



HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

HOAW Newsletter

We can only live a falsehood for a season the length of which depends on an individual's will and strength. But eventually, man will revert to his true self and betray who he truly is at the core, for good or for bad. He cannot keep up appearances indefinitely. If you were to clench your fist and hold it with all your strength sooner or later, you would loosen your grip because you can't hold it for an indefinite amount of time. Your grip would eventually assume its natural relaxed state. Same is true of living a falsehood.

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Bourgondisms #2

by Dr. Greg Bourgond

Over the course of my life in Christ I have come across axiomatic principles, that clarify for me God's truths as applied to our walk of faith. This is the second installment. I would encourage the reader to ponder these principles...

21. Our society supports the notion that men must be softer and women harder; men gentler and women more forceful; men more feminine and women more masculine. If such a notion persists both sexes lose. In God's economy the following is true. An authentic man is one who rejects passivity, accepts responsibility, leads courageously, and expects God's blessing and reward. (Adapted from Robert Lewis) This definition underscores the importance of proactive engagement beginning with our family and extending to all who



come within our sphere of influence. Men are created for three primary purposes: a cause to die for, a challenge to embrace, and loved ones to protect. Take anyone of these away from him and his manhood is eviscerated. Jesus is our model for manhood. He is called both a lamb and a lion. Our society likes the lamb but not the lion. Jesus had a cause to die for - the atonement of mankind; a challenge to embrace - the scourge and the cross; and loved ones to protect - you and me! Society is a poor arbitrator for

defining masculinity. We must take our cues from the One who knows best - our Creator!

22. Courage is not the absence of fear but the absence of self. (Erwin McManus) We are to lean into our fear and engage our unique calling. Many are under the mistaken idea that true courage has no fear. Fear will always be present. If it is not, then insanity or drugs is at the root. The absence of self simply means that one has assessed what must be done, sets aside their self interest and concern, and engages the challenge, regardless of fear, for the greater good...*Deuteronomy 31:6-8; Joshua 1:9-11; 1 Corinthians 16:13*
23. There are only four legacies one can leave; a bad legacy, a physical legacy, no legacy, or the only legacy worth leaving – a godly legacy, the legacy that keeps giving. The greatest gift you can give your loved ones is a godly life.

24. Leaders are thermostats that control the emotional and spiritual temperature in relationships; not thermometers that merely reflect the temperature of the relational environment. Sometimes we need to increase the temperature and at other times we need to cool it down.
25. Beginning with an all-out commitment to Him, a focused life is a life dedicated to exclusively carrying out God's unique purposes through it by identifying the focal issues, that is, biblical purpose, life purpose, committed passion, role non-negotiable, unique methodology, and ultimate contribution which allows and increasing prioritization of life's activities around the focal issues, and results in a satisfying life of being and doing. (Adapted from J. Robert Clinton).

One's Biblical Purpose answers the WHY of our lives. It provides the 'fuel' or energy we need to help us live out our life purpose. Its focus is on the self.

One's Life Purpose answers the WHAT of our lives. It addresses our calling and focuses on others. It is the purpose ordained for us (Ephesians 2:10).

One's Committed Passion answers WHERE we will live out our life purpose. It addresses a people group we are called to serve, a cause we are called to embrace, or a combination of the both.

One's Role Non-negotiables include specifics regarding what must be present in any role in order for one's life

purpose and committed passion to thrive and not be thwarted. It answers the WHEN of our mandate.

One's Unique Methodologies answers the HOW we will carry out our life purpose and committed passion. It addresses our unique wiring in terms of spiritual gifts, natural abilities, acquired skills, personality temperament, leadership style, aptitudes, key competencies, core values, and life principles - our toolkit.

One's Ultimate Contribution(s) answers the SO WHAT of our lives. It addresses the legacy we hope to leave, the residual artifacts that will remain once we are gone, the pleasing aroma we hope will linger, our positive contribution to God's redemptive purposes that will continue to benefit others once God calls us home.

For many years now I have facilitated groups to help each person in the group come to clarity about these matters. The repository of this clarity is called a Personal Life Mandate. I am launching such a group later this month.

Once a person has clarity on the items described above, they begin to live focused lives. The move from 'shot gun' to 'laser beam' and begin to live lives of significance under the empowerment of their Creator.

26. As believers we will all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ to give an account of what we have done in the faith

and to receive our reward. He is expecting a return on His investment. ... *2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; Romans 14:10-12*

27. Each of us is given a finite amount of physical, emotional, and spiritual energy. If we dissipate our finite energy in matters of concern over which we have little to know influence instead of matters over which we have great control – the sphere of our ordained influence – we will waste our energy and have little left for what we have been called to address by God. The only thing we can do about areas of no control, areas of concern, is to pray for them and release them to God.
28. Living a **balanced life** is futile. It is like walking a tight rope trying to get to the other side. In the process we are buffeted by the winds of crises we did not foresee. As a result, we live a life of tension and anxiety. Instead, we are called to live a **centered life** like a spinning top whose equilibrium is in the core undeterred by momentary blows. Jesus lived a centered life and was driven by an all-encompassing focus – to do the will of His Father.
29. Either we live in bold relief against the backdrop of our culture prepared to give a ready defense for the hope that is in us OR we acquiesce (yield, concede, give up), fold back into our culture where we are not distinguished from our culture in any meaningful way. Doing so will not draw anyone to God's Son's cross. There is no middle ground.

30. We adopt common strategies to navigate the treacherous waters of our life. The first strategy is the Steel Band of Discipline where we erect the band around our behavior forcing it to comply with some acceptable standard kept in place by the tenacity of our will, the fellowship we keep or the rules we obey. Sooner or later life and temptation cascades in us snapping the band of discipline, the result of which is to revisit the repeated sin we had hoped to escape. We make furtive pleas to God followed by promises we hope to keep only to repeat the sinful behavior again and again when our guard is dropped. We may repeatedly remove the same sin through confession but don't replace the void with truth that sets us free...*John 8:31-32*
31. A second strategy to navigate our life and hopefully control our sinful behavior is the **Strategy of More**. We vow to read our bibles more, fellowship more, worship more, and pray more only to find our more is producing less in our lives. Why? Because these worthwhile practices become the primary objective instead of the means to the greater objective of improving our relationship with the Lord.
32. A third strategy is the Strategy of **The Hail Mary Pass**. We seek out models of preferred behavior in bookstore biographies, established practices and procedures, models of godly character – all of which are helpful to a point. Each of us is unique. One size does not fit all. God has a separate set of clothes for each of us to wear. We can learn from the lives of others to be sure. But our journey is defined by our uniqueness and God's specific design and plans for us. What may appear to be random is actually a beautiful mosaic configured by our Creator. Learn from others but find your own divinely inspired niche.
33. The final strategy is the **Strategy of Surrender and Retreat**. We give up and live in what A.W. Tozer called the misty lowlands of mediocrity. Because of poor decisions we have mad along the way we end up in a cage of our making as clipped-winged birds longing to fly once more among the crags. There is a better strategy...Removal of corruption through confession and Replacement with actionable truth; a two-step process. The reason we fail so often, and repeat sin is that we stop at confession. Unless you replace the void created by confession with truth you intend to act upon your transformation will not be complete. ...*Matthew 12:43-45*
34. *Spiritual fruit* represents the character of God, the values He esteems, and which we receive in seed form at the moment of our conversion and upon which we must cultivate in our lives so that we are recognized as His offspring. Love, joy, and peace is attained in relationship with the Father (Upward). Patience, kindness, and goodness can only be cultivated in relationship with others (Outward). Faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control can only be produced inwardly through diligence, devotion, and dedication (Inward). ...*Galatians 5:2-24*
35. Nowhere in the Bible do we find the exhortation to 'accept' Jesus. Instead, we are encouraged to 'receive' Jesus. Because who is accepting whom. In 'accepting' Jesus we place ourselves in the authoritative position of assessment to determine what threshold must be reached before we condescend to Christ. When we 'receive' Christ we acknowledge that salvation is a gift we didn't earn but receive with gratitude. ...*John 1:12; Acts 10:43; Galatians 3:2*
36. True forgiveness means choosing not to seek revenge in whatever ways at our disposal. True forgiveness is offered when 'fruit' befitting one's repentance is observed. When forgiveness is extended it does not mean one subjects themselves again to abuse. ...*Matthew 3:8; Luke 3:8; Acts 3:19; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10*
37. The world defines tolerance as unconditional acceptance and affirmation of whatever someone chooses to be or do. The true definition of tolerance is withholding whatever power you have (influence, authority, argument, evidence, etc.) against what you find objectionable for a higher purpose or reason.
38. 'Agape' love is evidenced by action taken in the best interest of others. Love is the unconditional regard for the well-being and welfare of others even if they are unlikable. Practicing this kind of love regardless of the worthiness of the recipient will result in finding something emotionally lovable in them - not before the act of selflessness but during or after acting in their best interest.
- In 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 we see 'agape' love is action and others-oriented. In this passage we are told three things love is, nine things it is not, and four things it is always. Of the six Greek words

for 'love' agape or selfless love is the most radical. This was a love that you extended to all people, whether family members or distant strangers. Agape was later translated into Latin as *caritas*, which is the origin of our word "charity." C.S. Lewis referred to it as "gift love," the highest form of Christian love. It is not based on emotions and is instead acting in the best interests of others regardless of merit. This type of love is commanded by God for His followers. The same Greek word 'agape' is used in the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Three Things Love Is...

1. Love is patient.
2. Love is kind.
3. Love rejoices with the truth.

Nine Things It Is Not...

1. Love does not envy.
2. Love does not boast.
3. Love is not proud.
4. Love does not dishonor others.
5. Love is not self-seeking.
6. Love is not easily angered.
7. Love keeps no record of wrongs.
8. Love does not delight in evil.
9. Love never fails.

Four Things It Always Is...

1. Love always protects.
 2. Love always trusts.
 3. Love always hopes.
 4. Love always perseveres.
39. Removing sinful corruption from our lives has always been a two-step process including **removal** through confession and **replacement** with truth with the intention of acting on that truth. **Removal** includes realization (awareness), reflection (prayer), recognition (understanding), and actual removal (confession).

Replacement includes repentance (turning), replacement (substitution), renewal/restoration (action), and recalibration (alignment).

...*Removal: John 16:8-11, 13-15; 14:16-17, 26; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Proverbs 4:23; Philippians 1:9-11; 1 John 1:8-9; Romans 10:9-10; Replacement: Matthew 3:8; Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 26:20; 2 Peter 3:9; John 8:31-32; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Ephesians 4:22-24; James 2:17, 20-22, 26; Romans 12:1-3; Titus 2:11-14*

40. Without replacement removal only will result in repeated sin in the same direction. For instance, assume you have a decayed tooth that must be extracted by a dentist. Once it is removed, what happens if a substitute tooth or bridge is not installed? Over time, your remaining teeth will reposition and your bite will change. Your teeth might chip, your gums may become diseased, or other diseases may follow. Removal must be followed with replacement. The passage cited below describe a scenario that suggests cleaning out sin but leaving the cleaned space unoccupied only invites the revisit of what led to the sin to begin with; but this time it is much worse. So, removal must be accompanied by replacement. Nature (and the Enemy for that matter) deplores a vacuum.
- ...*Matthew 12:43-45*

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Websites for Men

Legacy Minded Men

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<http://churchformen.com/>

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<https://beresolute.org/>

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