

REAL MEN ARE GODLY

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Preface

Paying taxes, meeting deadlines, commuting to work, dealing with coworkers, being congenial to neighbors, waiting in line at the store, getting along as a family, keeping the car operating, or planning income for retirement—do these activities sound familiar to you? Life is full of pressing demands. Do you approach all of life in a godly manner?

You may think that the character of godliness belongs only to pastors who make their living doing church, to people who have time on their hands, or to women who seem to be naturally spiritual. The truth is, godliness is not for a select few. Godly living is a possibility for every follower of Christ, including real men.

In this study you will investigate Job, a man who integrated godliness into the entire scope of his life. You will discover that Job's life was more than suffering and sorrow. He was a real man who faced the same challenges as you. What set Job apart was his determination to do everything in a godly manner. As you study these lessons on your own or with a group of men, you will learn how godliness can become part of every area of your life. **Real** men are **godly!**

L E S S O N O N E

A Real Man

This study will help you view every dimension of your life as an opportunity to exhibit godliness.

You've probably come across a T-shirt with the expression "Real Men . . ." The idea is that if a man is truly a man, he will evidence his masculinity by entering into certain activities. The following expressions are some slightly slanted samples.

- Real men drink their coffee straight.
- Real men don't go shopping.
- Real men are on the green in two on a par five.
- Real men don't use instruction manuals.
- Real men show off their injuries.
- Real men have a refrigerator on the front porch, a car on blocks in the yard, and old tires on the roof.

And my favorite—

- Real men need only three things to be successful: duct tape, WD-40, and a good dog.

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Real Godliness

If you are a real man who is a Christian, your life is to evidence a most important attribute, that of godly character.

1. In your circle of acquaintances, what man stands out as being godly? What about him causes you to view him in that manner?

What activities characterize real godly men? We often assess a man's godliness by measuring his involvement in three major activities:

- daily devotions (Bible reading and prayer);
- church involvement (attendance and service);
- witnessing.

We think that if a man meets these three essential standards, then certainly he must be godly! Undoubtedly these activities are vitally important. However, in themselves they are not the sum total of godliness. Many more components fill a man's average day.

2. List some of the responsibilities that you have in your life.

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Godliness is intended to be a pervasive quality that penetrates every dimension of a man's life—his work ethic, money management, treatment of people, commitment to his family, and much more. To be godly is to conduct oneself in a truly Godlike manner.

3. What unique design feature did God give to man (Genesis 1:27)?

Man was created to reflect the character and glory of God. But like a deadly disease, sin infected man.

4. What profile of man do you find in Romans 3:10–18?

5. How does man match up to the character of God (Romans 3:23)?

Because of sin, God's original design for man was distorted and hidden, just as if mud were thrown on a great work of art. But through the salvation that God offers, restoration can begin.

6. What is the ultimate purpose of the salvation that God extends (Romans 8:29)?

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Man can again be conformed to the character of God.

7. How does one take advantage of this salvation (Romans 10:9, 13)?

Godliness can be a part of a man's life. God desires that godliness (His character) be integrated into all areas of life, not compartmentalized in a few.

8. How did Paul describe total-life godliness in 1 Corinthians 10:31?

Paul provided a similar challenge in Colossians 3:17: "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus."

9. Into what areas of life should you integrate godliness according to the following verses in Colossians?

3:18, 19

3:20, 21

3:22—4:1

4:2—4

4:5

4:6

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An Excellent Example

Since godliness may seem like an abstract concept, its meaning becomes clearer when we observe a real-life example. Though the Bible contains many godly role models, one outstanding example is Job.

The distinguishing mark of Job is often his suffering. While enduring suffering is an outstanding trait of Job, many other positive attributes characterize this godly man.

10. How does Job 1:1 describe Job?

11. Job had many responsibilities. What areas of his life do you find in Job 1:2–5 and 29:12–17 and 21–23?

As a husband, father, neighbor, businessman, and citizen, Job conducted himself in a manner that matched the character of God. Godliness for Job was not compartmentalized in a confined segment of his life, nor was it reduced to a religious ritual. Godliness evidenced itself in everything Job did.

Job was not a pastor or clergyman. Sometimes we place those individuals in a special category and assume a separate standard exists for other men. Job claimed no separate standard.

Job was a man with a demanding job and a large family. He lived as an active participant in his community. He was a man with enormous responsibilities and a busy schedule.

12. Write a description of the areas of Job's life listed on page 12.

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Family (Job 1:2, 4)

Business (Job 1:3)

Religious (Job 1:5)

Political (Job 29:7–11)

Community service (Job 29:12–17)

Job's distinction came not from his large family, business success, or fame, but because his life reflected the character of God in everything he did.

This study is designed to assist you in the ongoing adventure of integrating godliness into every dimension of your life. The process of pursuing godliness requires effort, but the results are worth the investment.

A Real-life Model

Do you evidence godliness in every dimension of your life?
Could you honestly wear a T-shirt that said . . .

Real men love their wives.

Real men give attention to their families.

Real men treat everyone with respect.

Real men work hard.

Real men use self-control.

Real men remain faithful to God no matter what happens.

Take a few moments and consider the Life Areas listed on the chart on page 13. Think about your success (or lack of success) in integrating godliness into each area. Then rate your **GQ** (godliness quotient) according to the extent of your godly living.

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Godliness Quotient Chart

Put a check mark in the column that best describes your godliness in each life area.

Life Areas	Mastered	Taking Positive Steps Forward	Mediocre	Below Average	Needing Major Work
Marriage					
Family					
Job performance					
Work colleagues					
Church					
Hobbies					
Finances					
Friendships					
Vacation					
Community service					
Education					
Fitness					
Neighbors					
Chores					
Extended family					

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The apostle Peter was a man who accepted the responsibility and challenge of integrating godliness into every area of his life.

13. What reassuring promise did Peter share (2 Peter 1:3)?

14. What did Peter say about the process of developing godliness (2 Peter 1:5–8)?

The road to godliness begins with a first step. You must trust Jesus Christ as your Savior. Godliness is not the achievement of a lifetime of self-effort, but it is the product of a life transformed by God's grace. Place your faith in Christ, and you will be saved. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Once you trust Christ as your Savior, godliness is within your grasp. The resources to assist you in developing the character of God are freely available. The challenge is for you to begin moving toward that goal. The benefits of godliness are worth the effort: "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" (1 Timothy 4:8).

A Verse to Memorize

*"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue"
(2 Peter 1:3).*