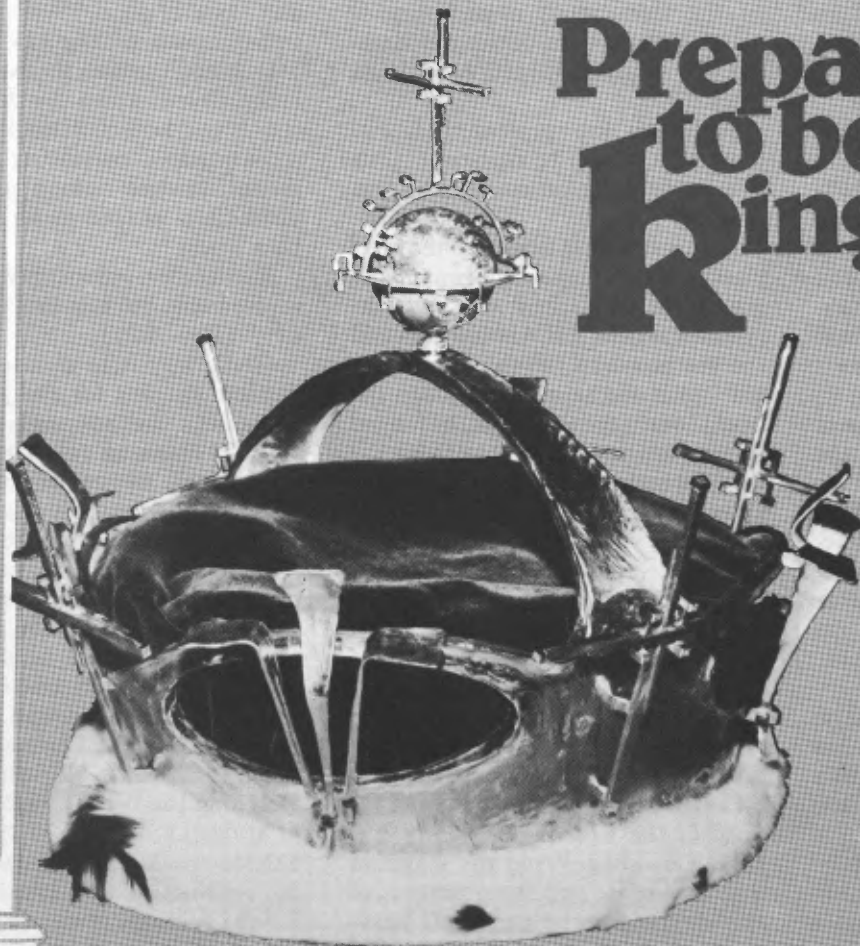


ARTICLE REPRINT SERIES

Prepare  
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A WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD PUBLICATION

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# PREPARE NOW TO BE A KING!

***Do you realize what the specific JOB promised true Christians in the World Tomorrow is? Are you preparing for it intelligently and realistically?***

by Roderick C. Meredith

**T***his is a HELL-BENT WORLD!* With the stark specter of worldwide famine, with the increasing amount of crime and violence of all descriptions — with the stepped up tempo of racial conflict, the skyrocketing incidence of pornography and FILTH, and the breakdown of respect for all law and constituted authority—it should be obvious that this world needs straightening out!

But HOW? And by WHOM?

Men have been experimenting and theorizing with solutions to world problems for about six thousand years of recorded history. And the war-torn, hate-filled, divided, starving world you see around you and read about is—to a large extent—the RESULT of man's endeavors. Man's endeavors, that is, *apart from GOD!*

The greatest Prophet who ever lived described our day: "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matt. 24:37). In the Genesis account of those days before the flood, we read: "The earth also was *corrupt* before God, and the earth was filled with VIOLENCE" (Gen. 6:11).

Yes, *just like today!*

**What is GOD'S Solution?** The destiny of man—as purposed by his Creator—is to join the God Family in ruling this world and later, the entire UNIVERSE!

Jesus Christ promised: "And he that OVERCOMETH and *keepeth my works* unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall RULE them with a rod of iron . . ." (Rev. 2:26-27).

Again, He said: "To him that OVERCOMETH will I grant to sit with me in my *throne . . .*" (Rev 3:21). Sharing His throne, of course, would denote sharing in the *ruling*.

The man or woman who *overcomes*, then, who yields to God and MASTERS the temptations and pulls of the flesh—this person will be given the tremendous opportunity of *RULING* the nations of this earth under the personal direction of Jesus Christ!

Although few professing Christians today seem to realize it, your Bible is literally *saturated* with this message!

This is the TRUE GOSPEL—the good news of the coming *world-ruling government* of Jesus Christ AND HIS SPIRIT-BORN SAINTS! The Apostle Paul told the brethren at Corinth: "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that *we shall judge angels?*" (I Cor. 6:2-3.)

In Revelation 5:10, the true saints are pictured as rejoicing that Christ has redeemed them, "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and WE SHALL REIGN ON THE EARTH."

The Prophet Daniel described the coming rule of Christ *and His saints* on earth AFTER the soon-coming revival of the Roman Empire in Europe is crushed. "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Dan. 7:27).

**Goal of a True Christian.** According to the Bible, then, what is the real GOAL of the Christian?

It is, through the acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Savior, to be forgiven his past sins—his REBELLION against the government and laws of God. "For sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). Next, through the power of the Holy Spirit given by Christ, he strives to GROW spiritually, to be an OVERCOMER—mastering his vain, lustful, lawless human nature and yielding to let God make him FIT to be a KING.

Remember, rulership with Christ is given only "to him that OVERCOMETH" (Rev. 3:21).

God's way is to choose the most capable persons for the job *among those who are surrendered* to His rule. In choosing rulers and judges over Israel, Moses was instructed: "Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people ABLE men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens" (Ex. 18:21).

The GOAL of the true Christian is NOT to "roll around heaven all day"! It is *not* to strum idly on a harp—watching the fleecy clouds go by! It is to RULE with Christ on THIS EARTH—making it a beautiful, happy, productive and peaceful place for the millions of our children and grandchildren who will live over into the World Tomorrow!

Every thinking person should be-

gin getting ready to attain THAT GOAL! We should ask our Creator to help make us FIT to join the saints in ruling this world under Jesus Christ. God has set His true ministers to help His people attain the GOAL. They are to teach and inspire God's people to GROW SPIRITUALLY more like Christ in every way, "Until we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a PERFECT man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Eph. 4:13).

But HOW do we become *like Christ*? Where do we BEGIN? Are there definite AREAS of life we should concentrate on improving?

Certainly! There are at least SEVEN AREAS of life which need special development if you are to be qualified for RULERSHIP under Jesus Christ.

*Study them. Develop them.*

PREPARE, now, to be a King under Jesus Christ and to *straighten out this world's mess* GOD's way!

**I. Develop the MIND of a King.** Certainly the most important thing that separates us from the dumb brutes is the *human mind*. Through it we have creative powers which, though limited, are like those of God Himself. Also, we have the capacity of learning and acting on spiritual truths—even when these go against the normal lust of our flesh and brain. We have the capacity of DECISION. We can RESIST the wrong and we can CHOOSE to do the good.

Besides the *total surrender of will* demanded of all true Christians, the most important mental quality needed by a ruler in God's government is WISDOM. This is the ability to take all factors of any given situation into proper consideration and then make the *right decision*. It is the most important single quality really needed in any high government office.

Other men may supply the technical *knowledge* of how to produce an H-bomb, but it is up to the heads of state to have the *wisdom* not to use it to blast human life off this planet!

*Knowledge*, of course, is merely the possession of various facts and bits of information. *Understanding* is a tremendously important mental and spiritual gift. It involves the ca-

capacity to grasp the true *principles* and *laws* which govern success or failure in life, and the true GOALS of life. Understanding also involves a grasp of the true origin and outcome of things—*why* we are here, *why* things are the way they are in this world, *what* is the purpose of life and *where* are we headed?

This kind of complete understanding, of course, is a gift from the Creator. But an important *measure* of true understanding is sometimes given to human leaders in this world such as Sir Winston Churchill who spoke of "the great PURPOSE and DESIGN" being worked out here below.

To be a leader in the World Tomorrow, then, you should seek most of all for *wisdom* and *understanding*, and then diligently acquire such *knowledge* as is useful and necessary in order to be a true Christian and a real help to others in this life. The Eternal God says: "*Wisdom* is the principal thing; therefore *get* WISDOM: and with all thy getting *get understanding*" (Prov. 4:7).

Learn to be *alert* and to exercise *perception* in discerning the trends and the motives in the situations around you. Learn also to see the BIG PICTURE. BE ABLE TO VIEW EACH PROBLEM, TRIAL OR SITUATION IN RELATION TO ITS RELATIVE IMPORTANCE IN YOUR *whole* LIFE, THE *whole world* AND EVEN THE *whole universe*! BE BIG-minded. *Don't let little things upset or disturb your judgment.*

God instructs us: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil 2:5). Certainly even the human Jesus' mind was BIG—practiced in the exercise of *understanding, wisdom, and self-control.*

Ask GOD to help you exercise these qualities of the mind of Christ. *Study God's Word* to learn more about them. *Read widely*—especially the writings and examples of the truly great men of history who have had, at least in degree, these mental qualities.

This article gives a brief overview of the *whole picture*. It should help you to see the many facets of OVERCOMING that are needed—and the fact that the GOAL of the true Christian is a very positive *and a very lit-*

*eral one.* And that YOU NEED TO BE PREPARED!

**II. Glorify God in Your Body.** The human body is called, in the Bible, the "temple" of God's Spirit (I Cor. 6:19).

We are made in the outward form and shape of God—though He is composed of Spirit and we are composed of rotting, decaying corruptible flesh. But the responsibility of *caring* for this physical body—preserving it intact, keeping it in well-conditioned, vibrant, vigorous health, keeping it graceful and lithe, keeping it physically *clean* and morally *pure*—this responsibility is a VITAL part of the basic character training required by Almighty God for all potential Kings in His soon-coming kingdom!

We moderns have been entirely too *lax* and *lazy* in caring for our bodies. Millions even in our Western world are soon going to have that lesson BURNED into their hearts and minds as the epidemic of heart attacks, cancer and other "modern" diseases brought on by *our way of living* takes its toll—and is suddenly *multiplied* by the prophesied *disease epidemics* that will soon be raging up and down the land!

Many of our troubles are caused by frustrated, confused, tormented minds—which in turn cause or heavily contribute to more bodily ills than most people even begin to realize. The maintenance of a dynamic, positive and cheerful outlook is *most important* in maintaining physical health.

Another keystone of health which most people "know about" but *do* practically NOTHING about is *proper diet*. Millions—especially in America—are going on various diets and "cures" for an overweight condition. But *very few indeed* are carefully assuring themselves that they get *enough* of the NATURAL health-building elements in their diet to build radiant health and guard against sickness. And, of course, most of us need to be *far more careful* about our intake of refined starches, sugars, fats and greases. These items need to be cut VERY LOW not only to guard against obesity, but to avoid a high cholesterol content in the bloodstream leading to possible *heart attack*, and also to

prevent the ruining of many a stomach!

Regular, vigorous *exercise* is another vital keystone in building and maintaining radiant health. Hundreds of fine exercise programs are available. It is the *WILL* to follow them which is sadly lacking.

But one who would be a leader, a *King*, must have vibrant health and energy if he is to command the whole-hearted respect and admiration of his people. He needs this to be constantly "on top" of every trial and problem—*dominating* and actively *LEADING* as a king should.

In this physical life, your health has a *tremendous* effect on the zeal and energy with which you approach even mental or spiritual problems. And the Godly *character* you develop through *DISCIPLINING* this physical body will be vital to your future as a king!

(More information on this subject is contained in our free booklet *Principles of Healthful Living*.)

**III. Develop the Personality of a King.** The next point to develop is your *personality*. A friendly interest in and an outgoing concern for others is a tremendous asset to any potential leader. For a leader is one who *LEADS*—not one who shouts and screams or physically *forces* his ideas on others.

The outgoing concern, the courage, the dynamic enthusiasm and ringing conviction of Sir Winston Churchill for the cause of Britain and free peoples everywhere was a truly powerful factor—all by itself—in helping to prepare the way for Allied victory in the Second World War. Dozens of times, in fact, the history of entire nations has been affected and *altered* by the personality of their *LEADERS*.

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones" (Prov. 17:22). This statement in God's Word shows the powerful effect of a happy, positive frame of mind not only on one's self, but on *others*!

"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Prov. 18:24). To inspire his subordinates and command their respect and loyalty, a real leader certainly will cultivate a friendly

persuasive personality and *GIVE* of himself to others.

In preparing to become a literal *KING* in God's soon-coming government, learn to *GIVE* of your personality warmth and genuine friendliness to others!

**IV. Develop the CHARACTER of a King.** The development of right *character* is paramount for anyone in a position of rulership. The honesty, purity, fairness, self-discipline and *LOVE* exemplified in the life of a king or ruler is the strongest possible influence on his subjects to be this way themselves.

Throughout the history of ancient Israel in the Old Testament, the inspired Record shows again and again that the entire nation followed the example of its king's personal honesty, morality and willingness to follow and *OBEY* the Eternal God. When the king was a murderer, whoremonger or idolator, the vast majority of the people followed his derelict example. When any king yielded himself wholeheartedly to the Eternal to walk in His commandments, statutes and judgments, the entire nation was swept by this sentiment and quickly began to experience the *BLESSINGS* and protection of the Creator.

*People do follow their leaders.*

The basis of *ALL* true character is found in Matthew 22:35-40 in your Bible. It is Jesus Christ's answer to the question of which is the "great commandment." He said: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

If any national leader truly yielded himself to the will of His Creator—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—his people would be blessed indeed. If such a leader would follow, *obey* and *WORSHIP* the true God with *ALL HIS BEING*, the character, accomplishments, happiness and prosperity of his nation would be absolutely and literally incredible.

Following his example, his people would become *honest*, *fair* to each other and completely *loyal* to their king. They would *honor* their parents, *obey* the laws of the nation—

as long as these didn't conflict with the laws of God. They would *work hard six days*—producing *MUCH PROSPERITY*. And they would *rest* on the seventh day, worshipping the Creator God and renewing not only their physical strength but their spiritual energies and convictions. (You might write for our *FREE* booklet *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?*) Murder would be practically *unheard of*. Divorce, broken homes and crime would soon become almost *obsolete*.

And in their rainfall, their overall weather, their crops and the entire produce of their fields and forests, lakes and streams, plus the fabulous wealth of their underground resources, they would be *BLESSED* with overflowing wealth and riches.

*Fantastic?*

Not at all!

For this describes *literally* what is prophesied to happen in the World Tomorrow when kings and governors over nations will be leading their people in *THE WAY* of God! For when leaders everywhere have the character to *discipline themselves*, to *worship* and *OBEY* the Creator—living by *ALL TEN* of the Ten Commandments—then the *truly* "great society" will be established on this earth under the *living* Jesus Christ.

For an extremely helpful, readable and detailed explanation of this *basis* of all right character, write for our *FREE*, fully illustrated booklet, *The Ten Commandments*.

**V. Develop Your FAMILY LIFE.**

If we human beings are *in training* to be literal Kings in the soon-coming *government* of God, what better training could we have in guiding, protecting and, in great love, *RULING OVER* human beings than with our own children and families?

The fact is that each family is like a *miniature kingdom*. It should be *ruled over*—but by a father and a mother who truly *LOVE* each other and *work together* to set the right attitudes and patterns of behavior in their home.

The father should play the part of a strong, wise, masculine, yet protective and beneficent King. The mother is his *Queen*—set over the household affairs and exercising her responsibilities with love and wis-

dom, and in complete accord with her husband's wishes.

The children are taught, trained, nurtured and *disciplined* for THEIR GOOD. Family duties and chores are allotted to each member of the household. Family play and recreation is something to which everyone looks forward. There is order, harmony, and discipline in this miniature kingdom. There is JOY. And there is PEACE.

A beautiful description of this type of family "kingdom" is extended to the man who *obeys God*: "Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table" (Ps. 128:3).

In anticipation of your ultimate GOAL, go to work and build *this area* of your life. *Understand* God's purpose in it—and be BLESSED.

**VI. Grow in SERVICE and LEADERSHIP.** Jesus Christ will soon return to this earth with majestic POWER to rule this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. Tremendous trumpet blasts will accompany His return. His face will shine like the sun in full strength.

Men will *never again* talk about whether God is "dead"!

Rather, they will finally wake up to the fact that human life did not just "happen." They will stand in awe and FEAR of their Creator!

In person, Christ will RULE this earth at last!

But WHY does He want to rule? What is His MOTIVE?

He will do it in order to save man from blasting himself off this planet. He will do it in order to bring about peace, happiness, and prosperity. In a word, He will do it in order to SERVE His own Creation—the human race.

In His earthly ministry, Jesus taught: "Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant" (Matt. 20:26-27). Jesus' entire motive in ruling and directing people is to *help* and SERVE them. It is NOT to "show off," exalt the self, or crush others down through human pride and vanity.

It is only to *help them, lift them up*, point them in the right direction for their *own good*.

This should become OUR MOTIVE, *always*.

In this life, then, we should cultivate the *attitude* and HABIT of SERVICE and LEADERSHIP—leading only *in order* to serve. So *think ahead*, be *alert* to the opportunities you may have to advance the welfare of your family, your friends, your group. Learn to concentrate your time and energies in those areas where you are just naturally able to lead—where your natural talents and abilities are greater. Be willing to take the lowest job *first*—if it affords you an opportunity to serve your fellowman. *Master* that responsibility—then greater opportunities of service and leadership will present themselves.

In the attitude of serving others, learn to lead and dominate in carrying out any of your responsibilities at work, at home, in your club or group. By friendliness, enthusiasm, confidence, preparation and DRIVE, learn to *lead others* in the right way and thus SERVE THEM.

Christian *leadership* based on SERVICE is the best possible preparation for your job as a King under Jesus Christ in the World Tomorrow!

**VII. Seek and Learn to EXERCISE the POWER of God.** In preparing to be a literal King in Christ's soon-coming government, awareness of an ability to *exercise* God's POWER is absolutely vital. For although we are not given anywhere near the *degree* of supernatural power in this life as we will in God's Kingdom, we certainly need to become familiar with it, appreciate it, and learn to exercise the wisdom, patience, and self-control in exercising it that we should.

It is sad but true that many of you readers will simply not know what I "mean" by God's power. For most professing Christians today think that it is a sort of generalized "force for good," or that it is a type of so-called Pentecostal emotionalism which involves shouting and screaming, chills up and down the spine and other products of crowd psychology and mass hysteria. Or perhaps, many of you will have no clear-cut idea of what it is.

The Apostle Paul prophesied that this would be so. He warned: "This

know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers . . . Having a *form of godliness* but *denying* the POWER thereof: *from such turn away*" (II Tim. 3:1-5).

But *what is the true exercise* of that power?

It is, first and most important of all, the *spiritual strength* of character that enables the truly converted Christian to OVERCOME HIS OWN HUMAN NATURE AND VANITY AND GROW TO BECOME LIKE GOD. It is God putting *His very own nature* in us through the POWER of His Holy Spirit!

The Apostle Peter speaks of the precious promises given us, "That by these ye might be *partakers* of the DIVINE NATURE . . ." (II Pet. 1:4).

Paul describes the Divine help we receive through the Holy Spirit: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of POWER, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Tim. 1:7). As begotten sons of God, we receive *His very nature*. This gives us—as we yield to God and grow spiritually—the spiritual strength to increasingly MASTER the wrong ways, habits, lusts and vanities that seemed *impossible* to overcome before.

This POWER comes from *personal*, direct, yielded contact with the God of the Bible—the God of Peter and Paul—the God of Jesus Christ. Notice the illuminating account in Mark 1:32-35. Jesus had been casting out demons and healing *every* sickness and *every* disease of those who came to Him. Then: "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there PRAYED."

Jesus spent countless HOURS in communion with the Father. He walked with God, talked with God, *yielded* His will to God and OBEYED His commandments. He was God-centered—constantly seeking in all things to be an instrument in God's hands. And so the POWER of God's Holy Spirit literally *surged through Him like a torrent* and GREAT MIRACLES were performed!

That is the "key" to this facet of

exercising God's power! (To find out more about God's power and how you can exercise that power in your own life, be sure to request our free reprint entitled "How You Can Be Imbued With the Power of God.")

**Act on These Points.** Remember, though, this world REALLY needs straightening out! Whether this world believes it or not, likes it or not, prepares for it or not, the Cre-

ator God is GOING to straighten things out through the direct RULE, the government of the *living* Jesus Christ and His spirit-born saints.

Then, as the world begins to cooperate, there will be *permanent peace, prosperity* and deep JOY.

Those who assist Jesus Christ in straightening out this world's staggering problems will need to be *dedicated* and BALANCED leaders. They will be those who—as zealous dedi-

cated Christians in this life—understood and ACTED on the matter of glorifying God in the development of *mind, body, personality, character, family life, service and leadership*, and in *seeking and exercising the POWER of God*.

So go to work on these qualities. Carefully read and *study* the following articles which magnify several of these vital points. *Prepare*, now, to be a King! □

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# BUILD THE PERSONALITY OF A KING!

***Do you have the capacity to inspire—to influence—to lead others for good? Here are vital KEYS to building a powerful and effective personality—and to making your life more abundant!***

A new age is coming. And the *right kind* of LEADERS are going to be needed. Those who have *proved* the Word of God—who know that the Bible *says what it means, and means what it says*—realize that Christians are now *in training* to be those leaders. Notice Revelation 2:26-27: "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall RULE them with a rod of iron. . . ."

But in the World Tomorrow, as today, you can either *lead* people, or you can *DRIVE* them. You can cause them to *want* to follow you, or you can *MAKE* them.

Which is it going to be?

When Jesus spoke, the people were *warmed* and *inspired*. The jealous, bickering religious leaders of His day were fearful lest the whole nation begin to follow Him (John 11:48). His teaching *and His personality* had *such* a profound effect on people that His disciples remarked: "Did not our heart *BURN* within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" (Luke 24:32.)

Here are those "keys" Jesus

had—five of them—to help build a powerful personality—*the personality of a KING*.

**I. Develop an Outgoing Interest and Warmth for Others.** What is the thing that strikes you most about someone who easily wins your love and respect?

Chances are, it is the sincere warmth and affection he shows. It may be the light in his eyes or his smile. It will often include the pleasant, friendly sound of his voice. For people who possess a great deal of personal charm *really like their fellow human beings and are genuinely interested in them*.

Learning to love and enjoy others—to GIVE of yourself to them in personal relations—is certainly the foremost key to building a radiant personality. Jesus Christ—the greatest personality of all times—stated this *universally applicable* spiritual principle: "It is more blessed to GIVE than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

If you can *sincerely* learn to share your warmth, your love, your plans, hopes and dreams with others—to *give* kindness, encouragement and a sense of being loved and appreciated to them—you will build bonds of

friendship that will endure many a trial. And *you yourself* will be the one most blessed in the end.

All of us should learn to SMILE more! We should put more warmth and enthusiasm in our voices and in our handshakes. We should build a sincere feeling of empathy or "at-oneness" with our fellowmen—having THEIR welfare and THEIR happiness at heart as much as our own.

This quality of *outgoing interest* and *warmth* toward others is the BASIS for the type of personal charm and magnetism we all desire. It is, of course, based on sincere LOVE toward God and fellowman—the kind of love that cannot be mimicked or "put on." So *don't try to*. But DO exercise the faith and cheerfully *express* the love you do feel—and go to Almighty God and ask Him for more!

Learn to think of love and warmth as something you GIVE, not get. For, to quote a popular song, love is more real "*when you GIVE it away*."

**II. Build Zest and Humor into Your Life.** One of the most endearing qualities in a man—especially a leader—is the ability to see the humorous side of things, even about

himself. Mr. Armstrong has told about one of the great American bank presidents he knew many years ago who had a sign hung up on the wall behind his desk proclaiming: "Don't take yourself too seriously!"

This is excellent advice. For most men of ability are, alas, too busy building up and protecting their "image" or greatness and grandeur to maintain their childhood zest for small occasions and their ability to laugh at and enjoy many things in this temporal life—even themselves.

A number of this world's outstanding leaders and statesmen have maintained the hearty zest and humor of younger days—and it has even increased their stature as leaders.

Learn to laugh even at yourself—and at the many funny things that happen in life. Of course, always try to laugh *with* people, not *at* them. Learn also to preserve, or recapture, your youthful zest for the right kind of upbuilding fun and games—and for the new and different things and experiences that make life interesting!

**III. Learn to Be Patient, Compassionate and Modest.** Perhaps the thing that irks others most about many so-called "important" people is that they are so impressed with *SELF* that they seem blind to the needs and wishes of others. They are pompous and vain. They are impatient and demanding—cutting other people off in conversation and expecting super-human efforts of their subordinates that even they themselves would not be able to accomplish. They utterly lack real *compassion*—the ability to share in the plans, hopes, dreams and sufferings of others.

Notice Jesus' example: "And Jesus, moved with *compassion* put forth his hand . . ." (Mark 1:41).

"And when the Lord saw her, he had *compassion* on her . . ." (Luke 7:13).

"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with *compassion* on them . . ." (Matt. 9:36).

Genuine *outgoing concern* for others—as Jesus had—will be expressed in hundreds of little ways. Tact, courtesy, consideration—we

have many different names for such small attentions. Yet it is often through these acts of thoughtful kindness that we demonstrate to people the depth of our concern, our friendship and our love.

Again, learn to "give" yourself to others with sincere love and outgoing consideration for them. Have empathy—express compassion for them when they are suffering, or when they are down and out. Become more *patient* and *tolerant* of the mistakes of others—realizing your own human frailty. And be *loyal* to your friends and loved ones—not expediently "throwing them aside" when you think you have become "important."

Do *all this*—and you will inspire the love, confidence and personal devotion of others in a manner that will enrich your life beyond measure.

**IV. Be Strong, Confident and Courageous.** Strength of will and personality, infectious optimism and raw courage are qualities all of us admire. The greatest leaders and personalities of all time have had, at least in measure, these qualities.

To be this way, you must, of course, have a *purpose* in which you fervently believe—and *for which you are willing to die if necessary*.

The greatest examples of faith and courage are found in the Bible.

In Acts 5:17-42 we read the account of the apostles of God being put in prison and threatened by the Jewish hierarchy of the time. The Jews had almost decided to kill them until Gamaliel, a wise counselor, spoke. "And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and **BEATEN** them, they **COMMANDED** that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go" (verse 40).

After being threatened for their very lives—and their backs raw and bleeding from a cat-o'-nine-tails beating—you would certainly think they would at least slack off in their preaching, or perhaps go "underground."

Quite the contrary!

"And they departed from the presence of the council, **REJOICING** that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And **DAILY** in the temple, and in every house, they **CEASED NOT to teach and preach Jesus Christ**" (verses 41-42).


They had *absolute confidence* in the **LIVING** God, and plenty of **RAW COURAGE** to go through the terrible trials and sufferings often necessary in His service.

The man who has this type of courage and confidence, the man who is bold and **SURE** of his convictions, will inspire the admiration and respect of his friends and associates. Any real

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leader of men must have this bold *power of decision*, this sense of “captaincy” in storming the beaches of life, scaling the mountains and conquering all obstacles.

Learn to cultivate and build *courage* and *absolute confidence* into your life! Practice these qualities when the *little* trials and tests come along—then it will become second nature to exercise them on the great occasions. Most important of all, *surrender your life* to your Creator and to His **PURPOSE**—then you can in faith ask Him for *His* strength, confidence and courage!

**V. Enthusiasm, Drive and PURPOSE.** No matter what his other faults, a person or a public speaker will always capture at least our momentary attention and interest if he has an abundance of just one quality—**ENTHUSIASM**. For if the poorest speaker in the world is *on fire*—completely **GIVEN** to his message—he is going to speak, gesture and perhaps shout with such ringing

conviction and force as to wake up even the sleepest audience.

But most people seem only **HALF ALIVE**. They have no goal or purpose. They have lost their youthful zest for living and doing. They are often dull, boring and uninteresting. But the interesting person is *lively* and *enthusiastic*—and he usually makes life more interesting for others.

**Find the Real Goal.** To sincerely be enthusiastic and driving ahead in all your activities, you must have a *goal*, or **PURPOSE**. So learn to set goals for yourself and cultivate enthusiastic **DRIVE** and **ZEAL** in all that you do. In your voice, your face and your actions, show that you are excited and thrilled about the opportunities and challenges of life.

God says: “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, *do it with thy might*; for there is no work nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest” (Eccl. 9:10).

And in the New Testament, the Apostle Paul states: “And what-

soever ye do, *do it heartily*, as to the Lord . . .” (Colossians 3:23).

So be zealous for those things that are right and good in this life, and put your whole **BEING** into seeking your Creator and His **PURPOSE** in giving you life and breath. Then you will **REALLY** have something to be “**ENTHUSIASTIC**” about!

As *His* servant and *His* begotten son, become more outgoing and warm to all those about you; build zest and humor into your life; be patient, compassionate and modest toward your fellow human beings; with God’s help become strong, confident and courageous; and finally, with God’s supreme **PURPOSE** in mind, build *drive* and *enthusiasm* into all you think, say and do.

Do these things!—and you will have a richer and happier life. You will extend additional happiness and courage to others, and you will have made great progress toward fulfilling the great *purpose* of your loving Creator. □

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# BUILD THE CHARACTER OF A KING!

***Behind every great nation or institution is one or more persons of strong CHARACTER. Here are vital “keys” found in these people of character—keys that make possible SUCCESS and LEADERSHIP!***

**C**OUNTLESS PEOPLE of ability, intelligence, personality and training have failed to achieve success.

Why?

Time, chance, circumstance, and “bad breaks” are often assumed to be the cause. But they are not the real answers. The heart of the problem is **LACK OF CHARACTER!**

You have heard of the rising young executive who begins hitting the bottle and completely shatters a promising business career almost in its infancy. You’ve heard about the “happy” family man and civic leader who suddenly *loses everything* through a clandestine affair with a

woman young enough to be his own daughter.

And the junior executive who suddenly jumps the tracks, begins embezzling company or bank funds, gets caught and ends up in **OBLIVION** or perhaps a *suicide*. These human tragedies failed to keep their eyes on the goal.

The man who “overcomes,” who disciplines himself and develops character, is the one whom God will use as an instrument under Christ to help rule the earth in the World Tomorrow. God can always add mental ability and strength. But character cannot be manufactured or artificially produced—it is something

we must willingly develop now as free moral agents under God.

Here, then, are *seven keys* to building the character of the kind of **RULER** God will bless and use—the character of a **KING**.

## **I. Humility and the Fear of God.**

To have a lasting and prosperous reign, any king, ruler or leader **MUST** learn the lesson of humility. Your Bible says: “When pride cometh, then cometh shame” (Prov. 11:2).

Again, “Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Prov. 16:18).

By contrast, God’s Word says: “The fear of the Lord is the *beginning* of **WISDOM**” (Prov. 9:10). A



man who comes to have a deep *awe* and *respect* for his Creator is just "beginning" to acquire the basis for real *wise* and *understanding* decisions. For he will be basing all of his plans and programs on the ultimate REALITY! This entire mixed-up world is soon going to learn that lesson!

To know the true GOD of Creation, the God of the Bible, is the basis for all *right thinking* and *judgment*. It will keep you properly HUMBLE. It will make you realize that you are just a little ant on a ball we call the earth. You will quit playing "God" and wake up to reality.

#### **Think of Yourself as a Servant.**

Jesus Christ said: "Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted" (Matt. 23:12). Jesus showed that one who surrenders his will to God, who humbles the self and thinks only of being a servant of God and fellow-man—that man will be blessed, used as an instrument in the hands of his Creator, and empowered ultimately with eternal life and a spirit body.

The Apostle Paul wrote: "Let *this mind* be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation [or, '*emptied himself*'], and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men" (Phil. 2:5-7).

Too few understand this tremendous example of the willingness of Jesus Christ to "empty himself" of His divine power and glory in order to die for humanity. Very soon now, ALL THE EARTH will come to grasp and understand that because of this willingness to GIVE of Himself—to HUMBLE Himself—Jesus has qualified not only as our High Priest but as the KING OF KINGS and RULER over all nations!

This is the very *basis* of the character the true GOD demands of every leader and king! Even in this present man-made society, this living spiritual principle operates. Those who yield to excess pride and vanity soon "fall" into utter oblivion and disgrace. Those who resist the temptation come out on top.

**II. GOD'S Standard of Right and Wrong.** God says: "There is a way which seemeth RIGHT UNTO A MAN, BUT THE *end thereof* ARE THE WAYS OF DEATH" (Prov. 14:12). Yes, the way that "seems" right to human reason usually leads man to his own destruction.

Men need to learn that there is a great GOD who sets the standard of *right* and *wrong*. He has not left it up to us to decide *what* the right way is, but only WHETHER we will obey His laws and ways!

God does NOT say: "Worship God according to the dictates of your conscience." Or, "Worship in the church of your choice." Or, "Do the best you can and it will all work out somehow."

Yet supposedly educated people in our society have accepted these vague, irrational, unreasonable, contradictory platitudes!

What is God's way, God's character, God's love? "For this *is* the *love of God*, that we KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: and his commandments are not grievous" (I John 5:3). From Genesis to Revelation we find that God's LAW—summarized in the Ten Commandments—is the WAY OF LIFE. He ordained the Law for man's own good, to guide him in developing the very nature and CHARACTER of God.

If all men had *this kind of character*, there would be *no wars*, no murders, no robberies, no lies, no disobedience to parents, no vanity and lust—virtually NO UNHAPPINESS! For a full explanation of this *tremendous* spiritual principle, write for our extremely challenging and informative free booklet *The Ten Commandments*.

God's definition of "right" is *keeping His Commandments*. But what do we mean by "wrong"? What is "sin"?

The *specific* Bible definition of sin—with which *all other* scriptures plainly agree—is found in I John 3:4: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW."

How clear!

WE SEE THAT RIGHTEOUSNESS IS KEEPING God's Law as summarized in the Ten Commandments. "Wrong," or *sin*, is BREAKING that

same eternal, moving, inexorable spiritual Law!

True character is based on obedience to the broad spiritual principles of God's Law. Here, in general terms, is a good basic definition of true character: "True character involves the capacity and willingness to *find what is right*, the will to choose the right way, then the strength of will to resist all other actions and impulses and DO *what is right*."

Learn GOD's standard of right and wrong. *Live by it*. Then you will be fit to RULE AND *lead* in your own family, your business and chosen profession; and you will certainly have a vital part in the government of Almighty God in the World Tomorrow!

#### **III. Practice Wise and Impartial Judgment.**

Any king or leader of men will be watched by his followers as to his complete fairness and impartiality in judgment. Nothing can harm morale more than the discovery that a leader is hypocritically accepting bribes, playing favorites or resorting to some other similar stratagem.

True *wisdom*—pointed out in a previous article in this series—is perhaps the most important single quality of a great leader. Such a man will constantly have to be making decisions—and that calls for wisdom. God says: "Where no counsel is, the people fall; but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety" (Prov. 11:14). Most people don't really want "counsel." They want their own way!

However, a real leader of men must learn to exercise the character to seek and accept wise counsel in any important matter. And he must be completely fair and impartial in the decision or action he may take. "These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment" (Prov. 24:23).

So in your own life, your family and your business, learn to be *impartial* and fair. Learn to get ALL the facts. Learn to get *wise counsel*. Learn to admit your *own mistakes*. Then *act* on the TRUTH with fairness and mercy!

**IV. Exercise Strength and Determination.** A real "leader" is one

who LEADS. You cannot just “hand” a man authority and expect him to lead and dominate over others automatically. He must have built into his character the strength, the leadership and the determination to properly direct others and command their respect.

Many times, he may have to make *hard* and *unpleasant* decisions. But make them he must. And he must see that they are carried out.

A great leader must have the strength of will to DOMINATE in any crucial situation to guide the affairs of his family, company, institution or nation in the *right way*.

Disdaining his own doubts, fears and hesitations, every truly great leader must exercise *this type of character!*

#### V. Practice Patience and Mercy.

Any man who deals with the lives and fortunes of others needs a great deal of patience. For everyone has human nature and each of us must be patient with others.

We must also be merciful. Even the so-called “Lord’s prayer” records this important principle: “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your

Father forgive your trespasses” (Matt. 6:14-15).

God’s Word instructs us: “He that oppreseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoreth him hath mercy on the poor” (Prov. 14:31).

Again: “He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honor” (Prov. 21:21).

Any great leader must develop this capacity for understanding, for mercy, and for forgiving the minor faults and irritations of others. “For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath showed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment” (James 2:13).

**VI. Practice Diligence and Self-Discipline.** Once a nation begins to flourish or the business begins to prosper, it is all too easy for the man at the helm to let down, begin to “take it easy,” and give way to human lust and vices. A great leader must so *discipline himself* that this NEVER happens!

God says: “The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute” (Prov. 12:24). The man who works hard and produces—this man is going to end up “in charge.” But the man who lets down and is lazy will

soon find his job taken by others.

Again, “He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that RULETH *his spirit* than he that taketh a city” (Prov. 16:32). For the sake of his position—and as an example to his followers—a true leader must learn to discipline himself in what he eats and drinks, how much time he spends away from the job in recreational activities, the kind of companionship he keeps, the kind of spiritual character he is and portrays to others.

Nearly every great nation or institution is merely the length and shadow of one man. People follow their leaders! If a king is a drunken woman-chaser, so will his subjects be. If the head of a company or family is irresponsible, lazy and given to personal indulgence, so will be his employees and his family!

Through God’s help, learn to MASTER yourself. Self-mastery comes first—the opportunity to lead and direct others follows as a result.

**VII. Have LOVE for God and Fellowman.** Finally, the sincere feeling of *outgoing concern, compassion* and LOVE for others is an absolute must in the character of anyone who would be a real leader or king.

Jesus Christ said: “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have LOVE one to another” (John 13:35). His entire life was a continual example of love and service. In the end, He GAVE *His very life* to redeem human beings to their God.

Throughout history and throughout life, the lesson is indelibly written that a man who does not have sincere love for others will never command their deep loyalty, respect and obedience. They may be cowed into fear, goaded on through greed and avarice in anticipation of the spoils; but when the going gets rough, it is LOVE which truly binds together the right kind of family, the true Church of God and the right kind of nation or people.

Coupled with humility and the fear of God, guided by GOD’s standard of right and wrong, inspired by wise and impartial judgment, empowered by strength and determination, tempered by patience and mercy, protected by diligence and self-

## If You’d Like to Know More

Many hundreds have written asking if we have representatives in their local areas to counsel with them personally and to answer their questions.

The answer is yes, we do.

The Worldwide Church of God stations personal representatives (most are ordained ministers) in the United States and British Commonwealth and many other areas of the world. These local ministers will visit you, if invited, directly in your own home.

So if you have spiritual matters to discuss or questions to ask about biblical topics such as repentance, baptism, etc., please feel free to write us and request a private appointment. Worldwide mailing addresses and phone numbers are as follows:

- United States: P.O. Box 111, Pasadena, California 91123 (or simply dial this toll-free number in the continental

U.S.: 1-800-423-4444. In California, Alaska and Hawaii call 213-577-5225 collect).

- United Kingdom, Eire, Europe and Middle East: P.O. Box 111, St. Albans, Herts., England AL2 2EG (or dial this number in U.K.: Radlett [092 76] 2670).
- New Zealand and Pacific Isles: P.O. Box 2709, Auckland 1, New Zealand (or dial Auckland 686-114—reverse the charges).
- Australia: P.O. Box 202, Burleigh Heads, Queensland 4220 (or dial this number: 075-35-4233—reverse the charges).
- Canada: P.O. Box 44, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2M2
- South Africa: P.O. Box 1060, Johannesburg 2000 (or dial this number: 011-216406).

discipline, this outgoing LOVE will lead any father and head of his family, any company president, any team captain, any national leader, to GIVE and SERVE unselfishly those who share with him in the common task, trials and blessings.

If you would truly build GOD's

kind of *character*, then *ask, seek, cry out* and then yield yourself to EXERCISE this kind of love in your life and in your relations with others and with Almighty God! There is NOTHING more important. For this kind of love is far from a religious platitude. It is a living, abiding,

moving, active spiritual principle which is as real as tomorrow, as active as the law of gravity, as eternal as God Himself.

To be a *leader*, a *servant* of your fellowman, and a KING in the World Tomorrow, *think on* and LIVE by these things. □

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# BE A LOVING KING IN YOUR FAMILY KINGDOM!

*Here is a vital article in our series on personal development. Here is the way to joy, happiness, stability in your home.*

Much of today's youth have been given NO PURPOSE for life, no real training, no discipline, and precious little love, attention and interest from their parents.

Yet they are OUR CHILDREN—or our neighbor's just down the way. They live on our street, in our city—now! They will certainly affect our future—for they are to be leaders of tomorrow.

Increasingly, law enforcement officials have come to realize that parents of mixed-up children are often the chief culprits. How many a sheriff's officer has warned: "The real trouble here is that too many parents don't know—or don't care—where their children are at night."

It's time parents everywhere WOKE UP! If you are a parent, then you have a God-given responsibility to teach and train your children. You also have the opportunity to make your family life joyful and productive—thereby enriching your own life immeasurably while preparing leaders for the World Tomorrow!

**How to Share in the Abundant Life.** The great GOD of Creation inspired the Psalmist to write: "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it..." (Psalm 127:1).

How many homes are built GOD's way instead of *man's way*?

Have you ever considered what the Psalmist continues to say? "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate" (Psalm 127:3-5).

Our Creator—yes, there *is* a Creator God—is telling us here that children are a BLESSING—not a curse! Yet, all too often parents feel frustrated and "bothered" that they have to take time to play with, to give attention to, and to teach and train their darling children. Children should be "darling" if parents have given them right attention. "Happy" is the man who has his quiver full of them.

Again, the God whom most educators refuse to admit into their knowledge says: "*Blessed* is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways. . . . Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table" (Psalm 128:1-3).

What an uplifting and inspiring picture! Here is the father with his lovely and submissive wife by his side, surrounded by the clean, wholesome, uplifted faces of their

children—the fruit of their bodies and of their lives. Here is pictured a miniature "kingdom," if you please, with the father as the king and the mother as the queen over this small—but very happy—kingdom.

Every family should be just such a kingdom! Every home should reflect a balanced, warm, dedicated, giving and loving atmosphere. It should be a happy place filled with joy.

From infancy, children should be taught and trained. But they should also be loved, protected and nurtured. Your willingness to spend time with your children—to love them, to play with them, and to train them—is a tremendous responsibility. It will usually make the difference between their having a great feeling of warmth, love and respect for you — or a "distant," unresponsive attitude toward you.

If a husband and wife are willing to spend the proper time and effort with each other, and with the children, they will certainly have an extremely happy "family kingdom." This little unit will teach them lessons of love, happiness and self-discipline which will carry on over into the very responsibilities for which God has placed us on this earth — having a part in His government, His society, His kingdom in the World Tomorrow.

Here, then, are seven steps to having a truly happy family kingdom:

**Make Family Study a Habit.** Teach yourself to sit down regularly with your children—at least a few times each week—and study with them and explain to them important principles of successful living. Go over basic articles from *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine with them and inspire them to want to make a success of their lives. Have father-son or mother-daughter talks with them, telling them about your past life experiences and lessons which you hope they will not have to learn personally by suffering as you did. Teach them positively, also, principles of success and happiness.

Teach your children the basics—honesty and integrity, the value of hard work and productivity. Teach them NEVER to lie or be deceitful—teach them to respect and VALUE human life. Teach them to be CAREFUL in playing, swimming and driving, so that you will never have to have a funeral ceremony for your own child! Explain this to them heart-to-heart—make it meaningful.

Teach your children—as they get up toward the fourth, sixth, and eighth grades—to read newspapers and magazines, to be aware of what is going on in the world. Teach them to read worthwhile books—books on geography, history, the biographies of great and successful men. Inspire the right kind of ambition and desire for success in your sons and daughters!

Take time to go over with them certain outstanding articles in various magazines and newspapers that you read regarding principles of life and success which you want your children to know. Teach them wisdom and balance in applying these things. Remind them, for instance, that many multimillionaires would give all they had simply to have one happy marriage! Teach them that the grasping, clawing, greedy, competitive way of getting ahead is NOT the real way to permanent happiness and true success. But do—in right balance—inspire them to develop their minds, bodies, personalities and character so that they may be productive human beings and leaders as God directs their lives!

Read to them sections of that most neglected of books—the Bible—and explain the lessons of life. Read chapters of the Proverbs, explaining how to apply the wisdom contained in these pages.

Your little children will never forget this kind of teaching, training, love, and inspiration. It will be a help and have an impact upon their lives which will last not only through this age—but through eternity. And that is a fact!

**Make Family Chores a Habit.** Millions of modern children grow up without ever being exposed to the discipline of work and productivity. In their idle hours they develop countless wasteful and foolish habits. And they never develop the habit of work and success in this manner.

Teach your children, therefore, the habit of work.

Even in the city, children can be given many things to do *if you properly organize them*. Your boys can mow the lawn, rake leaves, shovel snow, carry in wood and kindling for the fireplace, and even help with the vacuuming, washing and scrubbing of the floors. Your girls can regularly help do the dishes, clean the house, polish the furniture, and other similar chores. Each child should be taught to keep his own room clean, to make his own bed daily, and to be responsible for putting things back where they belong and to organize his things throughout the house. This will give each child a sense of responsibility and accomplishment—and may help more than you can imagine in contributing to his future success.

**Make Family Fellowship a Habit.** Warm and loving family fellowship is a major key in the development of a child's sense of security. It will help him have a balanced personality and a positive approach to life. Every family should talk, laugh, and share their lives with each other at all times—especially at mealtime. Having “family” meals is certainly a great asset in the development of your children. In fact, the 128th Psalm, cited earlier, gives the picture: “. . . thy children like olive plants round about thy table.” Here, indeed, is an opportunity to talk over the events of the day with the children.

Ask Johnny, “What did you learn in school today?” And show yourself interested in his answer, in his analysis of the events of his life! Learn to know who your children are associating with and what kind of people they are! In a positive way—not picking and nagging—guide your children to choose right companionships, to play games in a positive manner without fighting and quarreling, and to develop habits for success in their future lives.

Learn to listen to your children! Notice their voice inflection, their personality and the enthusiasm—or lack of it—which they convey. Then try to guide and encourage them toward further development—making sure that you set the example above all else. For children will follow your example more than anything else.

Learn to laugh with and love your children deeply. Share with them the knowledge of their origins—the type of people their great-grandparents and grandparents were, how you yourself grew up, and things that will give their lives a sense of continuity and purpose. Although you should always retain proper dignity as the parent and leader, you can certainly joke and laugh with the child and bring out his personality and give him confidence in the family situation more than in any other!

**Make Family Outings a Habit.** Besides just visiting and fellowshiping at the table and around the house, build the habit of playing regularly with your children and sharing many hours of good times with them. Often, children will vividly remember the fact that father used to take them “piggyback” and laugh and romp with them on the floor. This type of activity—kept in right balance and without undue roughness—can establish a sense of rapport and closeness with your children more quickly than almost any other type of activity. Family games can be taught as your children's ages permit.

When the opportunity arises, have family picnics, hikes, camp-outs, or fishing trips. These family outings will be experiences your sons and daughters will always remember. In my own life, the dozens

of times my father and mother took me down to our cabin on a small river—or on picnics or outings—stand out in my mind as some of the happiest moments of my childhood.

You fathers need to teach your sons healthful, invigorating activities. Take them hunting or canoeing. Teach them to take care of themselves under many circumstances. Teach them to work hard, to accomplish and produce. Teach them to be self-reliant and not be weak or effeminate. Teach them to keep their voices low and speak like men.

If you orient your children's play and activities around the family and occasionally allow them to bring in one or two other children of good character, you will prevent a great deal of the tendency toward juvenile delinquency, an evil into which so many *unattended* children fall. You will be establishing a close contact with them which will enable you to guide their lives for many years in the future.

#### **Family Training and Discipline.**

Many people train their dogs better than they train their own flesh and blood! They will spend hours teaching their dog to sit, to heel and to respond to commands.

Yet practically no time is given to teaching their own children similar habits of obedience.

The living God instructs us: "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). As a parent, you have both the responsibility and the opportunity not only to teach your children obedience and respect for the rights and property of others, but also to teach them personality development, proper culture, and the importance of self-discipline and study. You have in your own hands potential leaders of the World Tomorrow! It all depends upon how much time and effort you are willing to put into training them.

"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him" (Proverbs 22:15). Here God shows us that all children are potential juvenile delinquents! It is a matter of *training and teaching* them the right way; and if necessary, with complete restraint and self-control,

*spanking them* when they disobey explicit commands and instructions. This does NOT MEAN TO UNMERCIFULLY BEAT a child in anger, but to quietly, calmly, and with complete self-control spank him, in the place which Almighty God provided, until his little mind is truly sorry for his foolishness! This kind of LOVING correction is something that gives a child a deeper sense of security and balance in his mind and personality than he will ever get by any other method!

So be sure that you make this matter of family training and discipline an important part of your family's life. Teach your children not only to control themselves physically but also to control their emotions, their tempers, and their thoughts. Guide them away from competition, greed, violence, envy, foolish daydreaming, and lust. Teach them to think positively, to live positively, and to have the goal of fulfilling their Creator's purpose and preparing for the fantastic life ahead in the World Tomorrow!

#### **Build Family Loyalty and Love.**

Your Bible reveals that God Himself is a family. There is the Father, and the firstborn Son, Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29). And all of us have the fantastic opportunity to become born sons of God in the future! (Request our booklets *Just What Do You Mean . . . Born Again?* and *Why Marriage?* They fully explain the beautiful analogy between the human family and the God family.) Your Bible shows that the Father and the Son deeply love one another—that they share all things together—that they are "one" in mind, personality and character.

So then, as long as family loyalty and love are subordinated to the love and obedience we should give to God Himself, they are a good thing.

Teach your sons and daughters to love one another, to help each other, and to remain loyal to any member of the family in the way God would have us do. This does NOT mean approval of the conduct of a rebellious criminal or support of a sinner against God Himself! But it DOES mean that—even when a brother's attitude is wrong—you will still "help" him by having concern and

by appealing to him to listen to reason and to wake up while there is yet time. It means that in the event of physical danger or hardship, all the other brothers and sisters would go to the rescue of the one in trouble!

This kind of *esprit de corps* BINDS a family together in the right way—and protects and preserves family character and integrity in the way Almighty God intended!

#### **Make Family Prayer a Habit.**

Teach yourself to lead your family daily in getting on its knees before the Creator God. Ideally, this may be done either in the morning before school and work, or in the evening before going to bed. Teach your children to *talk to God* as a Father. Do NOT stress memorized prayers or stiff, formal approaches to God. Rather, teach your children to talk from their hearts to the One that they can increasingly feel is a "Father"—the One who has made them, loves them, protects them, and has in mind their everlasting good.

Follow the *approach* of Jesus' outline of prayer—falsely called the "Lord's Prayer"—given in Matthew 6:9-13. Help them to learn to ask God for their daily needs, for strength and wisdom, and for His blessing and guidance in their daily lives. And in all their praying, teach them to be thankful for living in the blessed circumstances which most of us in the Western world do!

At mealtime, set the example by giving sincere, heartfelt, nonmemorized thanks for the blessings of food and shelter from the Creator God. Occasionally, the father or mother may wish to have the children themselves lead in prayer at mealtimes—guiding their prayer if they falter.

Then, in the morning or evening family prayer sessions, the father should take the lead and talk to God about the blessings that have been given to the family. Ask Him for help and guidance in the problems and activities that the family faces. And ask also for His guidance in world affairs, in your nation and for its rulers, and for His special blessing on His Work, which is announcing to the world the Message God sent by Jesus Christ. Then, the mother should briefly pray from her

heart and add those things which are fitting, and then each child should in turn pray—with the father concluding with a brief summary prayer at the end.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that the above points provide a marvelous opportunity—through family training, study, prayer, work, play and fellowship, loyalty and LOVE—to prevent men-

tal sickness in your children, to insure that they will NEVER become juvenile delinquents or criminals, to give them the keys which will lead to genuine success in this life, and to give them the basic guideposts and the inspiration to achieve the only real and final success—*eternal life* and a position of RULERSHIP in the Kingdom of Almighty God!

Remember the blessings prom-

ised to every one that fears the Lord and walks in HIS WAYS (Psalm 128:1-6).

The great Creator of the heavens and the earth is CONCERNED about your opportunity to build stability and joy into your home and family life. He has revealed to you “HIS WAYS.” Be sure you do *your part* in putting them into practice—always. □

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# HOW TO BUILD LEADERSHIP

*Why do so few know the real secrets to leadership? Why do so many lack a deep sense of fulfillment in their jobs and in day-to-day life?*

There are two kinds of “leaders.” One is the kind who uses “authority” and compels grudging obedience by his followers. The other kind inspires, persuades, and sets an example.

The authoritarian-type leader generally considers only himself and the grandeur he hopes to produce in his empire, nation or business. He does not give proper consideration to the legitimate needs, wishes and aspirations of his followers. But the right kind of leader leads in order to SERVE.

Which kind will *you* be?

Jesus Christ, who brought a message about world government, showed that the greatest leader will be the *servant* of those whom he heads. He described how the leaders of the Gentiles—the strutting dictators and czars—“exercise dominion” over their followers and strut about to “exercise authority” over them. “But,” He said, “It shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your SERVANT” (Matthew 20:26-27).

**The Desire to SERVE Comes First.** All too often, men desire positions of leadership and responsi-

bility primarily for the sake of exalting self—not for service. This is a great mistake, and often leads to grievous harm and unhappiness not only for the individuals involved, but for many others. Jesus said: “For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted” (Luke 14:11).

If one humbles himself to serve his fellowman, he may find that, in due time, he has become a leader because of his desire and ability to help.

This spirit of *humility*—this desire to *serve*—and the spirit of selfless dedication to a cause is the foundational approach to all true leadership. The man who is willing to *sacrifice himself* to the task at hand is the one whose followers will be most inspired and who will most quickly tend to emulate their leader. For he is leading by sacrifice and service. He is leading by EXAMPLE.

**Importance of Vision, Imagination, and a Goal.** Every great leader must possess at least a certain degree of imagination and *vision*. He must be able to think ahead—to visualize and plan on beyond the immediate present.

He must also have a GOAL. If his goal is practical and right, if he has

the foresight to realistically create plans and programs leading to that goal—he will certainly command the respect of others and be a true leader.

**A Leader Must LEAD and DECIDE.** A certain amount of speed and decisiveness is found in the makeup of every great leader. For a leader has got to be ahead of those who are following him: He must be alert, charting the course ahead—and able to *decide quickly* the right course of action when problems come up. This requires a degree of mental toughness and courage which many just do not have.

But these are qualities of Christ Himself, and they may be acquired—to a degree at least—by any Christian who asks Almighty God for them in prayer and seeks to build, use and exercise these qualities.

When Jesus found God’s Temple being turned into a house of merchandise at the Passover season, He did not go off to meditate, call a committee meeting, or ponder what to do. He took decisive action. As the Son of God, He had the right to clean out that temple—and He did! He courageously and vigorously strode through the temple courts, overturned the tables of the money changers and ordered the money

changers out. He then made a whip of cords and drove the cattle out.

A leader with this type of decisiveness and courage will bounce back from defeat or adversity. He will NOT be a "quitter." Even though his course of action may sometimes be unpopular, a true leader will have the spiritual and mental resources to see it through and not be deterred by criticism or adversity.

#### **Comradship and Delegation.**

A leader must know how to work with other people. He must command their admiration and respect—their trust, loyalty and responsiveness. Also, he must be able to so prod and organize them that they achieve their maximum potential under his guidance.

Genuine friendliness and outgoing concern for others are two hallmarks of a great leader. He has time for a smile, a friendly chat, and shows sincere interest in the lives, hopes and dreams of those under his charge. He builds a sense of comradship with those under him, so that they feel free to share their ideas and suggestions with him.

A leader does *not* live in a remote ivory tower. He doesn't hesitate to call conferences and meetings at which his assistants and subordinates can have an opportunity to share their views regarding problems that face their nation or organization.

A leader must be willing to *delegate authority* to others or he will find himself running a one-man army, a one-man store or a one-man enterprise. He must have the discernment and insight to select as his administrators men and women of ability, honesty and balance.

Indeed, an executive's ability to do this very thing and to *train* the newcomers, *organize* those functioning under him and *inspire* them to accomplishment is one of the greatest tests he must face.

**Character and Integrity.** If a leader's motives are continually being called in question by his followers, he is *through* as a leader. He must consistently set an example of

fairness, integrity and high moral character if his group or enterprise is worth "leading" in the first place.

*Self-discipline* is an absolute must for a man of leadership. The minute he allows his morals to begin to erode, the minute he begins letting down, hitting the bottle, engaging in unethical conduct—that minute may well be the point at which his leadership begins to erode and thus be the turning point in his entire future. Very few men indeed can have a feeling of faithfulness and loyalty to an example of instability, dishonesty, weakness, or debauchery.

A true Christian leader—the kind that will last—is one who adheres scrupulously to the principles of the Ten Commandments. He will be thinking far more about what is "right" than what is expedient. His personal integrity will be above question to everyone who really knows him, and his sense of faithfulness and loyalty will permeate his institution. It is here that in a very real and immediate sense righteousness pays off. There can be no substitute for Christian character.

**WHERE and HOW to Lead.** In exercising these principles of service and leadership, you will find many opportunities to use them. First of all, you can begin right in your own family; for, as explained previously, your family is "a miniature kingdom."

Apply the principles of this article on your job, in your business or on your farm. Learn to think ahead and employ right imagination and vision, decisiveness and courage. Learn to get those under you organized—and develop a proper method of delegating responsibility to others, yet being faithful and fair to them as you want them to be to you.

**Born to Rule.** Perhaps you never realized that man was created with powers far transcending the animal realm.

Read it, in your own Bible: "Let us [God is speaking] make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have DOMINION over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and

over all the earth . . ." (Gen. 1:26).

Why have so few understood what the Bible says? Notice what Jesus told His disciples: "I appoint unto you a *kingdom*, as my Father hath appointed unto me; that ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones *judging* [OR RULING] the twelve tribes of Israel" (Luke 22:29-30).

Again, "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall RULE them with a rod of iron . . ." (Rev. 2:26-27).

We human beings are put on this earth to learn lessons in preparation for ruling this earth—and ultimately the entire universe—with and under God! That's one big reason why there are trials and tests, heartaches and headaches, and lessons which are learned through human suffering. Even Jesus learned ". . . by the things which he suffered" (Hebrews 5:8). That's how He became a leader.

But, even here, many elderly people and women often ask: "But why should I want to domineer over others or give people orders? Why should I be interested in this idea of being a ruler in God's Government?"

Why, indeed?

Have you ever wanted to give real and lasting help to the starving people of India and Africa? Have you ever wanted to really and permanently help the lonely, pitiful, lost-looking orphan children around the world? Have you ever genuinely wanted to quickly help the blind, deaf and crippled?

As a *servant* and a *leader* in God's Kingdom, you will have that very kind of opportunity!

Prepare for that day. It is coming sooner than you think! Try to help and serve others with the knowledge that you have. Develop and USE these qualities of leadership in your everyday life.

Christian leadership based on SERVICE is the best possible preparation for your job as a king under Jesus Christ in the World Tomorrow! □

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