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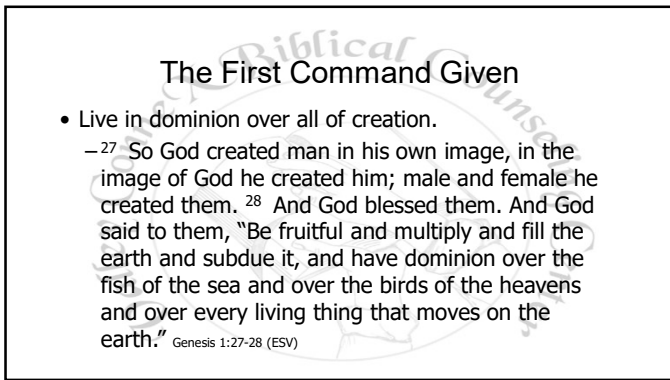
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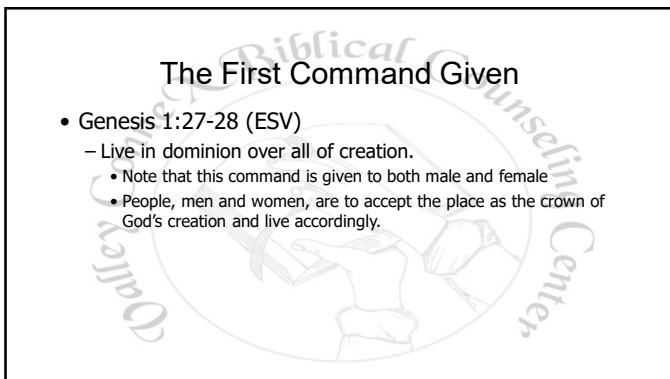
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## The First Command Given

- Genesis 1:27-28 (ESV)
  - Live in dominion over all of creation.
    - <sup>15</sup> Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, Ephesians 5:15-18 (ESV)
    - Almost all of the disfunction in the lives of people today can be traced back to a violation of this first command. As this passage in Ephesians indicates we give the control of our lives over to the things of creation rather than to God where it belongs.

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## The First Command Given

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      - For men who come for counseling this is going to included placing themselves in bondage to:
        - Sexual sin: Pornography, promiscuity, adultery
        - Substance control: Alcohol, drugs
        - Material possessions: Greed, covetousness, theft, dishonest gain
        - Our Own Emotions: Outburst of anger, rage, passivity

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## Two basic responsibilities given to the first man.

- <sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. Genesis 2:15 (ESV)
  - Take responsibility of what God has entrusted to you and develop it to the highest potential
  - Protect what has been entrusted to you.

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### How did Adam do?

#### An example to avoid

- Stood passively by as Eve was tempted and sinned and then participated in disobedience.
  - Passivity is too often the practice of men.
    - “The image just popped up on the screen”
    - “My wife won’t let me lead”
    - “The kids are old enough to make their own decisions”

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### How did Adam do?

#### An example to avoid

- Tried to hide and cover up their sin.
  - Men often try to deal with sin their way rather than through God’s provision of confession, forgiveness and cleansing. (1 John 1:9)
    - “I provide you with a nice house and a comfortable living so that should make up for my bad behavior”
    - “What I do in the private moments of my life is no one else’s business”

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### How did Adam do?

#### An example to avoid

- Passed the buck when confronted
  - Failure to step up and accept responsibility
    - “She seduced me”
    - “The company was not paying me what I was worth so I took what I wanted”
    - “The people around me make me so angry”
    - “She pushed me too far”

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### How did Adam do?

#### An example to avoid

- As a result of grasping what he could never have, he lost what had been entrusted to him.
  - Men still fall for the lie that fulfillment lies outside of the parameters set by God.
    - This leads to all kinds of counterfeits for fulfillment
      - Pleasure
      - Praise or approval of people
      - Possessions
      - Comfort
      - Power

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### A contrast to Adam is a man named Joseph.

- Rejected passivity as he refused the advances of Potiphar's wife. Genesis 39:1-18
- Stewarded responsibility well even in challenging circumstances. Genesis 39:1-7a; 20-23
- Took appropriate initiative in leadership Genesis 41:32-36
- Looked to God for fulfillment Genesis 45:4-8

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### A definition of a man as God created him to be from Robert Lewis, in the study *The Quest for Authentic Manhood*

- [Biblically] A man is one who rejects passivity, accepts responsibility, leads courageously and seeks God's reward.

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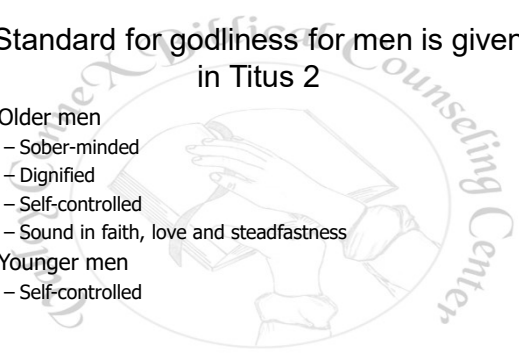
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Standard for godliness for men is given in Titus 2

- Older men
  - Sober-minded
  - Dignified
  - Self-controlled
  - Sound in faith, love and steadfastness
- Younger men
  - Self-controlled



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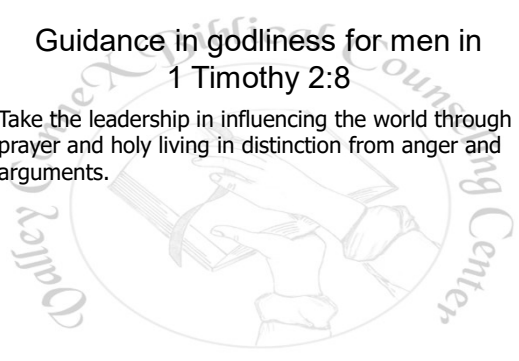
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Guidance in godliness for men in 1 Timothy 2:8

- Take the leadership in influencing the world through prayer and holy living in distinction from anger and arguments.



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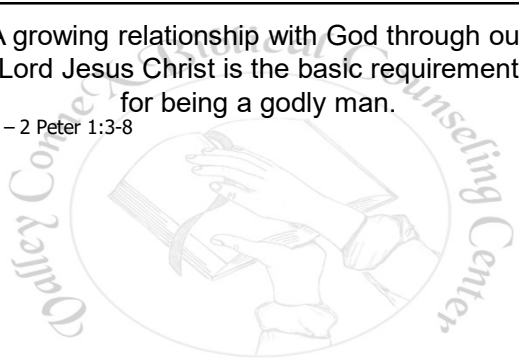
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A growing relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ is the basic requirement for being a godly man.

- 2 Peter 1:3-8



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