

'Let the Men be Examples' Supplement

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Book: *Let the Men be Men* by Chris Mueller

Chapter #6: Let the Be Be Examples (The Necessity Of Good Works)

Scripture: "In all things show yourself to be a model of good works." Titus 2:7

Summary of Chapter #5 'Let the Men be Sensible'

1. **As a summary of chapter 5** recall, if you can, the story of the 14th century duke by the name of Reynald III. Raynald was significantly overweight and in a succession to power battle with his brother Edward. Edward captured his overweight brother and built a room around him, promising that he could regain his title and property so long as he exited the room. Raynald himself was the problem. He would have to lose weight to achieve his freedom. When Edward was challenged over the way he was treating Raynald he responded: "*My brother is not a prisoner. He may leave when he so wills.*" But Raynald never lost the required weight and remained in the room for 10 years, released only after his brother Edward died.
2. **Chris applies this account by saying:** "[We are all aware, on some level, of how difficult it can be to exercise self-governance, relying on the Spirit of God, and prioritizing the Word of God over our own desires. Just like Raynald was enslaved by his appetite, every young man has something that competes with the Lord for control of his life.](#)"
3. **We then discussed how young and old men alike need to learn how to be sensible Christian men.** Training ourselves to be sensible guards us against the underlying issue in the story of Raynald and Edward, [a lack of self-control and poor judgment](#). Sensible Christian men are desperately needed in the church today.

Chapter #6 'Let the Men be Examples'

Introduction

1. **This chapter, as entitled, is all about Christian men and our need to live lives of example as evidenced through good works.** I remember many, many years ago when I used to work on a local dairy farm as a teenager getting the cows in for milking at about 4:30am one morning and having the strangest experience. Typically I would open the gate and herd the cows by driving them towards the gate, making sure to check the corners to not miss any cows in the dark. This particular morning however, perhaps the cows were so keen to get to the shed that when I drove around behind them on the four-wheeler towards the back of the paddock, they were all following me wherever I went! I was completely unable to drive them at all! So in the end, I led the cows up the lane, going in front of them the whole way.

2. **If what I did for the cows that morning was leadership by action and demonstration, so it is for men in the Christian life.** We must be leaders by example and desire to do good works for God. We do not drive, force, or manipulate, but we lead by patterned example. As we follow Christ, others must be able to follow us, with the goal of leading them closer to Christ themselves. Chris says, "In the race of the Christian life, Jesus Christ calls upon men to set the pace by living a life marked by good works. God commands each of his men to be a model for others to follow."

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD WORKS

1. **Good works matter! Something we don't often hear and so to some Christians it makes them nervous!** But as Christian men, God calls us to be role models to others about us of good works which testify of our living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour from sin. People often get nervous about talking about the necessity of good works in the Christian life because they might think that someone is trying to introduce good works to the the gospel message which clearly teaches we are saved by grace alone through faith alone! In other words, salvation apart from good works. And this is entirely true. Nothing of us contributes to our salvation, it is all of God.
2. **However, just because we are saved apart from works of our own is NOT to say that the life we lead from then on does not matter to God.** Hence this is why we say that good works are the fruit of true salvation and not the root of it, and they should not be confused. We believe that when someone genuinely comes to know Jesus Christ, and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, they will lead a changed life.
3. **Chris gives the following biblical references, saying,** "The Bible teaches that what we do impacts those around us. Real spiritual leadership and true male headship cannot exist without a commitment to setting an example that is worth following." "Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us." (Philippians 3:17) and "not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example." (2 Thessalonians 3:9) and "Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe." (1 Timothy 4:12).
4. **And so it's important that in Christ we recognize we have a duty to live a certain kind of life as an example so that if it possible people can imitate us as we imitate Christ of course we cannot do this perfectly by no means.** Chris says "The greatest impact we can have on our world is not rallying people to vote or peaceful protest. Instead it is pursuing Christ and allowing the Holy Spirit to shine through us with biblically minded good works at home, school, church, work and in our neighbourhood."

Q: How do you understand this idea of works being the fruit of salvation and not its root? Why is it so important that we not confuse these two together?

MOTIVATIONS FOR GOOD WORKS

To become an example of Christ to others, we first need to understand that to God, good works for his people are a crucial aspect of their calling. So now Chris will give some motivations.

Proof Of Faith

1. **The first is simply that the life that we lead is one proof of saving faith.** A person, in other words, cannot claim to know Christ if their life looks no different to that of the worlds, because one of the key evidences of God's working in us, is a desire to lead a holy and life consecrated to God's will. Now this isn't to say that there isn't a daily struggle with sin, but the reality is that there is now a new relationship to sin; there is an internal war against sin motivated by the gospel. Listen to the scripture, "Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. But are you willing to recognise, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?" (James 2:17–20).
2. **I think we can clearly rule out this idea of a 'carnal Christian' from on a passage like the above.** There is no category, as Chris says, of a Christian who lives like a non-Christian. The Apostle Paul writes, "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6:9–11).

Q: How would you biblically counsel someone who has self-deceived themselves into thinking they are saved because they have prayed the "sinner's prayer" at some point in their lives, but bear no fruit in their lives reciprocating that confession?

Our Purpose As Christians

1. ****A second motivation for good works is one that we often forget: that God created us for this purpose in the world as His called people!** Chris says, "After explaining how the Ephesian Christians were not saved based on their own merit but solely because of the grace of God, Paul tells us that before God created us, He pre-planned good works that would be accomplished through us for the benefit of Christ's Church." "For we are His workmanship (our election), created in Christ Jesus for good works (his purpose), which God prepared beforehand (his sovereign working through us) so that we would walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)
2. **So here we see the reality that everything we are in Christ, as a disciple of His, really finds its way back to the work of God in us, for His glory and purposes.** Before the foundation of the world, God chose us in Christ AND God also foreordained the works that we would do for Him in this life. God is working through us and making our good works for him possible. Chris says, "Our loving God is sovereign and has pre-

planned our lives to be filled with good works. That means all born-again believers will do them. If you have not joyfully embraced this divine purpose for your life, you have either not fully understood it yet or you are not a true Christian."

Judgement Day

1. **A third motivation for good works is the judgement day.** Now, yes, it is certainly true that, as Chris says, "all believers' sins were judged on the cross of Christ, and as Jesus declared, that work is finished." However, we must also take into account that "believers will still give an answer for their lives to the Lord. Every Christian will one day stand before the judgement seat of Christ, where we all will be evaluated on the basis of our deeds. At that appointed time we will receive rewards on the basis of the good works we do."
2. **This should make us ask the question about the motivation for our good works with respect to the judgement day.** If our heart's motivation for good works is driven by what Chris says as "selfishness or pride, those actions will 'burn up'. They are useless, unacceptable, and regardless." In support, the scripture says, "Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire." (1 Corinthians 3:12–15). In other words, as Christians, we don't want to stand before the Saviour one day and have nothing to show as fruit for the salvation He gave us! We don't want to find that everything that we have done, thinking it was for Christ, has really been motivated by ourselves and not for His glory, and thus is burnt up. That is to say, considered of no value and without reward.
3. **The Bible's emphasis on God's judgements on the basis of peoples works done in the flesh or in the Spirit helps us understand how it is that even those we might think as leading noble 'Christian-like' lives while not processing faith in Christ will be condemned in judgment.** In other words, some Christians find it hard to comprehend that there are many people in this world who live what appears to be saintly lives yet will face eternal judgment. For we would say that from the stance of the gospel, they are unsaved and justly condemned. Why so? Chris says, "A non-Christian can do 'good works' in this life. They can be generous or kind or even appear gracious, but none of those actions are ultimately acceptable to God, since they were all accomplished in the flesh for their own glory and not in the spirit for His glory." This is why good works outside of Christ are considered but filthy rags in His sight! Not only can those good works NEVER cover or make atonement for one's sin, but the works themselves are stained and improperly motivated and not done in the Spirit empowered through Christ.

Q: Explain in your own words how you understand the judgment seat of Christ believers will undergo, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5:10)

Motive And Power

1. **Following on from above, the teaching point here should be to understand that only good works done for the glory of God through the power of the Spirit are those acceptable to God and worthy of His reward.** Thus as Chris says, "a good work is not ultimately good because of what you do, it's why and how you do it that makes it good." So it's our motive for good works and the power from which these good works are accomplished that is the basis of whether it truly is a good work and worthy of reward or not.
2. **Think of Barnabas vs Ananias in Acts chapters 4 and 5 respectively.** Chris says,** "Barnabas had a right heart and his good deed honoured God. In Acts 5:1-5, however, we see a similar act of giving, but this time with the wrong motives. Wanting to look good, a man named Ananias said that he gave all the money he had pledged, but in fact he lied... Many truths can be learned from this passage and one of them concerns the motive for good works. Between Barnabas and Ananias (and his wife Sapphira who was also struck dead) the motive made all the difference."

Q: Undoubtedly we have all at some point in our Christian lives been ill-motivated in our good works. What are some things we can look for to ensure we are motivated for the glory of God in our good works only?

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE COMMAND

1. **Paul's command to Titus was "in all things show yourself to be a model of good works." (Titus 2:7).** So now Chris will focus particularly on the implications of this command for young men and especially those who want to be of service to God and ministering to others; such as Titus who was in Crete establishing churches and appointing elders. In the original Greek text there is a special emphasis on "show yourself". Paul really wanted Titus to get it! And God would have the same for every young man to be of service for Him.

Focus On Good Works

1. **Some understanding of the Greek word for "show" will help us get Chris's point, and Paul's, for that matter, as he writes to Titus.** Chris says, "The word Paul uses for "show" here also has a unique meaning that will help us to understand why good works are important. It is built from two different Greek words that, when put together, give it a special emphasis. The first word making up the Greek word for "show" in Titus 2:7 means "to provide, grant, furnish, or supply."... The Greek word is used again in 1 Timothy 6:17, where it is translated "supplies": "Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty or to set their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy."... the word "show" in Titus 2:7 carries with it the idea of being a selfless well of endless resources."

2. **Chris describes the second aspect to show this way, "The second word making up the Greek word for "show" means "to turn one's mind towards, to pay attention to, or to be concerned about or occupied with."** This was what Paul did not want Timothy to do when he said not to "pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the stewardship from God, which is by faith" (1 Timothy 1:4). "... "Paul puts those two words together in the word translated "show," so he is commanding Titus and godly men of every generation to be preoccupied with how to show good works. The godly young man should ask himself each day, What good deed can I do?" Every word in Titus 2:7 is loaded with the idea that God fervently desires young men to seek out opportunities to do good works."
3. **What we should take away from this is the need for an inward quality of heart that loves Christ, loves the glory of God, and seeks to live in the power of the Spirit in all things. The way we make decisions, the way we speak, the way we act, the way we serve, is always eager to be about this commandment.**

Be An Example For Others

1. **Now Chris focusses in on this word translated "model" from Titus 2:7.** The Greek word is where we get our English word for type from, the Greek word being "tupos." And in the first century, this was the word for a "die." You would use a die to make an impression, for example on a coin or a document. And doesn't this perfectly illustrate what God wants us to be as men? Chris says, "Like a die or a cast, our good works are to be a pattern for others to follow."
2. **But on a deeper level, not only are we, by God's strength, to be an example for others, not as if a die, a mould, a model, but we are to actually leave an imprint of good works upon other people.** Chris says, "However, being a "type" is more than being an example. It also means to leave a mark or to make an imprint. This nuance is found in John 20:25, where Thomas is described as being a doubter: "The other disciples were saying to him, 'We have seen the Lord!' But he said to them, 'Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.'" The word for "imprint" here is tupos—"type." To be a "type" means you must make an impression through your example. You leave a mark that remains on someone's life. Your good works impact others significantly for the glory of God."

Q: How can we seek to live out, especially this second part, which would leave an impression on other people of our good works, and yet they be motivated and empowered correctly, as we discussed earlier?

IMPACT AND INFLUENCE

Discussing the impact that good works motivated by the glory of God, Spirit produced, will have about the man of God.

Leadership

1. **Pursuing good works in your Christian life will impact first of all your leadership of others.** The highest calling of leadership in the church is to serve as an elder. Not all men will serve as elders, but all should certainly be pursuing the qualities of an elder. One of the key texts on eldership comes from 1 Peter 5, and there Peter identifies that the elder is to be one who is an example to the flock. They represent Christ to his church through their lives. "Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock." (1 Peter 5:2–3) And interestingly, in the very next verse, it returns to the idea of reward for good works. "And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory." (1 Peter 5:4)

Credibility

1. **The next impact that good works in your Christian life will have as you set an example is that it will confirm your credibility (that 1 Timothy 3.7 sets as a requirement for church leaders).** This implies that you will practice what you preach! Chris describes a good deed for Christ as a "fragrant memory and a lasting impression for the cause of Christ."

Witness

1. **Perhaps one of the most important impacts good works will have is upon our Christian witness.** In fact, in a way we can't really hope to be an effective witness until our life is actually consistent with the gospel we communicate. "Keep your behaviour excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may, because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation." (1 Peter 2:12) Chris says, "Note that the Christian's good works are to be observable. Why? So that as the unsaved observe those good works, they are able to see the nature of God Himself. By living out good works, a godly young man is sowing seeds that may later sprout into a response to the gospel. Unbelievers may wonder about the source of those good works, which is God working through the believer. The life of the young man who longs to be a fragrant aroma to God (Ephesians 5:2) will have a powerful impact upon those without Christ."

HOW TO BECOME A MODEL OF GOOD WORKS

1. **How do we put some of what we've looked at into practice?** How can we make good works for God an ordinary part of our daily life? Perhaps the most helpful advice is going to be pay attention to the small or seemingly insignificant ways you can attend to good works. Chris says, "You should also recognize that becoming an example of good works starts with doing the little things. As St. Francis de Sales said, "Great occasions for

“serving God seldom come, but little ones surround us daily.” Don't wait for the great tasks. Do the little tasks in a great way."

- 2. We should be willing to serve in the "unseen" jobs.** This is one way to test our motivations, as discussed earlier. If we're willing to do things, good works for Christ, in ways that may only be known by a few or no one at all, it's a good start! We don't need to post it on social media, go around telling people about it. It's a sure way to know our motivations heading in the right direction. We want to be "clothed in humility." (1 Peter 5:5). Jesus talked about many your good works in this way, "“And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.”" (Matthew 10:42). Chis says, "Those who are humble will seek to obey the Scriptures. They seek to obey the Scripture's commands about serving others regularly and faithfully in ministry within the local church, and they seek to be a witness to the lost by good works and sharing the message of the gospel. They do this not to 'get ahead' or to be noticed, but because it is God's will found in God's Word. Their commitment to a life filled with good works will make an incredible impact in this world for God's glory."

Q: What are some ways we can cultivate good works in the little things of our lives, and how do you practically plan to do this?

Q: Is there anything that stood out to you from this chapter of Chris's book that you wish to discuss further?