

## **A Call To Christian Men**

1. That all of your life – in whatever calling – be devoted to the glory of God.
2. That the promises of Christ be trusted so fully that peace and joy and strength fill your soul to overflowing.
3. That the fullness of God overflow in daily acts of love so that people might see your good deeds and give glory to your Father in Heaven.
4. That you be a man of the Book, who loves and studies and obeys the Bible in every area of its teaching. That meditation on Biblical truth be the source of hope and faith. That you continue to grow in understanding through all the chapters of your life, never thinking that study and growth are only for others.
5. That you be a man of prayer, so that the Word of God will be opened to you, so the power of faith and holiness will descend upon you, that your spiritual influence may increase at home and at church and in the world.
6. That you be a man who has a deep grasp of the sovereign grace of God which undergirds all these spiritual processes.
7. That you be totally committed to ministry, whatever your specific calling; that you not fritter your time away on excessive sports and recreation or unimportant hobbies or aimless diddling but that you redeem the time for Christ and his Kingdom.
8. That you love your wife the way Christ loves the church and gave himself for her; that you be a humble, self-denying, upbuilding, happy spiritual leader; that you consistently grow in grace and knowledge so as never to quench the aspirations of your wife for spiritual advancement; that you cultivate tenderness and strength, a pattern of initiative and a listening ear; and that you accept the responsibility of provision and protection in the family, however you and your wife share the labor.
9. That you not assume advancement and peer approval in your gainful employment are the highest values in life; but that you ponder the eternal significance of time spent with your wife; that you repeatedly consider the new possibilities at each stage of your life for maximizing your energies for the glory of God in ministry; that you pose the question often: Is our family molded by the culture, or do we embody the values of the Kingdom of God? That you lead the family in making choices not on the basis of secular trends or upward lifestyle expectations, but on the basis of what will strengthen the faith of the family and advance the cause of Christ.
10. That you develop a wartime mentality and lifestyle; that you never forget that life is short, that billions of people hang in the balance of Heaven and Hell every day, that the love of money is spiritual suicide, that the goals of upward mobility (nicer clothes, cars, houses, vacations, food, hobbies) are a poor and dangerous substitute for the goals of living for Christ with all your might and maximizing your joy in ministry to people's needs.
11. That you step back and with your wife plan the various forms of your life's ministry in chapters. Chapters are divided by various things – age, strength, singleness, marriage, employment, children at home, children in college, grandchildren, retirement, etc. No chapter has all the joys. Finite life is a series of trade-offs. Finding God's will, and living for the glory of Christ to the fullest in every chapter is what makes it a success, not whether it reads like somebody else's chapter or whether it has in it what only another chapter will bring.
12. That you see the Biblical guidelines for what is appropriate and inappropriate for husband and wife not as a license for domination or bossy passivity, but as a call to servant-leadership that thinks in terms of responsibilities, not rights; that you see these principles as wise and gracious prescriptions for how to discover the true freedom of God's ideal of complementarity; that you encourage the fruitful engagement of your wife in the countless ministry roles that are Biblically appropriate and deeply needed.