



## A Challenging Word

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Phone: 313-272-6441 E-mail: cm@challenge-ministries.org Web site: www.challenge-ministries.org

### DISCIPLING MEN\* (PART THREE)

#### SOCIAL DISCIPLINE

There are two things that must be considered when we disciple men. They are: Manhood is fragile; manhood is frightening. There is nothing in recent history that has been attacked like the psyche of the male. I consider this to be the well-orchestrated, patiently-planned scheme of the forces of darkness. For a world that is populated with strong, genuine men is a world that is family-oriented, prosperous and formidable. Add to that description the component of a heart that knows and loves God, and the strongholds of hell tremble. The fact that manhood is fragile should not surprise anyone. Outside the environs of the church, at no point in the world around him is the Christian male or any male, for that matter, accurately affirmed. The last thing that Satan wants is the “being made in God’s image and likeness,” to be strong and confident. So, at every chance, he schemes and plots to provide a worldview that is hostile to genuine masculinity. Therefore, it should be the aim of every teacher of the Word to reinforce those men we seek to prepare for the Lord’s service. Every believer should know and believe what the Word of God says about purpose and significance. Issues about self-esteem shouldn’t plague the Body of Christ. On the contrary, the world’s philosophy of value and worth is negated when compared to the life of the child of God. Then it is essential for Christians, male and female, to find the church a place that edifies and blesses.

Paul tells Timothy, “Endure hardness.” Such words: “Endure” and “hardness,” are more likely to strike fear in many today, because they imply suffering, pain, self-sacrifice and toughness. No one encourages these all too necessary qualities anymore; therefore men are emasculated and feminized. What is the end result of a fragile male? A fearful male. To be a godly man, to live a godly life, and to make an impact for the kingdom today, is not for sissies. After years of slavery, disenfranchisement and torment, God had to tell Joshua three times in just four verses the same thing: “Be of good courage, don’t be afraid.” Likewise, the task of developing strong men seems risky at first. The number of men who have started out in ministry with fresh ideas and positive outlooks, only to have their hearts broken by insensitive church members, lack of financial support, or a host of other attacks is overwhelming. Therefore, it is incumbent on the discipler to strengthen the hearts of the young men under his care with courage and esteem only to be found in trusting in the God of the Bible by faith. There is nothing more useless to the Father than a man who is too afraid to trust Him. There are no quick paths. You’ll never discover shortcuts. No one will develop a formula for “instant” manhood. Manhood is a decision. Manhood is a day-by-day, moment by moment, situation by situation, circumstance by circumstance decision to do what is right according to God’s Word, realizing that, each choice one makes will dynamically affect the lives of others. Upon this premise, Christian men cannot afford to be weak or careless. Entrusted to us is the testimony of church leadership to a dying world. We dare not shy away from training “faithful men” to accurately represent Jesus Christ.

\*This is the conclusion of the chapter on “Discipling Men” written by Dwight Knight. This article is taken from a chapter by Melissa Hansen’s book, **Discipleship**, which is in republication form at this time.



### The Road Less Traveled\*

(Part One)

**Text: Luke 24:13-32**

Imagine if you would, what really the garden was all about. The garden wasn't just that God was trying to create a new world, a new species, that God was bored. God was inviting His creation to take part with Him. In the garden, in the cool of the day, God would come and interact with man, He would come in the morning, dawn in the cool of the day, to sanctify his day, to tell him what He wanted done, and in the dusk, the cool of the day evening, to sanction his day, to see how he had done. And while God met with him in the morning and evening, man had the prerogative to manage the time in between. And he would bring an offering of worship called doing God's will and God would accept it. Then the wicked one comes along and offers him a chance to trade purpose for the pursuit of pleasure. Now, did you hear what I said? Purpose for the "*pursuit of pleasure*". To be an individual, to make a decision God should make. What happened? Man who was made a tripartite being, man who was made spirit, soul, and body, died instantly in his spirit, progressively in his soul, and ultimately in his body. Here's the point: God wanted that relationship of one-on-one conversation and fellowship so that man's person and his purpose would be the same.

Here it is spirit: God conscience, soul: self-conscience, body: world-conscience. Living in a body, God would come and commune in that temple called "man" and essence would speak to essence. David calls it "deep calling unto deep" the essence of God is spirit (God is spirit, they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth) but the essence of man, my personhood, how I identify myself is my soul. So God invited me to use my body as His temple (what a privilege) where He would come and dwell. Who I was and all I wanted to be was absolutely consumed and fulfilled in worshipping Him. There was no need to worry about significance and self-esteem; I had the privilege of being with eternity. I had the ability to have every warf and woof of my being to fellowship with the eternal. I had every aspect of what I identified myself to long for to see it every day. But when that relationship was broken, my soul still cried out, still hungered, needed that fellowship. But now my body is a laughing stock, my spirit is dormant and my soul is like an old derelict picking through the garbage for what scraps it can find – you know, pornography, power, pride. All the little things that Satan throws at you to sate your appetite, to quell your hunger so you don't run to Jesus again. I've become a beggar in rags, I've become homeless in the sense that my soul is never satisfied it is never fulfilled walking around in the garbage of this world begging for a handout. I rush from person to person, from thing to thing looking for a thrill and all I'm doing is getting the garbage of this world. And the world says you should be happy about it. My soul is crying out, it is begging for the eternal because I need to worship Him again. And I languish there, I try to get some things that are important: I try to get a family, I try to get a wife, a decent job – all the externals. You know guys, we do a good job with it, we get nice families, we get nice homes, we provide for them, we get cars, we try to be respectable, but our soul is still scraping for leftovers. Anybody else in the room besides me? \*Amen!\*, power, pride. All the little things that Satan throws at you to sate your appetite, to quell your hunger so you don't run to Jesus again. I've become a beggar in rags, I've become homeless in the sense that my soul is never satisfied it is never fulfilled walking around in the garbage of this world begging for a handout. I rush from person to person, from thing to thing looking for a thrill and all I'm doing is getting the garbage of this world. And the world says you should be happy about it. My soul is crying out, it is begging for the eternal because I need to worship Him again. And I languish there, I try to get some things that are important: I try to get a family, I try to get a wife, a decent job – all the externals. You know guys, we do a good job with it, we get nice families, we get nice homes, we provide for them, we get cars, we try to be respectable, but our soul is still scraping for leftovers. Anybody else in the room besides me? \*Amen!\*

written by Dwight Knight \*Look for the continuation of "The Road Less Traveled" in the next issue.

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### Up Coming Events

**Nov. 28-30, 2008 Believers Conference Norcross, GA**

**March 6-8, 2009 Renew: Body, Mind & Spirit Women's Conference Savannah GA**

**March 27-29, 2009 Journey: Summit on Christian Manhood**

For more information go to [www.challenge-ministries.org](http://www.challenge-ministries.org)