



HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

# HOAW Newsletter

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. **Greg Bourgond**

## October 2019

## Bourgondisms #3

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 third installment. I would encourage the reader to ponder these principles...

41 The culture that stands above every other culture is God's kingdom. Once we receive Christ as Savior and Lord, we become citizens of heaven, fellow citizens with God's people and members of His household with all the rights and responsibilities. We are under a new constitution, a new code of conduct requiring non-conformity with the world and our allegiance is to Christ alone. We have been given a new passport for the Kingdom of God. In this world we are now aliens and strangers.  
...*Philippians 3:20-21; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:11-12; Romans*

*12:2; Titus 2:11-14; 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4*

- 42 The purpose of the church is not to equip the people for works of service – that is the means to a greater end. What is that end? What is the purpose of the church? The purpose of the church is to produce Christlikeness in His followers.  
...*Ephesians 4:11-16*
- 43 Receiving Christ as Savior and Lord does not mean we will not suffer. If our Lord suffered can we expect anything less? We belong to the Fellowship of Christ's Sufferings. The difference is that we are now equipped to handle it.  
...*Romans 5:3-5; Philippians 3:10*
- 44 **Fellowship of the Sponge** - Every follower of Christ must determine their spiritual rhythm. By way of illustration consider a sponge.

Visualize a sponge in a shallow bowl. As I pour a pitcher of water over the sponge it absorbs the water. If I continue dousing the sponge with water, pretty soon the sponge will be saturated, and water will simply spill over it. Now visualize me wringing out the sponge. Pretty soon there is no more water to wring out. The sponge will become dry and may simply break down or crumble in my hands over time.

What can be learned from this illustration? Many Christians I know are at every sermon preached in their church or listened to on the Internet. They attend workshops and seminars on a regular basis. They are at every event that fills their sponge. Over time their spiritual sponge becomes saturated. I know when that happened because I will hear them say something to this effect. "I'm leaving this church. I'm not being fed anymore. I am not getting the deep teaching I need."

Many Christians I know jump at every opportunity to serve. Some can't even sit through a sermon before they get up to do something. Every opportunity to do something in and outside of the church is their first preference. They are constantly wringing out their spiritual sponge. When their sponge becomes dry and brittle, I hear something like this. "I'm leaving this church. People don't appreciate what I do here. I'm going somewhere else where my gifts service will be appreciated. I'm just taken for granted here."

We are called to a rhythm of nurture and service. Our spiritual rhythm is the fill up our spiritual sponge through nurturing activities such as worship, prayer, study, reflection, fellowship, and personal application to our lives. Our spiritual rhythm is also to wring out what we have learned into other people's lives through service and outreach. Fill it up, wring it out, fill it up, and wring it out. There will be no more room for what fills our sponge if we don't wring out what we have learned for the benefit of others building up the body in the process.

45 **Engel's Scale (1975)** suggests that there are many intermediate steps before a person is ready to seriously consider the implications of the Gospel. Even then, rejection is still an option. Similarly, there are many intermediate steps to spiritual maturation and ultimately, glorification. In every instance God will use persons, circumstances, and events to move us one step forward at a time. Celebrate those

intermediaries God sends you as He seeks to bring you into loving relationship with Him.

46 Every believer and Christ follower has six responsibilities called mandates: evangelism (Matthew 28:18-20); love for God (Matthew 22:37-38); love for others (Matthew 22:39-40); worship (Psalm 34:1-3); spiritual growth (Colossians 2:5-7); service (Isaiah 58:6-12). These mandates are what set us apart as citizens of God's kingdom. These engagements lead to spiritual maturity and effectiveness as we help facilitate God's redemptive purposes in a fallen world.

47 Salvation is an ongoing process initiated by an event called conversion at which point you are given eternal life and eternal security.

At the moment of conversion several God-ordained events take place simultaneously – justification, redemption, reconciliation, indwelling, regeneration, adoption, Kingdom citizenship, and fruit of the Spirit in seed form.

In addition, you are 'marked' in Jesus with a 'seal', the promised Holy Spirit who is a deposit guaranteeing your inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

From this point on we are to "work out our salvation." (Philippians 2:12-13) To do so means we 'work out' the implications of our salvation proving and giving evidence daily of the fruit of the Spirit, living out our faith in obedience empowered by the Spirit, acting

in accordance with the faith we proclaim. (James 2:14-26).

Our salvation firmly secured by Jesus at the cross and appropriated by our faith in Him, means we have been freed from the penalty of our sin, we are being freed daily from the power of sin, and ultimately we will be freed from the very presence of sin when God calls us home.

*...Romans 5:1-21; Titus 3:7; Galatians 2:16-17; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; 20-22; Romans 3:24-26; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 5:10; Colossians 1:20-22; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16, Exodus 36:26-27; Titus 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1:5; Galatians 4:5-7; John 1:12; Philippians 3:20-21; Ephesians 2:19; Galatians 5:22-24*

48 Salvation frees us from the PENALTY of sin (past), frees us progressively from the POWER of sin (present), and frees of ultimately from the PRESENCE of sin (future). Salvation is an ongoing process beginning with conversion and concluding with glorification. Our assurance of salvation is secure and put in place at the moment of conversion.

At the instant of our conversion we are justified, redeemed, reconciled, indwelt, regenerated, adopted, awarded Kingdom citizenship, and given God's values called the fruit of the Spirit in seed form requiring cultivation from this point forward.

Justification (Rom 5:1-21; Tit 3:7; Gal 2:16-17)  
Redemption (Eph 1:7; Col 1:14; 20-22; Rom 3:24-26)  
Reconciliation (2 Cor 5:18-21; Rom 5:10; Col 1:20-22)

Indwelling (1 Cor 3:16; 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16; Ez 36:27)

Regeneration (Tit 3:5; Ez 36:26; 2 Cor 5:17)

Adoption (Eph 1:5; Gal 4:5-7; Jn 1:12)

Kingdom Citizenship (Phil 3:20-21; Eph 2:19)

Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-24)

49 Any **worldview** consists of a set of core beliefs and values. Any worldview has answers to the following five issues – ultimate reality, theory of personhood, major dilemma facing mankind, a solution for that dilemma, and final destiny. For the believer, a Biblical worldview sees God and his proactivity with His creation as the ultimate reality, personhood that sees man created in the image of God, the major dilemma facing mankind is sin, the solution to that dilemma is Jesus Christ, and final destiny of man is heaven or hell.

50 Jesus Christ came to earth to restore, renew, re-instate, repair, renovate, and redeem mankind.

51 **Conversion** for a disciple of Christ begins with conviction followed by receiving Christ as Savior and Lord, submission in obedience to Him and His teachings, confession, repentance, and a commitment to be a disciple of Him.

...John 16:5-11; Psalm 38:18; John 1:12; Acts 2:41; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:6; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 3:19; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10; Luke 2:11; 1 Timothy 1:15; 2 Timothy 1:10; Galatians 2:20; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 10:9; John 8:31-32; 1 John 2:3-6; John 12:26

52 To **live by faith** means obedience **before** freedom, commitment

**before** understanding, and acceptance **before** realization.

The world flips these to protect their understanding of freedom before they will obey, knowing the details before committing, and comprehending what it will cost before acceptance discipline. The way of faith is opposite to this approach.

...John 8:31-3; John 7:16-17; Hebrews 12:11

53 The target we are aiming at, the objective we are heading for, the purpose and focus of the journey and all that follows is **Godliness** (Titus 2:11-14). God's preferred lifestyle embraces His provision – welfare, future and hope (Jeremiah 29:11); His plan – a life of empowerment (2 Peter 1:3-4); His purpose – to demonstrate His glory (1 Corinthians 10:31; Matthew 5:16; Ephesians 1:12; 1 Peter 2:9; Ecclesiastes 12:13; John 15:8); His product – progressive Christlikeness (Ephesians 4:13, 15; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18); His principle – to live by faith (John 8:31-32; 7:16-17; Hebrews 12:11); His process – cyclical transformation (2 Timothy 3:16-17); and, His pattern – as you are going, make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20).

54 God has placed an innate **sense of the eternal** into each man's soul yet not so that he knows what God has done from the beginning to the end. This sense of the eternal compels all men in every age and nation to repeatedly ask himself three questions: why am I here (purpose); am I making any real headway (progress); and will anything I do make any

meaningful difference at all (permanence)? Only God through Christ can provide answers to these questions and fill this God-shaped void in the soul of man.

...Ecclesiastes 3:10-11

55 **Faith without action is dead.**

Show me your faith without demonstrable actions and I will show you my faith by the artifacts, the residuals, and the 'aroma' it produces.

...James 2:14-26

56 Putting off the old self and putting on the new self is a onetime event. Renewal is an ongoing present activity.

...Ephesians 4:22-24

57 The world looks at appearances and stature – God looks at the motives of men's hearts. Above all else (make it your highest priority), guard your heart (be ever vigilant, stand your watch on the wall, never turn your back on the Enemy), for from it comes the wellspring of your life (behavior good or bad will flow from the heart).

...1 Samuel 16:1-7; Proverbs 4:23

58 What fills your barrel? Every person has a reservoir of physical, emotional, and spiritual energy. We'll call it "your barrel." If the rate of drainage exceeds the rate of filling, your energy dissipates and can lead to anxiety, fear, paranoia, and neurotic behavior. Certain things can drain your barrel such as day-to-day responsibilities, obligations, and duties. Some of these things are natural and expected such as your job, family, and life in general. Bad decisions,

dysfunctional activity, unhealthy habits, and sin can drain your barrel. Personal conflicts, workaholism, and addictions can also drain your barrel. What legitimately drains your barrel? What dysfunctional behaviors drain your barrel? What self-induced actions drain your barrel? What draining actions can you eliminate? Certain activities can fill your barrel such as devotions, prayer, spiritual renewal, true recreation. Other activities that fill your barrel might include bike riding, skating, cooking, hiking, reading or fishing for instance. Healthy habits can provide the energy you need to function effectively and live an abundant life. What physical activities fill your barrel? What emotional activities fill your barrel? What intellectual activities fill your barrel? What spiritual activities fill your barrel? What life-giving activities can you add that will fill your barrel?

...*John 10:9-10; Jeremiah 29:11-12; Philippians 4:8-9; Romans 12:2*

- 59 The downward spiral of degradation begins with an incremental **hardening of the heart** put in motion by setting ourselves up for failure, making mini-compromises, and transgressing the boundaries of God's moral will. This leads to **darkened understanding** about those things that were clear before. Our ethics become situational instead of resting on the authority of God's word alone. We find ourselves defending what we once objected to; making excuses for what we opposed in the past. We become **separated from the life**

**of God.** We make and find excuses. We find fault with the church. We project our problems on others. We blame others for not reaching out to us. Church attendance become infrequent or not at all. We separate ourselves from Christian fellowship and spiritual practices. Just as wild predators separate the weaker animals from the pack, Satan uses whatever means he can to separate us from the flock. This in turn leads to a life of consuming sensuality trusting only in the things we can see, experience, or touch. This is generally followed by gradual immersion in acts of impurity or lust. The only solution is intervention, repentance, and a return to the faith.

...*Ephesians 4:17-19; Romans 1:21-23, 32; 1 Peter 5:1-11*

- 60 The reason why Jesus is the only way; master, mediator, and messiah; is that, He is God in the flesh; fully human, fully divine and without sin.

...*John 1-4, 14, 18; 14:8-11; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-17; 2:9-10; Titus 2:13; John 10:30; 20:28; Romans 9:5; Hebrews 1:8; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; 2 Peter 1:1; Matthew 1:23*

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## Websites for Men

**Legacy Minded Men**  
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