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Encouraging Christian men in their walk with JESUS

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Castle or Hassle?

While discussing the responsibilities that come with home-ownership, my neighbor made the following statement, "Your castle is your hassle."

Being first-time home-owners, my wife and I are experiencing a slight learning curve when it comes to the maintenance and upkeep of our property. Though we try to keep a positive view of our home, things (like the AC going out) tempt that positive attitude.

Attitude can change everything. A castle is a cherished monument and fortress; something that brings a sense of pride, accomplishment, and awe. A hassle, however, is something viewed as an obligation, bother, or something you have to "put up with." So, we can look at our house and see a lovely home or a never-ending source of chores and work. Our attitude not only affects how we feel toward our house but also our families.

What happens when we view our spouses as a hassle, obstacle, or obligation? Will we cultivate an intimate relationship or be driven apart? When we view our spouse as a cherished blessing from God, it becomes easier to grow closer to God and each other. God revealed a plan for husbands and wives to live together with different roles and functions; being united with a mutual love, respect, understanding, and submission (1 Corinthians 7; Ephesians 5:22-23; Titus 2; 1 Peter 3). This becomes very difficult when our attitudes devalue our spouse.

What about our children? Do we look at them only as a "mouth to feed," or a hindrance to what we want? When we do, we prevent ourselves from fulfilling our roles as godly parents. Knowing that our children are a gift from God, we can see them as a blessing (Psalm 127:4-5; James 1:17). Our attitude impacts our effectiveness to fulfill our responsibility to encourage, educate, train, and grow our young ones in a godly direction (Proverbs 22:6; Titus 2; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21). Remember, there is no greater joy than to hear that our children are walking in the truth (3 John 1:4).

How do we view our families? Are they a breathtaking castle built to the glory of God? Or, do we think of them as a mere hassle that gets in the way?

May God bless our families and our attitudes toward each other. May we bring glory to Him through the family of God (Ephesians 3:20-21; 1 Timothy 3:15). Robert Guinn . BG 5/17



Every human being should have three homes: a domestic home, a church home and an eternal home.



Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected. Steve Jobs

Will You Lead?

Recently, I came across some material I have had for years. In that material, I was reminded of a book written years ago by brother Norman Hogan. The book was entitled *Leadership in the Local Church*.

Contrary to what you might imagine from the title, this book is not at all merely for elders, deacons, preachers, and others in "leadership positions" in a congregation. The book contains material that, if taken to heart and put into practice, could benefit every member of every congregation of God's people.

The very first sentence in the very first chapter of the book should serve as a "wake up call" for all of us. Please reread, and consider the implications of these words:

"If the members of a local Christ, it is certain that others are alien to that of Christ from Christ."

Did you not see in that statement what I did not see?

I did not see in that sentence any of the following words: elders, deacons, preachers, Bible class teachers.

The word I saw was "members?"

How do you react to that word? How do you react to the word "members?"

Do you believe that he is accurate in what he wrote? If so, what are you doing about it? If not, let me suggest something that, let me suggest something else I did not see in his statement. I did not read that he was discussing leading people to Christ.

Please do not misunderstand. I am, in no way, meaning to leave the impression that leading people to Christ is not important. It is vitally important. It is eternally important.

However, what is under consideration here is leading for Christ. It seems to me that what is called for here would be individuals who will do more than lament the deterioration and decline of what some have called the "moral fabric" of our society – and other societies in the world.

What brother Hogan thought was desperately needed were people who would take a stand based on firm convictions. They would do more than merely take a stand. They would move forward in the right direction and encourage others to follow.

Leaders lead. They do not merely stand.

Leaders act. They do not merely complain.

Is our society all that you want it to be? What about your community? What about your workplace? What about your school? What about your congregation? What about your family? Are you leading for Christ? Jim Faughn, BG 5/17



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A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.

We cannot lead someone else to the light while we are standing in the dark.