

***Building a Godly Man***  
***Lesson 5 – How the Local church can Build Godly Men***  
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***Introduction:*** Men are built by the Lord on a foundation of repentance.

- A. The power of the gospel can take anyone from any background and powerfully build them up to as a new creation! **(Rom 1:16-17; Acts 20:32)**
  - 1. The complete turning of the will along with the perfect provisions of God will always produce change beyond what one would think possible.
  - 2. Consider the change in the man once possessed by demons. **(Lk 8:39)**
- B. The challenge of a local church is that we keep preaching that same gospel of repentance! **(Mt 3:1-2; 4:17)**
  - 1. The natural strength that God has given men must be subdued and directed.
  - 2. Why has the participation of men in local churches dropped? Many have become cowardly and substituted the soothing voice of human reason.
  - 3. The agenda of this age that promotes relationship over repentance drives men away from a religion that costs them nothing. **(1 Chron 21:24-26)**

***I. Men need to plainly hear the challenging demands of the gospel***

- A. The plain exposing of deceit combined with the challenge to change and fight with a purpose appeals to the real needs of men! **(Mt 3:7-10; Acts 24:16, 24-25)**
  - 1. The gospel demands the whole heart.
  - 2. The Christian life is a fight with a real purpose. **(2 Tim 2:3-7)**
  - 3. Men readily identify with and respond to these exhortations.
- B. When churches become ashamed of these powerful demands, they become weak, inconsistent and hypocritical.
  - 1. This makes both the Lord and men of conviction sick. **(Rev 3:16-19)**
  - 2. Men when taught and trained men can keep a church on the difficult path God has placed before them. **(Acts 20:27-31)**
  - 3. When God's plan becomes an afterthought then a cheap and false gospel is preached and accepted. Men despise cowardly wimps! **(Mk 8:38)**
- C. Like a powerful horse, men must daily be challenged to yield their spirits to God.
  - 1. The control of the tongue is about controlling the heart. **(James 3:3-5)**
  - 2. It takes wise, personal and powerful teaching to keep reaching hearts.
  - 3. How do we build the fruit of the Spirit and fight the works of the flesh? Plain and detailed teaching is needed along with personal challenge and rebuke.
  - 4. Some of our more "tender" souls may not understand why things are stated like they are. Proper leadership is needed here. **(2 Tim 4:2-4)**

***II. Men need to see and associate with men of true conviction***

- A. All men need "heroes." Consider the men God places as a "cloud of witnesses" before us! **(Heb 12:1; 11:32-35)**
  - 1. Every generation has its challenges and an ungodly culture to overcome.

2. Where do we find our personal heroes? It begins with men and women that have taken a personal interest in us and have built us up. **(1 Tim 1:5-7)**
  3. Who did Timothy look up to? **(2 Tim 3:10, 14-15)**
  4. Did others look up to Timothy? **(Phil 2:19-22)**
- B. Through both teaching and examples men need to build their abilities to discern. **(Heb 5:12-14; Acts 20:31)**
1. Specific, detailed preaching is very needed. What good is it if we cannot apply it to our lives?
  2. Men need to see conflict and leadership in action. The example of seeing a man of faith in action can teach much!
- C. Godly men need to disciple other men. **(2 Tim 2:2)**
1. How did Jesus train the Apostles?
  2. How can we begin this process of discipleship? Should we pursue it or must it be assigned?
  3. We can point men to other Godly men! **(Jn 1:36-37)**

### **III. Men need to see leaders lead the local church**

- A. Local churches can powerfully build up others when it is properly led. **(Eph 4:11-12, 14-15)**
1. Shepherds can build an “atmosphere of trust and of open hearts.”
  2. This takes planting, watering and weeding. It involves both a building up and a tearing down. **(Titus 1:10-11; 1 Pt 5:2-4)**
  3. Leadership will duplicate itself in what is both good and bad!
- B. When members refuse to work out problems as God’s word directs, then they must be confronted. **(Mt 18:15-17; Titus 3:10-11)**
1. Repentance must be demanded and there must be a purging of that leaven!
  2. When the bitter, contentious man departs a local church the “atmosphere” is changed. We must be able to trust each other!
- C. Our men need to be properly recognized and praised.
1. Consider some of the men Paul personally recognized!
    - a. Philemon - **(Philemon 4-7)**
    - b. Onesiphorus - **(2 Tim 1:16-18)**
    - c. Many more could be added!
  2. Paul was willing to encourage and praise those who in the past had disappointed him. Consider John Mark! **(Acts 12:25; 15:37-39; 2 Tim 4:11)**
- D. When you build on a foundation of repentance then true change always restores relationship and trust. We major in forgiveness! **(Eph 4:31-32)**
1. It is the grace and forgiveness of God that gives us our strength!
  2. We need the discernment and wisdom to see and expose sin in one another.
  3. We also need the humility and love to help one another in our weaknesses! **(Prov 10:12; 17:9; 1 Pt 4:8-9)**