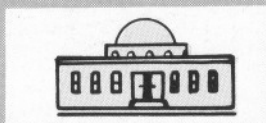


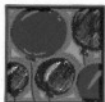
SHOW THYSELF  
A MAN



HERSCHEL E. PATTON

# *Show Thyself A Man*

By **Herschel E. Patton**



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## INTRODUCTION

### **DEDICATION**

To my wife, Reba, who has been a great inspiration for me to be A MAN, and to our three sons, Gary, Charles, and Steve, who we hope and pray will always show themselves A MAN, this book is lovingly dedicated.

Herschel E. Patton

## ***SHOW THYSELF A MAN***

- CHAPTER I. "Man"  
CHAPTER II. "By Deep Faith In God"  
CHAPTER III. "By Keeping Thyself Pure"  
CHAPTER IV. "As Head Of The House"  
CHAPTER V. "Husbandly — Love, Nourish, Cherish Wife"  
CHAPTER VI. "Husbandly — Render Dues"  
CHAPTER VII. "Husbandly — Dwell With According To  
Knowledge. . ."  
Give honor . . . as to Weaker Vessel"  
CHAPTER VIII. "As A Father"  
CHAPTER IX. "As A Citizen"  
CHAPTER X. "In Business"  
CHAPTER XI. "That Could Serve As An Elder"  
CHAPTER XII. "That Could Occupy The Office Of A  
Deacon"  
CHAPTER XIII. "By Honoring Thy Father And Mother"



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## INTRODUCTION

One of the most pressing needs of our day, or any generation, is for men — real men. Some might say, according to the old adage, "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world," so the greatest need is for real mothers. This, too, is a great need, perhaps just as great, but since God from creation "put man in charge," he must bear the primary responsibility, or blame, for conditions that exist.

In a political arena, permeated with graft, immorality, crimes, and dishonesty, there is a great need for men representing decency, sobriety, truthfulness, honesty, and honorableness.

The homes of our country, disintegrating for the past century, need men as family heads who are loving, considerate husbands and fathers, shouldering the responsibility of providing all family needs, spiritual and physical.

The church, to survive and accomplish its mission, must have men of faith and zeal to serve as elders and deacons; who have put away childish things and who "quit themselves like men"; men who are willing to put their shoulders to the wheel — carry their load and pay their way. There must be men to preach, not just as a profession, but out of conviction; who will not be daunted by inconveniences, frequent moves, cantankerous brethren, and other discouraging forces.

This great need was well stated back in August of 1968 by brother Jim McDonald in "Pause-Ponder-Profit," when he was preacher for the Second and Walnut Street church in Paragould, Arkansas and editor of their bulletin. He wrote —

"There is an urgent need for men — for strong, fearless, mature, wise, kind and honorable men: for men who bear pain without whimpering; criticism without cowering and persecution without complaining; for men who have convictions — deep, vibrant, urgent and compelling convictions to whom compromise is cowardice; surrender unthinkable and triumph inevitable. We need men who have faith, a faith that is farsighted, giving strength for the present and future; faith that is able to provide hope in adversity; love in turmoil and which placates present disappointment by future expectation: a faith that moves



to act at the slightest command of God, nothing doubting: a faith that moves brethren to step forward because it is right — despite the fact that there is doubt of personal ability."

It is the purpose of this book to study the duties and responsibilities given particularly to men in the Bible, realizing that submission to these will produce the kind of man God would have every male to be. Our concern is not for men according to physical and worldly standards, but men according to God's standard — A man of God.

Too long, and too often, the world has measured men by only one or two standards. He is a MAN because of his physical form and strength! Because of his money making ability! Because of his Don Jaun qualities, etc., etc.,. A MAN, actually and truly, is an all-around character; one who possesses all the characteristics — is all the things and does all the things — that God has invisioned, and requires, of him. Just one or two admirable qualities do not make a MAN. I think the following poem, by an unknown author, that appeared in "The Word Of Truth Magazine," expresses this idea well. While it places emphasis on one thing in particular, the emphasis I get is that as important as "creed" or "tithes" may be, without this one thing in particular, one is not a "big man".

### How Big Is A Man?

A man's no bigger than the way  
He treats his fellow man!  
This standard has his measure been  
Since time itself began!  
He's measured not by tithes or creed,  
High-sounding though they be,  
Nor by the gold that's put aside,  
Nor by his sanctity!  
He's measured not by social rank,  
When character's the test;  
Nor by his earthly pomp or show,  
Displaying wealth possessed!  
He's measured by his justice, right,  
His fairness at his play,  
His squareness in all dealings made,  
His honest, upright way.  
These are his measures, ever near  
To serve him when they can;  
For man's no bigger than the way  
He treats his fellow man.

David, in charging his son Soloman, said "I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and **SHOW THYSELF A MAN**: And keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself" (1 Kings 2:2-3). Soloman, in showing himself a man, would do so by keeping the charge, statutes, commandments of the Lord and walking in His ways. The context goes on to show that properly dealing with others, enemies, and family, would be involved. To obey this charge, Soloman would have to properly manage "self". "Show thyself . . . Be thou strong . . . keep the charge of the Lord," involves personal responsibility.

"Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can **FIND A MAN**, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it" (Jeremiah 5:1). While males were evidently numerous in those days, "a man" was hard to find. The man sought was a just, truth loving, humble man. "But to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word" (Isaiah 66:2).

These scriptures are the basis for the theme and lessons to be studied in this book. We want to see, in greater detail, the kind of person God calls **A MAN**. Knowing what constitutes such a man and that such contributes much to a stable, contented society and has the favor of God, should induce all males to be such a man.

Herschel Patton



## **CHAPTER 1**

### **"MAN"**

#### **"Man Is Important By Creation"**

The Bible account of the beginning of man is briefly given in Genesis 1 & 2. While professed scientists, atheists, and evolutionists search and theorize, rave and rant, at the Genesis account, it remains the most reasonable account of the origin of man ever given. Neither evolution nor creation can be scientifically demonstrated. Both are theories, accepted on faith in view of evidence. Scientific evidence (facts) is greater for the theory of creation than for the "something coming from nothing — by chance" theory of evolution. This is freely admitted by many of the world's top scientists.

This origin (Gen. 1 & 2) lends DIGNITY and GLORY to man's existence, while evolution degrades and lowers his standing and self-respect.

"To know that the creator of worlds stooped to touch inanimate clay with the finger of creative power, forming a body for man, and placed within that body his own image, lifts man in his own estimation to the dignity of his true worth . . . 'in the image of God'. How wonderful, how sublime, is the origin of man!" — F.W. Smith, Gos. Adv. 4/17/30, p. 371.

#### **"Man Was Given Responsibility"**

At creation, man was given a threefold responsibility — to God, to others, and to himself. He was responsible and answerable to God. "And God said" . . . "The Lord God commanded the man" (Gen. 1:29; 2:16; 3:1) shows that man was expected, from the beginning, to obey God — to be subject to God.

He was given dominion over other creations — "the fish of the sea, fowl of the air, cattle, all the earth, and every creeping thing upon the earth" (Gen. 1:26). He was to "dress and keep" the garden (Gen. 2:15) and have other created things for his survival (Gen. 1:29; 2:16; 3:1).

Man was given dominion over his wife (Gen. 3:16), which made him the official "head of the house". This responsibility would embrace the children that came to be a part of his house.

These responsibilities involved other designated duties such as working to provide "by the sweat of thy face" (Gen. 2:15; 3:17-19).

### "God's Man"

The nature and attitude that God expects of his man are briefly stated in Jeremiah 5:1 and Micah 6:8. "If there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth . . ." "He hath showed the, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

DOING JUSTLY — EXECUTETH JUDGMENT is expected of every man by his creator. If you would show yourself A MAN, then discipline every thought, word, and act with the question: Is this just? Men, in their treatment of others, and even self, are not always fair and equable. The tendency to cheat and seek a personal advantage in dealing with associates, customers, neighbors, companion, children, and brethren often smothers "doing justly". Such action not only offends and jeopardizes relations between man and others, but also his creator. In showing yourself A MAN, "doing justly" is a must.

LOVE KINDNESS is another God required characteristic of His Man. This virtue is closely akin to "doing justly." No man, woman, or child is treated justly by rough, abusive words or acts. Some males seem to think bold, rough words and violent acts are marks of manliness: That unless they "tell people off" in no uncertain terms and boldly assert themselves, they are not A MAN. This is a false concept if we are thinking of God's man. God demands kindness — action toward others that is the outgrowth of love and is like unto Himself. God's love (Jno. 3:16) in the gift of His Son for our sins is spoken of as "His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:7). Kindness is always present in our dealings with others if there is in our hearts love for others — a desire for their happiness and good. God demands "be ye kind one to another" (Eph. 4:32).

THAT SEEKETH THE TRUTH — is listed among the things that God expects in a Man. Many people act upon impulse, hearsay, opinions, feelings, and the "appearance of things". They are quick to believe and repeat — a lie, to pre-judge and, therefore, are often embarrassed, hurt, and even destroyed by their failure to love, search out, and walk "in truth".

God instructs His man to "put away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another"