

Title: Family Life I - Men of Courage
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Men, each of you is driving a vehicle. Morally, spiritually and relationally we are driving a vehicle.

Choose today! Choose godly road

1 Kings 18:21 (The Message) ²¹ *Elijah challenged the people: “How long are you going **to sit on the fence?** If GOD is the real God, follow him; if it’s Baal, follow him. **Make up your minds!**” Nobody said a word; nobody made a move.*

God's way is the only way. God's way is the best way. Make up your minds.

Ephesians 5:5–8 (ESV) ⁵ *For you **may be sure of this**, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.* ⁶ *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.* ⁷ *Therefore do not become partners with them;* ⁸ *for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light***

- Choosing our own way? It is like driving off the cliff.
- **Sex before marriage?** statistics show the destruction...
- I have massive respect for couples who say we will be sexually pure before we get married.
- **Idolatry?** the blessings of God could become an idol. ***Priorities** - Jesus, family, work, ministry. Seek first the kingdom!

Psalms 112:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ *Praise the LORD! **Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, Who delights greatly in His commandments.*** ² *His descendants will be mighty on earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed.*

- God's way is the only way. Descendants will be mighty on the earth.

Numbers 14:32–33 (ESV) ³² *But as for you, your **dead bodies shall fall** in this wilderness.* ³³ *And your children shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years and **shall suffer for your faithlessness, until the last of your dead bodies lies** in the wilderness.*

- "Your children shall suffer for your faithlessness". **Men we are the gatekeepers** - will we open the door to hell or to heaven for our family?
- **How many children are suffering in this world**, because of dads who are unfaithful?

Joshua 24:14–15 (ESV) ¹⁴ *“Now therefore **fear the LORD** and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, **and serve the LORD.*** ¹⁵ *And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, **choose this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**”*

- The Resolution is about choosing the godly road.
- The Resolution is a declaration of war.

Loyal hearts. Put in the right fuel. Not poison.

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NKJV) ⁹ *For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to **show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.***

Our invitation! God is looking for, all across the world for men and women who would be loyal to Him. Trust in Him.

Danger?

Danger of running out of fuel - spend time with the Lord daily and fill up your tank!

Danger of dead religion. Poison. Danger of being religious, but without the heart of love. Win the hearts of your children and of your spouse. Hypocrisy immunizes our family to the gospel and they will turn away from God.

Danger of being complacent - we need to live on the Frontlines. Urgency.

Nehemiah 4:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ *And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. **Remember the Lord**, who is great and awesome, and **fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.**"*

- fight for your family! Get a mission, and live it... front lines.
- **King David:** Massive destruction followed his sin and impacted his offspring and the nation of Israel. David's own family, his kids, turned against him.

2 Samuel 12:8 (NKJV) ⁸ *I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, **I also would have given you much more!***

Bold boundaries - Putting up safe barriers in our lives

Barriers on the godly road. Don't want to wake up after you've driven off the cliff. Hit the self made barrier, and wake up to get back on track! Choose your values. Choose your principles.

1 Samuel 2:35 (ESV) ³⁵ *And I will **raise up for myself a faithful priest**, who **shall do according** to what is in my heart and in my mind. And **I will build him a sure house**, and he shall go in and out before my anointed forever.*

God will build us a sure house when we are found faithful in Him.

Commitments real men make:

- "I am planted in the house of God"
- "I am a front line man" - I get involved in the Kingdom of God.
- "I invest in godly friendships"
- "I make myself accountable".
- "I make time for my family"
- "We talk about God in our home and we talk to God in our home"

What would it have looked like if King David had an accountability partner?

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NKJV) ⁹ *For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to **show Himself strong** on behalf of those **whose heart is loyal to Him**. *At all cost.. do what you need to do.*

***Videoclip - from the movie Courageous.**

1. Today choose - choose the godly path.
2. Loyal hearts - get fuel from above.
3. Bold boundaries - put in place what is needed to stay on track!