

LIES MEN BELIEVE ABOUT THEMSELVES---LESSON 2 STUDY GUIDE

Fill in the missing blank to the following:

1. "Boys will be _____".
2. When talking about children, we say, "oh no, it's the terrible _____".

Five Lies Men Believe About Themselves:

1. "We are not responsible for our own actions."
2. "Pleasure and entertainment can satisfy me."
3. "I am the master of my own destiny."
4. "Real men don't cry."
5. "I don't need close male friends."

Lie Number 1: "We Are Not Responsible For Our Own Actions."

Our culture is really good at encouraging us to believe this lie. "Your just a victim, you can't help it that's the way you were raised, etc"

II Kings 21:20-22 II Kings 22:2 Exodus 20:5

"The Strong-Willed Child" By Dr James Dobson

Q: What are your thoughts about this statement? "If we see something in our lives that we don't want in our children's' lives, we must break the cycle."

Write down three things you are currently doing that you do not want to see in your children's lives?
Your eyes only.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Just how powerful is your influence on your wife and children? Listen to this statistic:

1. When the mom is the first person in the family to get saved---17% of the time the family will get saved.
2. When a child is the first person in the family to get saved—31% of the time the family will get saved.
3. But when the dad is the first person in the family to get saved---93% of the time, the family will get saved.

God has ordained you to be the pastor, the spiritual leader, the priest of your little church at home.

I Peter 2:4-5 says, "As you come to Jesus, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

Men, we are responsible for our actions and behavior. Our influence is so great, we are the one in our home to make the decision to follow Christ and become the pastor or priest of our home. If we decide to make God and church a low priority, most of the time, our family will make God and church a low priority and vice versa.

Q: What are some excuses we use to justify our behavior and decisions?

Adam blamed Eve and he blamed God when he ate the forbidden fruit. He said, "it was the woman that you gave me." (**Gen 3:12**)

Here is the truth according to Wolgemuth: "Regardless of what kind of upbringing we may have had, or what has been done to us, or the difficult or dysfunctional circumstances we may find ourselves in, we are responsible for our own actions."

Remember: We are not sinners because we sin. Rather, we sin because we are sinners. We are born sinful and must realize we are the responsible for our actions and we desperately need a Savior who helps us change our behavior.

Lie Number 2: "Pleasure And Entertainment Can Satisfy Me."

Q: What are some of your "pleasures and entertainment," those things you like to do when you are not at work?"

Q: are these things wrong in and of themselves?

Q: when do these pleasures become a problem?

The Bible tells us the wisest and richest man that ever lived was King Solomon. If you want to read about his wealth, go to **I Kings Chapter 10**. It has been calculated that his net worth today would be over \$2 trillion!!

He wrote Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, And Solomon's Song.

Solomon's Song was probably written in his early young adult years;

Proverbs was written in his middle adult years to his son, and;

Ecclesiastes was probably written in his senior or twilight years.

It is amazing to see the progression of his wisdom and riches over his lifetime. And yet, as a senior adult, in

Eccl 1:2, King Solomon, the wisest and richest man, said, "vanity, vanity, all is vanity." The NIV says, "everything is utterly meaningless." (running after pleasure and entertainment is meaningless.)

Solomon in a nutshell says, "all the stuff you can accumulate to make yourself look successful -- is a waste of time, like chasing the wind."

Lie Number 3: "I Am The Master Of My Own Destiny."

Since the beginning of time men have craved two things: Power and Money. **Daniel 4:29-30; 31-33; 34-35.**

Song: "I Did It My Way" By Frank Sinatra

Q: What do you think? Are we in charge of our destiny? Can we do things our way and make it to heaven? Do you think any man is a "self-made man?"

Q: What things are you doing right now (or not doing) that show you and others that you are in charge of your life?

A: _____

Q: Are we the masters of our own destiny? Yes or no.

Q: How can we conquer this idea that we are the master of our own destiny?

James 4:7-8

Daily, hourly, moment by moment—we open our hands downward as a way of saying, “I cannot hold onto anything, I give it all to God.” Our family is His, our job is His, our checkbook is His, how we use our time belongs to Him, --- He is the potter and we are the clay. Like King Nebuchadnezzar, we must live a daily life of gratefulness and humility --- and know that everything we have is a gift from God. When we submit our entire life to God, it brings us joy and purpose-- and then we are rich--- maybe not in the world’s eyes, but in God’s eyes.

Lie Number 4: “Real Men Don’t Cry.”

Q: on a scale from 1 to 10 (10=very emotional), how do you rate your emotional score? (your eyes only) score: _____

Q: what’s the message with this lie we get from society? _____.

John 11:35: “Jesus wept.” I don’t think anyone would say Jesus was a sissy.

Consider King David who was described as a man after God’s own heart. In **Psalms 42:1-3**, David was in deep sorrow. Listen to his words to God, “as the deer thirsts for water, so my soul thirsts for you.” He continues in verse 3 with, “my tears have been my food day and night.” David is crying with real tears before God.

We are not to let our emotions rule over us. But we are not to suppress them in a way that can be harmful to us or to those around us. When we suppress our tears, that’s not strength---that’s dishonesty. There are times when we may need to express our emotions through tears, and it may help us show that we are men with a heart like God.

Lie Number 5: “I Don’t Need Close Male Friends.”

God said it’s not good for men to be alone, so he gave us wives. But sometimes, we need a close male friend to tell us the truth, even if it hurts so we don’t get off track.

Remember our key verse, **Prov 27:17:** “As iron sharpens iron, so does one man sharpen another.”

Prov 18:1, says, “a man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment.”

The book of Proverbs is full of verses about men who seek self-gratification and do not ask for advice. King Solomon called those men, “fools.”

Q: What traits do you look for in a good friend?

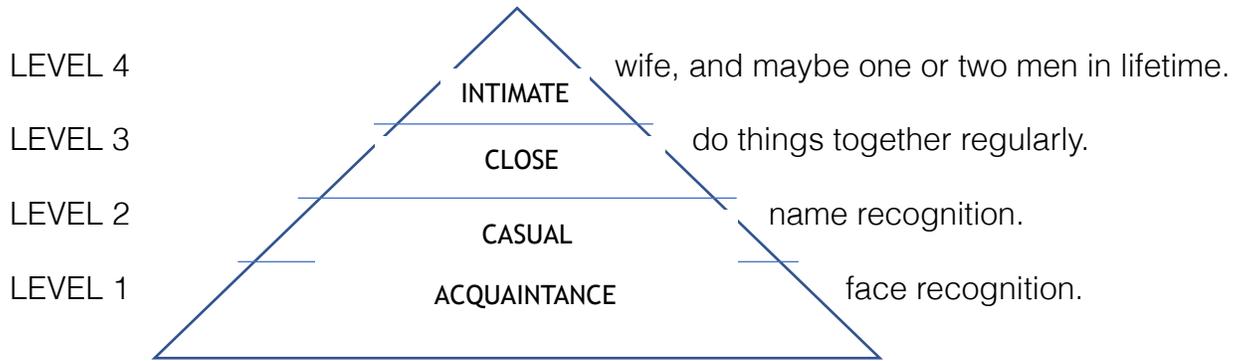
An excellent book about quality traits that are found in godly men is “The Measure of a Man” By Gene Getz.

Q: Where is the best place to find friends like this?

A: college-maybe, work-maybe, but most likely, in Sunday school and church.

Prov 18:24 reminds us if we want friends, we must be a friend. You will have to reach out and connect with others in order to establish relationships. Walking in and out of church once a week is not going to be enough time to develop friendships.

There are four levels of friends according to the Institute in Basic Life Principles. It's not original with them because these four levels have been around long before the internet.



As we go up the pyramid, the fewer the friends. Remember we don't need to tell everyone everything! And if you want more friends at one level, they will come from the level below.

Word of warning: many men have lived a lifetime of integrity ---- only to destroy it with a few moments of sinful weakness and indecision. Don't dismiss the importance of having godly men and godly friends in your lives. We need godly men to be there in advance to help protect us from satan.

Bass and Carp Story

Beware of who you hang around with, are you with godly bass or worldly carp?

Additional scripture: Prov. 13:20, Prov. 22:24-25, And Prov. 27:9.

If you have hunted with me or been around me any length of time, I try to ask this one question? "on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you grade your relationship with Jesus Christ? (1=Jesus is not on my radar, and 10=Jesus is everything to me). Grade _____.

I hope this week, you will take time to seriously evaluate your lives, your hearts, your priorities and your friends.

Comments?

Next Week: Lies Men Believe About Sin.

REFERENCES

"Lies Men Believe" By Robert Wolgemuth
"The Strong-Willed Child" By James Dobson
Institute in Basic Life Principles" Iblp.Org
"We Really Do Need Each Other" By Reuben Welch
"The Measure of a Man" By Gene Getz