SRCS chapel

January 24th, 2018

*Core Value: Value, honor, serve, & protect the women in your life.*

I experimented with different ways to look at this…but I landed on a list from an article for dads to teach their sons how to treat the women in their life…

Now--their undergirding philosophy is misplaced and their out play is inevitably flawed…but there is a strange simplicity to advice if critiqued and reformed from a Biblical perspective. I have simply adopted the list--and added my own commentary…

…and realize that I am speaking first & foremost to myself…

**I will frame our talk with Eugene Peterson’s paraphrase of Christ’s ethic in Philippians 2 to teach us how to be men:**

# Philippians 2 The Message

### He Took on the Status of a Slave

2 1-4If you’ve gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you *care*— then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don’t push your way to the front; don’t sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don’t be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand.

5-8Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn’t think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became *human*!Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn’t claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

**13 Things [to Teach Your Son] About How to Treat Women**

1. Model Behavior: From this I am asking that you, young men, **find yourself a mature role model to listen to, mimic, and ask questions.**

It is best if this mentor is someone older, more experienced, and a lover of the Gospel.

If you are blessed with a believing grandparent or dad…this is a goldmine. I want to share an unusual story from a pastor's mentor, Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor

**One of my [] students entered an elevator that I was in already, and I removed my hat.**

**"Dr. Proctor," she said, "Why . . . did you take your hat off when I got in the elevator? You're living in the Victorian age." She laughed congenially.**

**"If you'll get off the elevator with me for a moment, I'll tell you." At my stop, we both stepped off.**

**"I'm not a Victorian," I said, "but somethings stay in place from one generation to another, and certain manners stand for values that I hold dear. I believe that a society that ceases to respect women is on its way out. Women bear and raise our children, they are bound to them in early infancy; they need our support and security through this process. When we forget that, the keystone of family and home is lost. When we neglect and abuse women, the family falls apart and children are less well parented, and they fill up in the jails and are buried in early graves. I believe that respect for women is the linchpin of the family and the society.**

**"Therefore, when you entered the elevator, I wanted you to have automatic, immediate, unqualified assurance that if the elevator caught fire, I would help you out through the top first. If a strange man boarded and began to [violate you], he would have to kill me first. If the elevator broke down and stopped between floors, I would not leave you in there. If you fainted and slumped to the floor, I would stop everything and get you to a hospital.**

**"Now, it would take a lot of time to say all of that, so when I removed my hat, I meant all of the above."**

**[Pastor Harrison follows up this story with these words]:**

How many of us fail to show proper respect and manners towards women? This statement by Dr. Proctor is one of excellence in explaining why it's important to show the women in our lives and those that are strangers our utmost respect. Do you men stand when a woman comes into a room? Do you hold out a chair for her? Do you open a door for her? Do you ever think to compliment her when she's dressed in a modest and welcoming way? Do you speak kindly to that woman? If you're answer to any of these is no, then you have room to improve. Let's show our women with simple gestures of respect that we as men will protect their dignity and virtue at all costs. Let's show through our respectful manners that they mean all and the world to us. They really are more important than we give them credit for in this world. Most importantly, they are Daughters of our loving Heavenly Father. Do you treat them as such? I pray and hope we do! [[1]](#footnote-1)

1. **Learn to Listen**

How many of you try to think about what you are going to say while another is speaking?

I am, by nature a slow thinker…

This is why I love texting…or email…you can take time to process the information…go back and read it if you have forgotten… (for many ladies: forgotten =DO NOT LOVE)

My wife is so skilled at remembering the details of conversations that I couldn't possibly keep up with her. (Her in conversation in great detail…then asking, "what do you think?" ME: "Who were you talking about?") Even when I have a chance to consider the situation…

A text convo might go this way…

to set this up--1) we got a new puppy--who was recently spayed, 2) It is my job to handle all animal waste inside & out 3) I was out of town

MRS E: I just walked in on Eggnog (*our biggest cat--a diva*) about to do the deed in our shower. She ran out when she saw me. So I scooped the big cat box. Holy smoke that was a lot of poop.

MRS. E: Finn (*our alpha male cat*) is christening [*the freshly scooped litter box*] as I type!

ME: Sorry.

MRS. E: By the way, Kopi (our then 60 lb. puppy) destroyed her cone of shame last night…but she seems to be leaving her nethers alone…

ME: Maybe she is ready…

MRS. E: Stupid dog just peed on the fabric couch. I am having the twins move it into the lanai--because we can't keep a fabric couch if the dog is continuously peeing on it.

 ME: Sorry again…

1. **Open Doors**
Hold the door so women can enter first--open car doors so ladies don't have to. In today’s uber-feminist world, it’s especially crucial to restore chivalry.

I guarantee you…if you open the door for the lady you are picking up for an evening out, her mom will not forget that her daughter is being treated honorably--and it may raise the very bar in their home--it would be foolish for a dad to argue with it…imagine schooling your possible father-in-law-to-be while honoring his daughter!!

(Oh--and never honk the horn of your car to beckon her outside…any father would have every right to use a shotgun to mod your car--go to the front door and engage her parents)…I don't have a shotgun boys…but I do have a two-handed sword---car vs. sword….that would be fun)

1. **Be Sensitive**

Sounds a lot like the "listen" all over again, but there is a nuance to this:

So often in life men are expected to be useful and, to compound the problem, we mix it with efficiency (not because we are smart--but because we want to spend the least amount of time engaging or doing what we'd rather not do)…

This backfires in relationships. We have lost the art of the long haul. Ladies don't need you to fix everything--they don't want to hear how they could maximize their benefits or grow their social connectivity…they want to know you care. Sensitivity means that you care enough to take time to listen--and, believe it or not, they often feel better after unburdening with you.

Imagine fixing a car by chugging a coke in the garage while listening to your vehicle idle?

What if you could rescue your budget by having Alexa read off your checkbook ledger? Or how 'bout lying on the bathroom floor pondering the sounds of a clogged and gurgling toilet to avoid a call to the plumber…

Sounds too good to be true--yet ladies often simply want to be heard--

1. **Be a Companion**
Be a team player—which means it’s not always about what *you* want to do. Compromise is going to typify your relationship more and more as you get to know the ladies in your life. It starts when you begin to exercise independence with Mom (&dad) and sacrificial sensitivity with sister(s). A wise girl watches how you interact with the women in your life to gain a good idea of how they will be treated if they were your friend--or more!
2. **Be Comforting**

Something that doesn’t cross a dude’s mind in regards to himself—especially for one so swoll as myself (a friend I know calls me a monument with a face)….is the notion of safety. Ladies seem to think about it all the time. When you show concern for a mom’s, sister’s, or ladies’ well-being, you are setting them at ease and helping them feel safe—this goes a long way to show an unselfishness—a manifestation of the sensitivity I’ve already mentioned….

I have learned this the hard way…

I once listed our old white minivan on craigslist…at 3 pm…and by 5 o’clock I had a bidding war going on….

…and so, when I finally get inside after the money was exchanged, I enter to see Mrs. Eckart crouched to the side with a Wiffle®-bat in her hands and a menacing look on her face…

Even going out of your way to check up on your loved ones and deliberately checking to see if the doors are locked for the night goes a long way.

1. **Engage your world**
By this I do not simply mean to engage people—but, also, the world around you. Ever wonder what makes people interesting? They are interested in stuff. Lots of stuff. Explore things—try something new. Read whenever you can. Discuss ideas that have no apparent benefit. You will hone your curiosity and become all the more interesting to be around. No one likes a helpless dude—you may have to teach kids one day…cool dads dabble with stuff.
2. **Love the Kitchen**

Most know that the clearest path to a man’s heart is his stomach and so, by default, we are intensely interested in what comes out of the kitchen. But do you have any idea how to use one? Can you find your way around the kitchen and even impress mom with a dish or two? One of the most time-consuming aspects of a parent’s day is food prep—imagine the love you show simply by taking a meal thus giving a loved one a needed break (if its your mom—you’re a gem, if it’s a spouse, your indispensible)…oh, and don’t forget to clean up—don’t make a bigger burden than you intended to shoulder.

1. **Make Her Laugh**

Studies show that feeling safe is a high priority amongst women. Using humor effectively not only puts them at ease, but allows them to see the fun side of your intelligence. What you laugh at gives others a quick view into what you value. If you laugh at things that objectify women or are in stitches over vulgarities, you set yourself apart as unsafe—and set the bar super low.

Ask yourself in these contexts: “Could I tell my momma this joke?”, “What if my sister was here?” (I realize that for some this is a fruitless exercise because, in our sin, we justify these behaviors—but there are things not meant to be said—particularly around a lady, and so I am calling you to something higher.)

Humor, as in all good things, takes work. We by nature are lazy--and little reflects this more than our tendency towards the vulgar and obscene as we attempt it. Nothing ought be less humorous than denigrating or debasing our fellow man. In our weakness, this has become the norm and the bar is set so low that we lose it in the dust and gather to mock each other--and call it funny. Knowledge takes exposure, virtue takes practice, and good humor takes work--it is as simple as that--and as difficult. Much can be garnered about one's character by what you laugh about. Raise the bar. (Remember--when men don't get the dividends of laughter in what they are doing, they will try something else--laugh at the good, confront the evil, and we may find a bit more joy in the end).

Perhaps the best way to demonstrate this is to model it, but, in some twist of devilish irony, it is the comedians of our society that seem the most obscene. For years I have been promoting good humor in the classroom…and Hawkins—he’s “the best”….

Here’s my favorite section from his routine called “That’s The Worst”…enjoy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Xv10gHvPYo>

0.25-4:17

1. **Element of Surprise**

Do something unexpected that shows mom you are thinking about her and all that she does to make your life what it is. Shock the socks off your sister with an unexpected—well, ANY act of kindness. When she asks, “Why?" “Because I am your brother” will do.

Later on, these habits will come to roost as you romance that special someone—and will keep love alive even decades after you have been married.

1. **Always Have her Back**

If you are in the habit of defending ladies when they are present, imagine what they believe you do when they are not around—the same. If you begin to disrespect the ladies in your life now, don’t expect that to turn around with age. The unfortunate reality is that others will join in and you will have a hard time doing something which you are not in the habit of doing—and, at that point, you would most likely have to stand up against (of all people) your friends due to the path the you have chosen.

A corollary to this is the notion of sacrifice. Soon you will be given an opportunity to do so for a lady--Prom. Most of you won't marry the girl you take--in fact, a healthy portion of you could ask a girl so that she would have someone to go with when it would be easier (emotionally and financially) to go by yourself. Your attitude towards your sacrifice--how you regard this privilege you have been given, tells a story about motive. Girls know guys love what they invest in--and a guy that invests out of selflessness is great husband material. Guys that invest in only what *they* selfishly want are a dime a dozen. Scripture says a man who finds a good wife loves himself…weird, but sacrifice now results in satisfying relationships that self-serving "love" could never equal.

1. **Show Integrity**

Be honest with the ladies in your life. I don’t mean this:

Your sister enters the room…

Sister: Does this dress make me look fat?

You (without looking up): Yes.

She storms out (What? I was just being honest)

I also don’t mean this…

Your sister enters the room…

Sister: Does this dress make me look fat?

You: No.

Sister: Really—that’s sweet

You: It’s the dress I was talking about…You? You already have that taken care of…

She storms out (What? I was just being honest)

Honesty should never be the excuse for being cruel. (And please--stop using the phrase, "No offense, but…"--it is merely an excuse to insult while duping yourself that you somehow escaped responsibility) Don't do it.

 I am talking about a vulnerability to put yourself at risk. Telling the truth may get you into challenging situations, but lying will always hurt most in the end. Trust is part of that safety and security women appreciate. A lack of integrity is a surefire way to compromise this.

1. **In closing, I hope these things have given you some food for thought and so I want to leave you with our starting point: Christ's humiliation**

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5-8Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself.

1. "The Substance of Things Hoped For: A Memoir of African-American Faith," By Samuel DeWitt Proctor. Valley Forge: Judson Press 1999. 267 pp [↑](#footnote-ref-1)