **College Graduation** - This ceremony is when a man must face the world and begin to provide for himself. This may happen with college graduation, the completion of a military assignment, or something similar. I will hold a formal ceremony where my son will join the community of men. Each of the men will be present and usher him into the community. I will be looking to rent a facility and once again have the men speak truth to my son. This will now include other young men that have become his closest of friends.

They will be present and will speak and challenge him as well. I want to create for him the same inner circle of men that I have been privileged to have. During this ceremony, I will have a specific time where I will ask his mother and other women who have had a great role in his life to join us and speak to him as well. Again, writing it all down so that we can include a copy of our words as a gift. After the meal is completed, I will present him with a gift that is of high value and represents our relationship as we move forward. I will decide on this gift as we move closer to this ceremony.

- **Marriage** - This last ceremony is when a man assumes responsibility for a wife and the leadership of a family. This ceremony has a great focus on a woman to love and the family to lead. This ceremony will be at the end of the rehearsal dinner just before his wedding. This will be the only ceremony that will be open to a more general public, and not with my very intentional guest list.

The community of men will present him with a copy of the crest that we each of hanging in a prominent place in our homes so that he may hang it in his. My wife and I will speak to him and to his wife to-be. Again, writing it all down so that we can include a copy of our words as a gift.





## Enlistment of Service

A community of men is not only helpful to teach your son to be a man, but it is essential that he has a place to fellowship when he becomes one. Men need to know for sure that they are men. We need to know and have a time and place where that title was bestowed upon us. I have chosen to ask my closest of friends to join me, along with the men in our family, to commit to taking part in my son becoming a man. I need other men who will speak the same truth into my son's life. I need other men that I can point to so that my son's attention is drawn to others who are pursuing this same standard in their life. He needs to know it is a cause worthy of his time and that he is not alone in the journey. This is the enlistment of service that I used to put their names on paper so that they, and he, know of the commitment. I challenge you to find men who you can call on in the same manner.

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 ragging. 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.”





## About the Author

My name is Timothy Morris. I have been married a little over three years and a father of a wonderful one year old son at the time of this writing. I have been learning so much in the last year through reading and talking to other men. I decided that I wanted to be proactive about teaching my son what it means to be a man of God and this is what came out of it all. As I learn my goal is to share it with others so that might learn with me. I wish to influence others to desire to better themselves as well as increase their influence by intentional impact on the world around them.

You can find other ways that I am learning and sharing on my site at

[www.intentionalinfluence.wordpress.com](http://www.intentionalinfluence.wordpress.com)

You can also follow me on Twitter at

[www.twitter.com/RustyTim](http://www.twitter.com/RustyTim)







## Bibliography

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Much of what you see in this document did not originate with me but was amended to fit my family. While I read many books on the topic there were three that highly influenced me and were used heavily in compiling this strategy to see my son grow.

I have listed them here.

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