MEN must TEACH BOYS!

About his relationship with – God, the Bible, his wife, mother, sister, work, the weak, friends, money, face his fears and weaknesses, his identity in Christ. His sin, his pride, his emotions,

- Ecc 12:13 The man's duty: fearing God and keeping His commandments.
- Joe 2:28 Young and old men will have prophecies, dreams and visions.
- 1Co 11:3 The male's position over his wife and under Christ.
- Eph 5:25-33 The husband shall love his wife as Christ loves the church.
- "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."
- "All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children." ..
- **Joshua 1:7-9** Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.
- **Psalm 55:22** Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you, he will never let the righteous fall.
- **Proverbs 20:11** Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right.
- 1 Timothy 4:12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.
- **Proverbs 3:56** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.
- **Proverbs 1:8-9** Listen, my son, to your father's instruction, and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.
- **2 Timothy 2:22-25** Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

21st Century Christian culture is desperate for masculine, Christian men of strong character. And this world would be a much better place if there were a lot more of them.

The very idea of masculinity is under attack as part of an altered vision for males in western society but our sons don't have to be victims of this vision.

Let's purpose to raise our boys to be God's men.

1) Teach your sons to Fear God

The Bible declares that *the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*. How do we teach them this? First, by modeling it in front of them – expressing a godly fear and reverence before an Almighty God; second, with your words. Teach them the 10 Commandments – what Paul described as the "... schoolmaster unto Christ."

2) Teach Them to Honor You

I tell my young children, "God has something He wants you to do. He wants you to honor me." Your sons need to honor you – not because you walk on water – not because you deserve to be honored all the time, but because God's moral law brings order and beauty to the obedient.

3) Teach your sons the Gospel

Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Don't rely on what goes on in that building you call "The Church" for what your sons know about God. Imparting the knowledge of God to your children is your responsibility, not someone else's – Deut. 6

4) Teach Them to Work Hard

When we're working together in the hot son and my 6 year old says, "It's hot. Can we be done?" I tell him, "Men work until the job is done. Hang in there, buddy. I need your help. We're almost finished." I phrase it this way because I want him to identify with manhood. I'm informing his self-perception. Count on it – someone is going to so be proactive, but don't be too hard, here, especially if they're young. Pick tasks that stretch them but that they can handle. Read more about the "How To Teach your Kids to Work Hard" here.

5) Teach Them to Be Gentlemen

Inform you son's understanding of what a gentleman is and what a gentleman does. Different topic but same approach as #4. This takes years to reinforce. The world, his flesh, and his Enemy all conspire to teach him to be thoughtless and selfish. Use the average day's events to instruct his understanding in this ideal. (more on this in the next post!)

6) Teach Them to Stand for Truth

I have observed some parents be dishonest and furtive in their dealings with people. Guess what? Their children are just like them. If we wish our children to stand for Truth, we must not tell them it's important then live differently. Chaos follows in families where Dad plays fast and loose with Truth. Our sons must be taught not only to believe the truth but to be uncompromising in the defense of it.

7) Teach Them to Value Money

Wait a minute . . . this sounds a little unspiritual. But, it isn't. Jesus has a lot to say about money. Our use of money shows what we value. Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. In Heaven, the streets are paved with gold. And that is the proper value of money – as a means to an end – as something that takes us where God wants us to go. If your son learns to properly value money, he'll use it carefully in preparation to be a husband and dad, and for furthering the Gospel, but he'll never love it.

8) Teach Them to Love Others

People have intrinsic value because God says they do. Love your neighbor as you (in the manner you) love yourself. When we truly value others, we care about more than our own interests and desires.

A culture filled with Future Men like this is a beautiful thing. Let's do our part to build that culture.

For single moms everywhere, <u>Lisa's</u> and my heart is with you. Your doing more than God intended but, with God's grace, you also can successfully teach these things to your sons.