



Roles and Responsibilities of Men: Church Practices Series

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Roles And Responsibilities Of Men

Introduction

The Scriptures teach us that the chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever (1 Corinthians 10:31, Psalm 73:25-26). The question that one must ultimately answer concerning is, how? How do we glorify God? How do we enjoy Him forever? In the following study, we will look at the basic roles and responsibilities of men. This is not a study of what a few men at Southside Bible Church are expecting of you. But rather, a study of what the Lord Himself has revealed concerning this matter. We are not attempting to lay out all of the intricacies of your responsibilities, but rather laying the practical foundation of life and godliness for men. In doing so, we believe that the preceding questions will be answered.

This study has been broken up into three main areas:

- Economy of the Home
- Economy of the Church
- Economy of the World

Let us note here the reason for the order of our study:

We have broken our study down, into three areas that build one upon another – they are progressive. It is vitally important that we order our lives with these same progressive priorities. What is meant is this: A man cannot be effective at ministering to the rest of the body of Christ if he does not first have his home in order. Thus, why the Lord gave us this requirement for Elders and Deacons - “He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?) 1 Timothy 3:4-5. Many men have destroyed the ministry they have had in the church because of sin on their part as a husband or father. Another example of this is the man who is zealous for witnessing and ministering to those in the world at the expense of any ministry in the church or at home. It is clear that we are called to take care of the body of Christ first, then go out into the world and preach the gospel (Acts 2:44-45).

ECONOMY OF THE HOME

In considering the responsibilities of men, the first thing to look at is the economy of the home. There are four main areas of focus.

- Personal Responsibilities
- Responsibilities of a Husband
- Responsibilities of the Single Man
- Responsibilities of a Father

Personal Responsibilities

Striving after Holiness – Godly Character

Before a man can fulfill his responsibilities as a husband, father or even the special ministry of being single, he must first deal with his personal responsibilities to God. We must be committed to striving after God Himself. We must strive after personal holiness and sanctification. The following Scriptures solidify this idea.

- Luke 13:24 "Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.
- 1 Peter 1:14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."
- Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- 2 Peter 1:5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; 7 and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Colossians 2:12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. 14 And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful

In striving after personal sanctification, there are five areas that a man must be committed:

- The Reading of God's Word
- Meditation on God's Word
- Prayer & Personal Worship of God
- Fasting (for the purpose of prayer and meditation)
- Fellowship of the Saints

The Word

- John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth.
- 2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
- 2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.
- Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
- Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
- 1 Corinthians 15:2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.
- Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Meditation

- 1 Timothy 4:13 Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. 14 Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed upon you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery. 15 Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress may be evident to all.

meleto is the Greek word being used in this context (Take pains...) - practice, cultivate; plot, think about, give careful thought to, meditate on.

- Psalm 27:4 One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the LORD, And to meditate in His temple.
- Psalm 4:1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! Thou hast relieved me in my distress; Be gracious to me and hear my prayer. 2 O sons of men, how long will my honor become a reproach? How long will you love what is worthless and aim at deception? Selah. 3 But know that the LORD has set apart the godly man for Himself; The LORD hears when I call to Him. 4 Tremble, and do not sin; Meditate in your heart upon your bed, and be still.

- Psalm 63:6 When I remember Thee on my bed, I meditate on Thee in the night watches, 7 For Thou hast been my help, And in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy.
- Psalm 77:12 I will meditate on all Thy work, And muse on Thy deeds.
- Psalm 119:15 I will meditate on Thy precepts, And regard Thy ways. . .27 Make me understand the way of Thy precepts, So I will meditate on Thy wonders. . .48 And I shall lift up my hands to Thy commandments, Which I love; And I will meditate on Thy statutes. . . 78 May the arrogant be ashamed, for they subvert me with a lie; But I shall meditate on Thy precepts. . . 148 My eyes anticipate the night watches, That I may meditate on Thy word.
- Psalm 145:5 On the glorious splendor of Thy majesty, And on Thy wonderful works, I will meditate.
- Genesis 24:63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening; and he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, camels were coming.

Prayer

- Ephesians 6:18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
- James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praises. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; 15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it did not rain on the earth for three years and six months.

Fasting

- Mark 2:18 And John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and they came and said to Him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but Your disciples do not fast?" 19 And Jesus said to them, "While the bridegroom is with them, the attendants of the bridegroom do not fast, do they? So long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. 20 "But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day.

- Acts 13:3 Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.
- Nehemiah 1:4 Now it came about when I heard these words, I sat down and wept and mourned for days; and I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.
- Nehemiah 9:1 Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the sons of Israel assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dirt upon them.
- Esther 4:3 And in each and every province where the command and decree of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping, and wailing; and many lay on sackcloth and ashes.
- Psalm 35:13 But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth; I humbled my soul with fasting; And my prayer kept returning to my bosom.
- Daniel 9:3 So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.
- Joel 2:12 "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "Return to Me with all your heart, And with fasting, weeping, and mourning;
- Matthew 6:16 "And whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance in order to be seen fasting by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.
- Matthew 6:18 so that you may not be seen fasting by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Fellowship of the Saints

- Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.
- Acts 2:42 And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
- 1 Peter 4:8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint.

- Romans 12:12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, 13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

Responsibilities as a Husband

Genesis 2:21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place. 22 And the LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. 23 And the man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." 24 For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

At creation, our Lord instituted the covenant of marriage. In His divine providence, He has purposed for a man to leave his parents and to “cleave to his wife,” becoming with her, “one flesh.” In the context of this study, we submit to you that Biblical oneness can only be achieved as the husband understands and fulfills his role and responsibilities.

In looking through the Holy Scriptures, we see two main responsibilities of the husband:

- He is to be his wife’s leader
- He is to be his wife’s lover
(Genesis 3:16; Ephesians 5:23-33; 1 Timothy 3:4, 5; Psalm 128; 1 Peter 3:7; 1 Corinthians 7:3, 4; Proverbs 5:15-19; Colossians 3:19)

1 Corinthians 7:32 But I want you to be free from concern. One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; 33 **but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife**, 34 and his interests are divided. And the woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. 35 And this I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is seemly, and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.

The purpose of now inserting the above verses is to establish the rightness of the man who is married to attend his marital obligations. Paul’s argument in this context is showing that there is a great benefit to the unmarried man. Why? Because the married man must, out of biblical necessity, pay special attention to his wife. Let’s now briefly examine the husband’s two main responsibilities.

Being your wife’s leader

- Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.

- 1 Corinthians 11:3 But I want you to understand that Christ is the head of every man, and the man is the head of a woman, and God is the head of Christ.
- 1 Timothy 3:4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?);

The Scriptures clearly state that a man is to be a leader in his home. But what does that mean? Does that give you the right to rule with an iron fist? Does that mean that you should get your own way at all costs? Remember that the biblical husband not only leads his wife but loves her as Christ loved the Church. Even as the Lord exhorts elders in 1 Peter 5:3 to not lord their position over those entrusted into his care, so the husband also should never lord his God given role over his beloved wife. A man who is biblically leading his wife will be her servant. We should always look to our Savior for the ultimate example:

- Mathew 20:20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Him with her sons, bowing down, and making a request of Him. 21 And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She *said to Him, "Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right and one on Your left." 22 But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you are asking for. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They *said to Him, "We are able." 23 He *said to them, "My cup you shall drink; but to sit on My right and on My left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father." 24 And hearing this, the ten became indignant with the two brothers. 25 But Jesus called them to Himself, and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. 26 "It is not so among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
- Philippians 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Husbands, remember what the Lord calls us to.

1 Peter 3:7 You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

We must be understanding in our leading of our wives. They are, by God's own design, the weaker vessel. Notice that negligence in this area of the husband hinders the

relationship that he has with God. You cannot be harsh with your wife and then think that you will flourish in your own relationship with Christ.

Loving your wife as Christ loved the Church

Ephesians 4: 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; 26 that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless. 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body. 31 FOR THIS CAUSE A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND SHALL CLEAVE TO HIS WIFE; AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

Husbands, we are not just called to love our wives. But, we are called to love our wives as Christ loved the Church. Now, we know that we can never fully comprehend the love that Christ has for His church. Let's look at what the Scriptures have to say concerning the subject of Christ's love.

- Ephesians 3:14 For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 **and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge**, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

Samuel Francis wrote of His love as follows, "Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free, rolling as a mighty ocean, in its fullness over me." But, even if we cannot fully comprehend the infinite love of Christ, this does not mean that we cannot know anything at all of it. Let's attempt to break down those things which we know about the love of Christ.

- It is an unconditional love (Romans 5:8).
- It is a volitional love (Deuteronomy 7:7; Ephesians 1:6, 7).
- It is an intense love (John 13:1; Ephesians 5:2, 25).
- It is an unending love (John 13:1; Jeremiah 31:3; Romans 8:39).
- It is an unselfish love (Philippians 2:6, 7).
- It is a purposeful love (Ephesians 5:26, 27).
- It is a sacrificial love (Ephesians 5:2, 25; Galatians 2:20; 1 Peter 3:18; Romans 5:6-11; 1 Peter 2:24).

- It is a manifested love (John 10:1-14; 14:1-3; 13:34, 35; 15:9, 10; Romans 8:32; Philippians 4:13,19; Hebrews 4:14-16).

This gives each and every husband in the fellowship much to meditate on and consider often. Is the love that I have for my wife, unconditional, volitional, intense, unending, unselfish, purposeful, sacrificial and manifested? Am I really being the lover of my wife as God calls me to be? These are questions to consider and to discuss even with your wife.

Responsibilities as a Single Man

1 Corinthians 7:32 But I want you to be free from concern. **One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord**, how he may please the Lord; 33 but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, 34 and his interests are divided. And the woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. 35 And this I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is seemly, **and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.**

Not many men are called to a life of being single. But for many men there are periods of time in his life, by God's providence, where he will be unwed . . . i.e. young men before marriage, older men who have been widowed. In the above context, Paul shows us that the single man has a most amazing opportunity before him. The single man's interests are not divided. The married man has divided interests, in that he must, out of faithfulness to God be concerned with his wife. The single man does not have these same responsibilities. Therefore this man has that much more time for study, prayer, discipleship, teaching, leading, fellowship activities and so on. This is a high calling!

Ephesians 5:15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

Many, many men are found to be quite negligent during their unwed days. But, we are called to make the most of our time. And it just so happens that the single man has much more than that of the married!

Responsibilities of a Father

Ephesians 6:4 And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

When a Christian man becomes a father, he takes on an amazing responsibility. Even as Jesus committed his mother into the care of the Apostle John (John 19:26), so also God has committed your children into your care. God commanded that men should multiply – have children (Genesis 1:27, 28). But the responsibility of the parent does not stop at

producing offspring. We are to bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Psalm 127:3 Behold, children are a gift of the LORD; The fruit of the womb is a reward.
4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. 5 How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They shall not be ashamed, When they speak with their enemies in the gate.

Children are a precious gift from God. And to father them is a high calling for all men. So much so, that if a man fails in this area of parenting, he is told that he may not be an elder or deacon in the church (1 Timothy 3). Again, something to remember; although the 1 Timothy 3 verses speak specifically to the subject of church leadership, one must not think that there somehow is a lower standard that the Lord has set for all other Christian men. We are all called to raise our children in a godly way!

What are some things we can gather from the Scriptures concerning this matter of being a father? Let's take a look.

Colossians 3:21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they may not lose heart.

Just as we are not to rule our wife with an iron fist, so also we are not to exasperate our children. The Lord has told us that there is a way of parenting that can dishearten the children that God so richly blessed us with. We will not attempt at this time to examine all of the practical aspects of this issue (but we would suggest that all parents read Tedd Tripp's book entitled, *Shepherding a Child's Heart*). The main thing that we need to understand is that men are called to nurture their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, and that provoking your children to wrath is not part of that calling.

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Of course we must not misunderstand what this verse is teaching us. This verse is not the prescription for ensuring the salvation of your children, for we know that salvation comes by God's sovereign grace. But we do know that faith comes by hearing the word proclaimed (Romans 10). So, as we are faithful to bring our children up in the instruction and discipline of the Lord, we can entrust the souls of our dear children to God.

- Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! 5 "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 "And these words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart; 7 and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. 8 "And you shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. 9 "And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- Psalm 78:1 Listen, O my people, to my instruction; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth. 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, 3 Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us. 4 We will not conceal them from their children, But tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done. 5 For He established a testimony in Jacob, And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers, That they should teach them to their children, 6 That the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, That they may arise and tell them to their children, 7 That they should put their confidence in God, And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments, 8 And not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not prepare its heart, And whose spirit was not faithful to God.

ECONOMY OF THE CHURCH

Within the economy of the church, the responsibilities of each man have been clearly established. In the context of this study we will break these responsibilities into two categories.

- Church Government
- General Responsibilities

Church Government

The responsibilities of shepherding and caring for the body of God's people fall upon men in the congregation. A discussion of the important roles of women within the congregation is address in a separate church practice paper on the roles of women. The following verses give us sufficient instruction concerning this matter:

- 1 Timothy 2:9 Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments; 10 but rather by means of good works, as befits women making a claim to godliness. 11 Let a woman quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. 12 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. 13 For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. 14 And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being quite deceived, fell into transgression.
- 1 Corinthians 11:8 For man does not originate from woman, but woman from man; 9 for indeed man was not created for the woman's sake, but woman for the man's sake. (used in Paul's discussion related to head coverings being a sign of being under the authority of men in the congregation)
- All other references to authoritative leadership within the church are male as seen in the subsequent verses.

The following are scriptures concerning the qualifications of the leadership positions of Elder and Deacons. It is not the purpose of this segment to define the intricacies of specific functions in detail, but rather to give a brief outline of responsibilities.

Elders

- 1 Timothy 3:1 It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. 2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money. 4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?); 6 and not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. 7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.
- Titus 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, 6 namely, if any man be above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. 7 For the overseer is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, 8 but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, 9 holding fast the faithful word which.

The Elders of the church are men chosen by God to shepherd the people of God. "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28). They are called to care for those in the congregation, by teaching, admonishing, counseling, praying, protecting . . .etc.

Deacons

1 Timothy 3:8 Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, 9 but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 And let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. 11 Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. 12 Let deacons be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households. 13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

The Deacons of the church take care of many of the physical needs of the church. Acts 6:1-6 establishes that there are to be godly men who take care of tasks in the church, that would otherwise, by necessity, be handled by the Elders. This does not mean that the Elders or the Deacons should handle all work of the church, but rather, that there are certain responsibilities that require that a man fulfill the requirements laid out in 1 Timothy 3.

General Responsibilities

Making disciples and imparting your life into others

- Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. "
- 2 Timothy 2:1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.
- 1 Thessalonians 2:8 Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.
- Leviticus 19:18 'You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.
- Matthew 22:37 And He said to him, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'
- Galatians 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, " YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. "
- Romans 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;
- 1 Thessalonians 4:9 Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

- Hebrews 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.
- 1 Peter 4:8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint.
- 1 John 3:11 For this is the message which you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another;
- 1 John 3:23 And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. 24 And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And we know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.
- 1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.
- 2 John 1:5 And now I ask you, lady, not as writing to you a new commandment, but the one which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another.

We are all called to disciple others in the church. The more mature a man is in his faith, the more diligent he should be to impart it to others. We must share our lives with others even as the apostle Paul did with his beloved Timothy. All men in the church should be faithful to share his life with other men in the church

Corporate Worship

- Hebrews 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.
- 1 Timothy 4:13 Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching.
- Acts 2:42 And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

- Acts 20:7 And on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to depart the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.
- Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
- Acts 1:13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

All men are to be committed to the public, corporate assembly of the saints of God. Without which, all will suffer greatly concerning sanctification. It is evident from the evidence to be found in the book of Acts, that Acts 2:42 is not focused on just personal things, but corporate as well.

Utilize gifts

- 1 Corinthians 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. 12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. 19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 But now there are many members, but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those members of the body, which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our unseemly members come to have more abundant seemliness, 24 whereas our seemly members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, 25 that there should be no division in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

- Romans 12:4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.
- 1 Timothy 4:13 Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching. 14 Do not neglect the spiritual gift within you, which was bestowed upon you through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery.
- Ephesians 4:11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;
- **Older Men** Titus 2:1 But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine. 2 Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in perseverance.
- **Younger Men** Titus 2:6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible;

ECONOMY OF THE WORLD

Last, but not least of a man's responsibilities, is how he is to conduct himself in the world. What is a man's role in his community and at work? First, let us look at what God says to our standing with the world, now that we are in Christ:

- 1 John 2:15 Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.
- John 15:19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.
- Galatians 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.
- Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

- Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.
- James 4:4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
- Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- 1 Corinthians 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God,
- 1 Corinthians 5: 14 But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
- James 1:27 This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

So we know that we are not to love the world for we have been crucified to it, that we are not to seek their approval, that we are to be unstained by it. So, what is the answer? Are we to retreat to a monastery? Are we to become pious hermits? On this subject, the Lord speaks:

- 1 Corinthians 5:9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; 10 I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world.

We cannot escape the world. And even if we could, how would we then fulfill the great commission of Christ? So if we are to remain here as sojourners and aliens, then how should we then live? Again, let us go to the Scriptures:

- Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.
- Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. "
- John 15:16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain,

- 1 Thessalonians 4:11 and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you;
- 1 Timothy 2:2 for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.
- 1 Corinthians 4:10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither let him eat. 11 For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.
- 2 Thessalonians 3:10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor. 11 To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless; 12 and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; 13 when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now. 14 I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children.
- Colossians 3:22 Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. 25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

CONCLUSION

As men of God, we have a high calling. To set out on paper all that God would have of you in this life would be to try to rewrite the Bible. Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence (2 Peter 1:2). So although we have not been near exhaustive in our study, we have laid a foundation of the roles and responsibilities of men to build upon. Let's pray that the Lord bring forth abundant fruit from this consideration. Amen.