

The Measure of a Man

Genesis 1:26-31; 2:15

What is the measure of a man?

As men we wear different hats!

- What does it look like to be a good father?
- What does it look like to be a good husband?
- What does it look like to be a good leader in the church?

How is a good man measured?

"You cannot determine if you're in God's will by whether or not things are going well in your current circumstances..." – Experiencing God

Being a good father and experiencing peace and happiness in your family are not necessarily tied together! Just consider God & His family Israel!

"Open and closed doors are not always indications of God's directions."

Just trying to take every opportunity to do what you think is right as a father... doesn't necessarily make you a good one!

- Consider Adam & Eve, Abraham & Sarah, Isaac & his 2 sons, the 10 spies

How we determine what a good father... looks like should not come from us, but come from God!

God defines it because He created it, and what He creates/purposes is good.

"You must be careful to identify God's initiative and distinguish it from your own desires. A self-centered person tends to confuse his or her personal agenda with God's will." – Blackaby

I desire to be a good father... but that doesn't necessarily make me one!

Self-centered living vs. God-centered living! – "Experiencing God" Pg 103-104

God-centered living seeks God's perspective, God's initiative, & God's activity!

In Genesis 1, we see that we have been created in the image of God, to mirror/reflect His image in this world! How are we measuring up to that?

God created us w/intrinsic value, w/great intention, & w/great purpose.

"Be fruitful" – Be productive! Do something meaningful with lasting value!

"Multiply" - Live your life in such a way that it becomes contagious to others

"Fill the earth" - God wants His people & His ways to be present everywhere

"Subdue it" – Take care of what God has given to be under your care!

"Have dominion" – You've been given the authority to lead - in the home, in the church and in this world! What are you doing with that responsibility?

What does God-centered living look like in our homes, with our children!

- **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

What does God-centered living look like in our homes, with our spouse!

- **Ephesians 5:23,24-27**

What does God-centered living look like in the church as elders & deacons?

- **1 Timothy 3:1-13**

What does God-centered living look like in all of life?

- **1 Corinthians 10:31**

"To live a God-centered life, you must focus on God's purposes, not your own plans. Try to see things from God's perspective rather than from your own distorted human view." – Experiencing God

To be a good father... we must be willing to surrender our self-centered living over to the God-centered plans for our lives!

Surrender is where true manhood begins and ends!

The measure of a man as a husband/father/leader/human being is based upon His reliance on God & His trust in the work of Christ in his life!

We are called to bear the image of God in our lives/homes/Church/world, and God provides all we need to live into this creation mandate/calling!

Fathers... will you join me in seeking out God's purpose, God's activity, in our lives and let Him define for us the true measure of manhood!

The best gift we can receive this Father's Day is that which we've already been given – Christ, which makes living out our calling as men possible!

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