

Mentoring Young Men

A young married man recently asked me this question: How do you know when you are ready to be “the man”? He was referring to the responsibility he had assumed when he got married regarding the duty of being the head of the wife/family. Becoming a husband and father brings a sobering reality that suddenly one is responsible not only for knowing right from wrong but also a continuing responsibility for discerning and making wise choices for the benefit of his wife or the entire family – i.e., being “the man”.

Hopefully, his father has taught (or mentored) him in these areas, preparing him for his duties, one of which is to be a good teacher or mentor to his children and especially his son, should he have one.

As Christian men, we should not only be trying to teach our own sons appropriately, but we should also be willing and qualified to mentor other men on Christian manhood. True Christian manhood is an increasingly rare commodity in our society as it declines under the pressures of gross immorality, a “beyond liberal” political agenda, and an aggressive feminist movement.

What are the qualifications of a good mentor?

Let’s first look at some scriptures that provide instructions relating to this.

Ephes. 5:23 Husband is the head of the wife

By extension, he is the head of the family

Ephes. 6:4 Fathers, don’t provoke your children, but nourish them in the training and admonition of the Lord. This presumes that the father knows how to do this—that is he has been trained/taught how to do this.

Col. 3:21 Fathers, don’t provoke your children to wrath, lest they become discouraged.

Ex. 12:25-27 We are told that we should be prepared to explain why we worship God as we do

Psa. 78:1-7 Fathers are commanded to teach each succeeding generation His law

Today, we now have fifth generation “Christians” in God’s church because His truth has been passed down as He instructed.

2 Tim. 1:13 Paul admonishes the young evangelist, Hold fast (hold tightly, cling to) what Paul has taught him,

3:14 You must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them.

Today, some of the people who were taught the truth of God by Mr. HWA are distancing themselves from association with him, and as we have seen, some have completely discarded that truth, swallowing Satan's deception and perverting the doctrines of God's law and grace. We must take great care not to fall prey to the same.

1 Tim. 5:2 Treat (mentor) younger men as brothers

Tit. 2:1-8 Treat older men, older women, and young men to be sober minded.

Life is a serious matter. It's okay to have fun, but how we live our lives in an overall manner, life is a matter of eternal life or eternal death.

Prov. 13:20 He that walks with wise men shall be wise.

Summary of Qualifications/Duties for a Mentor

1. Be a Christian – know your Bible/be a good example (practice what you preach)
2. Be a family man – love your wife/children; show affection to your children; spend time with all of them
3. Be merciful – don't discourage them by never being satisfied with their efforts; be forgiving and encouraging future success
4. Be honest – give appropriate correction or frank discussion as necessary
5. Be decisive – after careful consideration and prayer, make a decision and move forward with confidence; decisions should be made for the benefit of the entire family
6. Be available – whenever your son/friend/young man you are mentoring wants to talk (consult with you, discuss a personal problem, etc.), if at all possible, stop what you are doing and give him your undivided attention. When he wants to talk is the time he will do the most listening to any advice/guidance that you offer.
7. Ask God for wisdom – some of us were not trained/mentored by a wise/Godly father, but God will give us wisdom if we are studying His word and beseeching Him to grant us wisdom thru His Holy Spirit.

Then I highlighted points from the article, Mentoring Younger Men.