

Controller, Coward or Christ-like: What kind of man are you?

By Dr. Jerry White

- I. Before man sinned, he had a great life.
 - a. Perfect relationship with God (*And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, ... (Genesis 3:8)*)
 - b. Perfect environment (*And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.....Genesis 1:31*)
 - c. Perfect wife (*Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." Genesis 2:18*)
 - d. Perfect marriage (*And the man and his wife were both naked and unashamed. Genesis 2:25*)
 - e. Perfect job (*And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it, and rule over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Then God said, "Behold I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you...Genesis 1:28-29*)
- II. When man sinned, he caused every aspect of his life to be cursed.
 - a. His spiritual life was cursed. When he chose to be his own god, he separated himself from his perfect eternal relationship with the only true God. (*Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil, and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden...Genesis 3:22-23*)
 - b. His environment was cursed. (*"Cursed is the ground because of you." Genesis 3:17*)
 - c. His wife was cursed. (*"I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth." Genesis 3:16*)
 - d. His marriage was cursed. (*Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. Genesis 3:7*) (*"Yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you. Genesis 3:16*)
 - e. His job was cursed. (*"In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life." Genesis 3:17*)
- III. Man became a slave of sin.
 - a. Sins of Omission: Doesn't do what he should. (Coward) (*All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, there is not even one. Romans 3:12b*)
 - b. Sins of Commission: Does what he shouldn't do. (Controller) (*Their throat is an open grave, with their tongues they keep deceiving, the poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness; their feet are swift to shed blood... Romans 3:13-15*)
 - c. Both extremes are motivated by selfishness (Being a lover of self instead of a lover of God and others).
 - d. Both extremes are insecure.
- IV. Cursed Manhood (What Most Men Look Like Today, Including in the Church)
 - a. At Home
 - i. Coward (Expects his wife to be his mother)
 1. He doesn't provide spiritual leadership.
 2. He doesn't provide financial security.
 3. He doesn't discipline the children.
 4. He doesn't help with household chores.
 5. He doesn't protect his wife (will not confront his parents for her sake).
 6. If he's single, he may still live at home, and date for years without getting married or he may move in with a "mother figure."

- ii. Controller (Expects his wife to be his slave)
 1. He rules his wife like a dictator and calls it spiritual leadership.
 2. He controls all of the money, doesn't allow his wife to work outside the home.
 3. He has strict rules for the children and harsh punishment, but no relationship.
 4. He expects the house to always be perfect and meals to always be ready on time.
 5. He's emotionally & verbally abusive. (and sometimes physically)
 6. If he's single, he expects sex before marriage from his girlfriend.
 - b. At Work
 - i. Coward
 1. He's does only enough to "get by."
 2. He's not a problem solver (risk involved).
 3. When in charge, he doesn't confront.
 4. He' not interested in more responsibility.
 5. He has a job, not a career path.
 6. Self-protection is more important than integrity.
 - ii. Controller
 1. He works hard when his boss is looking.
 2. He does his job the quickest and easiest way, not necessarily the best.
 3. When in charge, he's a micro-manager.
 4. He wants to be in charge so he can use others to make himself look good.
 5. His goal is to do whatever it takes to move up quickly, including taking credit for other people's work.
 6. Image is more important than integrity. (If something goes wrong, he blames others.)
 - c. In Ministry (Vocational or Lay Ministry)
 - i. Coward
 1. He supports the majority, seldom leads.
 2. He lets others make decisions, so he doesn't risk blame for failure.
 3. He avoids confrontation.
 4. He prefers traditional safe methods.
 5. He's afraid of fresh, new ideas.
 6. He's motivated by fear of failure.
 7. Evangelism is for others who are gifted.
 8. He tends to avoid ministry "opportunities."
 - ii. Controller
 1. He must be the leader.
 2. He dominates decision making, so he doesn't risk failure from others' bad ideas.
 3. He confronts aggressively (any opposing view is from "the enemy").
 4. He uses methods he can control.
 5. He's not interested in fresh, new ideas, unless they are his.
 6. He's motivated by fear of a bad image.
 7. Evangelism is a scheduled activity.
 8. He manipulates ministry "opportunities."
- V. The Christ-like Man (Motivated by selflessness, a lover of God and others)
- a. At Home

- i. Servant Leader (*For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church....Ephesians 5:23*).
 1. An example of Christ-likeness.
 2. Leads in Spiritual growth.
 3. Encourages his family to follow.
 4. Not a dictator, a partner (*1 Peter 3:7 “You husbands likewise, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with a weaker vessel, since she is a woman; and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.”*)
 5. Takes the initiative in parenting.
 6. Helps with household chores.
- ii. Provider (*Ephesians 5:28-30 “So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes it and cherishes it just as Christ also does the church, because we are members of His body.”*)
 1. He provides physical needs
(Food, shelter & clothing)
 2. All through history men and women have both worked, but in different areas.
 - a. Husband: breadwinner
 - b. Wife: Domestic manager, nurturer
 - c. There are times when each help in the other’s main work arena (My counseling training)
 - d. However, a man who doesn’t take the primary responsibility compromises part of his calling & purpose.
 3. He provides spiritual needs (fellowship, teaching, encouragement)
 - a. A Christ-like man continually pursues God
 - b. He studies, grows and shares what he’s learning with his family.
 - c. He takes the initiative in prayer.
- iii. Protector
 1. He provides physical protection for his family.
 - a. A Christ-like man is willing to literally lay down his life for his family.
 - b. A Christ-like man confronts any enemy first.
 - c. A man who sends his wife out to fight his battles, will lose his family’s respect and will also lose his self respect.
 2. He provides emotional protection for his family.
 3. He provides spiritual Protection for his family. (*Ephesians 6:11-12 “Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood....”*)
 - a. He fights the spiritual enemy who wants to destroy our marriages.
 - b. He “lives out” the “sword of the Spirit”.
 - c. He prays “without ceasing.”
 - d. He takes the initiative in resolving conflict. Anger that lingers and becomes bitterness is an open door for Satan.
- b. At Work (*Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men. Colossians 3:23*)

- i. A Christ-like man is a diligent worker, whether or not his boss is observing him.
 - ii. He's more interested in pleasing his Lord than his boss.
 - iii. He would rather make Jesus look good than earn praise for himself.
 - iv. He's not afraid of responsibility because he trusts God for wisdom and strength.
 - v. He trusts that as he works to please his Lord, he will eventually be rewarded. (*"Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things..." Matthew 25:21*)
 - vi. When in charge, he confronts respectfully when necessary. (*...speaking the truth in love...Ephesians 4:15*)
 - vii. He gives credit to others and enjoys their success.
 - viii. He doesn't micro-manage because he values the skills and gifts of the people he manages.
 - ix. He values input from others when making decisions.
 - x. He welcomes opportunities to improve his skills and increase his influence in his career field for the glory of God.
 - xi. He trusts God to promote him.
 - xii. Integrity is more important to him than self-protection or image. (He doesn't participate in dishonesty or immorality and takes responsibility for mistakes)
 - xiii. A Christ-like man doesn't allow work to cause him to neglect his family.
- c. In Ministry (*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:58*)
- i. A Christ-like man is a diligent worker in ministry (volunteer or vocational), and doesn't need to be micro-managed.
 - ii. He's more interested in pleasing his Lord than other people (deacons, personnel committee, other church members, senior pastor, etc.)
 - iii. He's not argumentative, but a man of wisdom. (*But wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. James 3:17-18*)
 - iv. His desire is to exalt Jesus, not himself.
 - v. A Christ-like man in ministry is not motivated by greed, but works for an eternal reward. (*...free from the love of money. 1 Timothy 3:3*)
 - vi. He knows he must depend totally on the grace of God for strength and for anything of value to be accomplished in ministry. (*You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 2:1*)
 - vii. A Christ-like man in ministry consistently studies, teaches and lives God's Word. (*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15*)
 - viii. He avoids anything that could lead to immorality or cause someone to suspect immorality. (*But do not let immorality or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Ephesians 5:3*)
 - ix. A Christ-like man in ministry confronts those who oppose the truth he teaches in a kind and loving way. His goal is to win them over to truth, not alienate them from it. (*With gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth. 2 Timothy 2:25*)

- x. He remains faithful to the ministry God has called him to when times are tough. (*But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. 1 Timothy 4:5*)
 - xi. Evangelism is his lifestyle, not just a scheduled activity or something someone else does.
 - xii. A Christ-like man in ministry is willing to go wherever God leads but trusts God to “open the doors.” (*And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a certain man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” And when he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. Acts 16:9-10*)
 - xiii. He welcomes ministry opportunities that God provides.
 - xiv. He refuses to manipulate “opportunities” that promote him or his reputation.
 - xv. A Christ-like man doesn’t allow ministry to prevent him from fulfilling his responsibilities as a husband and father.
- d. What Kind of Man Are You?
 - e. What Kind of Man Are You Becoming?