

Man Talk: What makes a man good?

Written by Timothy Houston
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Everyone seems to be looking for a few good men. What makes a man good? There was a rich man in the Bible who desired to be good enough to be accepted into God's kingdom. From the time he was a child, he kept all of the commandments. He came to Jesus seeking to know what he needed to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus told to him to sell all he had and give the money to the poor. The young man, surprised by Jesus response, sadly turned and walked away unwilling to submit to the request. This young man believed in his heart that he had done more than enough to (make it in.) Because he was his own standard, he refused to do more.

Unfortunately, some men today follow this same standard. They believe that if they are better than most, then they are good enough. The rich man had money, but he lacked compassion. He was controlled by his wealth, and he didn't even know it. Had he been in control, he would have let it go, knowing that what he planted would come back to him in a greater measure. The truth is a good man desires to be better by going after what his spirit lacks. The heart (spirit) of man is like soil, and the best soil soaks up all the rain which makes it rich. The man that seeks after what his spirit lacks becomes rich in spirit. This is a part of man's quest for excellence.

What makes a man good? There is none good but one, that is, God (Mark 10:18KJV). Not to sound too much like the preacher, but no man can be good without God. He will always be at the mercy of whatever has taken the place of God in his life. It does not matter whether it is, money, drugs, alcohol, anger, or pride, if a man cannot control it, he will be at its mercy. A good man desires more despite the good he already has. Just as a poor man desires riches, foolish man wisdom, and a hungry man food, a good man must desire more.

Although there is no such thing as a "perfect" man, good men strive for perfection. To do this, spiritual evaluation is required. The man that does not desire the things he lacks spiritually may be materially rich but he is destined to remain spiritually poor. Because of this, good men work every day to be better. Knowing that they are capable of sin, these men submit themselves daily to the authority of God. It is through him that they lack nothing.

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33). I believe that God is the source of all that is good, therefore; the desire for God should always be paramount. If anyone expects to find a good man in someone who has ignored God's word, they will be disappointed. He may be handsome, rich, famous, and well-educated, but he will always be lacking. It is the quest for God that makes a man better. A good man has God in his heart. This keeps him centered, balanced, and stable which, in turn, makes man good.

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Timothy Houston is an author, minister, and motivational speaker who is committed to guiding positive life changes in families and communities. For questions, comments or more information, go to www.tlhouston.com.