

(Philippians 1:29–30).

.. Stop seeking your vindication and approval, and receive what Jesus purchased in full for you at the cross.

2. Have a plan for maturity.

... You already know your need to resist our culture's slipping demands on boys to become men. A boy used to become a man at 21. Then it was 30. Now it's 40. I know you want to be mature. Desire alone will not mature you, though. You need a plan... Look around at men who are older than you — maybe ten years or more. Who do you want to be like? What characteristics would you like to have by the time you're their age? What would following Christ look like at that stage of life (1 Corinthians 11:1)? Imagine the more mature man you want to be and take specific steps to become him.

Put to death the sins of your youth (Romans 8:13). It's easy to think we will just grow out of certain sinful practices, attitudes, or beliefs.. you need to be proactive and put these things to death... "Work out your own salvation" (Philippians 2:12–13).

3. Invest in your friends.

.. You need two or three *close* male friends whom you can talk to about *everything*.. it is one of the most precious gifts God can give to a young man. If you don't have close friends, pray for one and seek him out.

Be vulnerable, be honest, and share in his troubles too (1 John 1:9). .. not every guy is looking for the same thing, and many already have their key friendships in place.

Seeking an older brother is important too. We all need an older man's perspective, someone who can encourage us, who's been there, and who knows that we'll get through it, whatever it is.

Invest in your friends, but don't rely on them to do what only Christ can do. ..

4. Stop looking for the perfect woman.

If you hope to be married, better to spend your energy developing your own godliness and maturity. Become a better husband (1 Corinthians 16:13), rather than shopping for a better woman. Your future wife, perfectly fit or not, will never give you the wholeness that comes only from Christ... If you're already married, .. Love the wife he has given you, and don't be a fool (Proverbs 5:18)!

5. Be strong — and gentle.

Masculinity is experiencing an identity crisis. Men don't know whether they are supposed to be soft guys, tough guys, or something in between. I think we need men who have courage, especially courage in their convictions (Psalm 27:14; Matthew 10:22). True courage comes from security, and that is only truly found in the truth about Christ (John 10:28).

We need to be strong — strong enough to be gentle (2 Corinthians 10:9). God our Father is almighty and powerful (Psalm 147:5), but he also cares for the widow and the orphan (Psalm 146:9). He knows compassion and is tenderhearted (Isaiah 40:11; Luke 1:78). This balance is hard to get right, but it's important.

Empathy matters, compassion matters, and gentleness matters. We need to be strong, dependable, and courageous. But we also need to know how to love, give, and comfort.

Stability in the Storm

.. the older you get, the more your union with Christ becomes a discernibly meaningful and stabilizing reality.

Cling to Christ, and as you mature as a man, he will make clear to you the beauty and relevance of your union with him. He promises, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5) — not now, not in your journey of growth as a man, and not when you are older. "He who calls you is faithful; he will surely [sanctify and mature you]" (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

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Young Men

Younger men, you do need guidance from older men. At the same time, the myth that the older generation has it all together must be erased. We don't. We are learning and growing in many of the same ways young men are.

God *has* taught older men a number of things, though .. There is counsel that can ground you in the midst of life's turbulence and equip you to become more mature in Christ (Colossians 1:28).

Here are five points that have served me well, as well as the young men I've mentored.

1. Find your identity in Christ.

.. your identity must be anchored in Christ (Romans 6:11; 2 Corinthians 5:17). ... It is in our union with him that we have deep and real security. We are perfectly known and deeply loved (Ephesians 1:4–5).

.. Each day — often each moment — when you find yourself despairing of love, look to Christ. When you find yourself seeking affirmation, look to Christ. When you find yourself needing to feel significant, look to Christ. When you have been slighted, or treated unjustly, look to Christ





Church Restoration

What Am I to Be? (III)

In Titus 2 Paul describes 6 different roles: (only the third today)

- 1. **Older men**, verses 1-2,
- 2. **Older women**, verses 3-4 [last time]
- 3. **Younger women**, verses 1-5, 15

3. Younger men, verses 6-8

(Titus 2:6) *To the young men give orders to be wise and serious-minded:*

(Titus 2:6) *Tell the young men to have self-control in everything.*

(Titus 2:6) *Likewise exhort the young men to be sensible,*

(Titus 2:6) *In the same way, tell the young men to be wise.*

(2 Peter 1:5-6) *But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, [6] to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness,*

(Galatians 5:22-23) *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control.*



In Titus 2:6-8 Paul gives us three characteristics of young men that are to be lived out:

#1. _____ filled, verses 6-7

8 encouragements for young men:

- ◆ If you feel _____ in your role that's a good place to be

(Psalms 51:17) *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart; These, O God, You will not despise.*

7 pillars for one church's men's ministry:

W _____

(2 Chronicles 20:12) *... we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."*

I _____

F _____

A humble willingness to _____

Broken _____,

- ◆ Though we have _____ to offer, God can do great things with _____,

(John 15:5) *".. without Me you can do nothing.*

- ◆ If you have sinned there is _____ with God,

- ◆ God can use your _____ in His grand plan,

(Romans 5:20) *... where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,*

(Psalms 51:11) *Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.*

(Psalms 51:13) *Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.*

- ◆ You can do something really powerful by _____,
- (James 5:16)** *Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.*

- ◆ You can do something really powerful and that is _____,

(Philippians 4:13) *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

A Great S _____

(1 Corinthians 10:13) *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

H _____

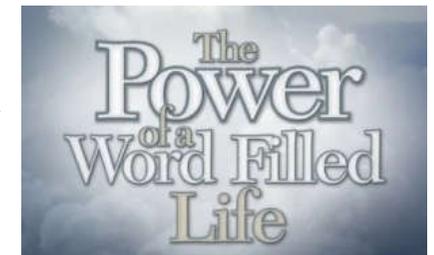
- ◆ Realise that God chose you to be _____ and _____,

- ◆ So then your role in the _____ is absolutely crucial,

#2. _____ filled, verse 7

(2 Timothy 3:16-17) *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

(Psalms 119:11) *Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.*



#3. _____ filled, verse 8

(James 3:2) *.. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.*

(1 Peter 3:15) *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;*

