TWENTY ATTRIBUTES OF A GODLY MAN

G E N E  A .  G E T Z


(Unpublished manuscript—copyright protected Baker Publishing Group)
First, I’d like to dedicate this edition of *The Measure of a Man* to my son, Kenton, and my five grandsons: Kyle, Corban, Caleb, Carter, and Cooper!

Second, this book is dedicated to all the men who have told me over the years how *The Measure of a Man* has changed their lives! Thank you!
Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20–21
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreword by J. Paul Nyquist</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Word from the Author</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction: Growing Together</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Becoming a Faithful Man</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Building a Good Reputation</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Maintaining Moral Purity</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Living a Balanced Life</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Demonstrating Wisdom</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Making God’s Truth Attractive</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Sharing Our Resources</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Communicating Sensitively</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Being Moderate in All Things</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Overcoming Self-Centeredness</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Handling Anger Appropriately</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Avoiding Destructive Behavior</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Treating Others Fairly</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Table of Contents

14. Being a Peacemaker  167
15. Learning Generosity  181
16. Fathering God’s Way  194
17. Loving God Wholeheartedly  207
18. Being Just and Upright  219
19. Living a Holy Life  232
20. Becoming a Disciplined Man  245

A Final Word  259

Notes  261
As an excited young seminary student, I first found my way to Fellowship Bible Church in the fall of 1976. The church had been launched only four years prior by Dr. Gene Getz as a bold experiment to put into practice what he had been teaching in the classroom. I often sat on a cushion in the aisle due to the size of the crowds, but the inconvenience of the seating never dulled the clear, practical teaching which I absorbed like a sponge.

Through my seminary years I remained involved in the ministry of Gene’s church and chose to be part of the group to plant a new church in the Park Cities. It would be an understatement to say Gene had a significant role in my spiritual formation as a believer, and later, as a Christian leader. When I became the president of the Moody Bible Institute in 2009, it was a heartfelt joy to see Gene’s warm, smiling face on the Board of Trustees. Even though he has retired from our board, he remains a dear friend, prayer partner, and wise counselor.

I relate that history because I believe this book, *The Measure of a Man*, captures the essence of Gene’s ministry more than any of his dozens of other publications. First printed in 1974, this book has remained in print over the past forty years because it provides...
thoroughly biblical but intensely practical help for Christian men who are striving to press forward in their spiritual maturity. Walking carefully through the Pauline qualifications for elders found in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, it provides a path to follow for those who not only aspire to be leaders in their local church, but also want to be better husbands, fathers, and friends. My original copy, several decades old, is dog-eared from the many times I have referred to it.

This edition is especially valuable, for it not only contains the same rich (but updated) content from previous editions but it also has embedded QR codes. A quick flick of your smartphone and you can view a video of Gene teaching on the principle found in the text. The use of this technology will only increase the impact of this book.

If you have studied this book in the past, I urge you to revisit it like an old friend. If this is your first time to pick it up, I assure you that you are in for a treat. Like I did forty years ago, grab a cushion and enjoy!

J. Paul Nyquist, PhD
President, Moody Bible Institute
A Word from the Author

Welcome to a multimedia edition of The Measure of a Man. In this new edition, I’ve added QR codes—one at the beginning of each chapter and one at the end. In fact, I’ve also included two different codes in the Introduction, which will give you some background information and help you launch into this study.

You can scan these QR codes with your smartphone or tablet and access video teaching. In the chapter opening videos, I’ll introduce you to the content in each chapter. These brief presentations are designed to prepare your mind and heart before you read.

The closing videos at the end of each chapter are designed to facilitate group discussion and application. These encouraging videos supplement the book material entitled “Thinking and Growing Together.”

I first used these helpful QR codes in the Life Essentials Study Bible—the first ever multimedia study Bible. This Bible includes 1,500 “Principles to Live By” with 1,500 QR codes embedded with each principle, enabling the reader to access 1,500 video teaching presentations.

There are many free QR readers available for smartphones and tablets. Check your own device. It may have one already installed.

Gene A. Getz
Introduction
Growing Together

Five Super Bowls Later!

One day I received a call from D. D. Lewis, former linebacker with the Dallas Cowboys. “I’m in trouble,” D. D. said, “and I need help! Will you help me?”


While playing with the Cowboys, D. D. attended the church I pastored. After participating in five Super Bowls under Coach Tom Landry, he eventually retired and went into business. At some point, he had stopped attending church and I had lost contact with him.

Unfortunately, things didn’t go well for D. D. He experienced two business failures and eventually went through a painful divorce that also left him alienated from his children. Although he was a professing Christian, his life had deteriorated. Addictive actions controlled his life.

As we met that Thursday morning, this man who had once been so powerful on the football field poured out his sad story. He knew he needed spiritual help and more accountability.
Getting Back on Track

As I sat with D. D. that day, I saw the desperation in his eyes. “I’ll help you,” I replied. “Let’s meet once a week for breakfast, and then work through a book I wrote called *The Measure of a Man.*”

D. D. was grateful. He committed to read a chapter each week, and then we would meet to talk, discuss, and pray.

“You’ll need to be honest with me,” I said. “No secrets. If you fail in some area of your life, you’ll need to admit it up front.”

Again, D. D. agreed and together we worked through the chapters in this book. Later, he wrote me:

Meeting with you and going through your book, *The Measure of a Man*, helped usher me back into renewed relationships with the family of God. This study showed me that God does have a design and standard for godly men to follow. With your loving encouragement, I have been able to see that God loves me in spite of my past behavior (Titus 3:3–7), and that my journey toward maturity is a process and not an overnight quick-fix emotional sensation.

Our time together fostered in me a real thirst for God’s Word. It has sustained me through some rough periods and trials. I have found out that most men have the same problems over the years, and that healing begins when we share ourselves with other godly men.

A Dynamic Bible Study

As D. D. and I sat week after week, working through *The Measure of a Man*, my thoughts went back to a dynamic Bible study I had with a group of men in Dallas. We met to discover from Scripture and from each other how we could become better husbands, better fathers, better Christians—in short, more mature men of God.

In the fall of 1972, I had just helped plant the first Fellowship Bible Church. I invited our men to join me in an early morning Bible study. As a basis for our study, I suggested Paul’s maturity profiles in his letters to Timothy and Titus (1 Tim. 3:1–7; Titus 1:5–9).
To launch our time together, I led the group to discuss from Scripture what Paul meant by being “above reproach”—the first quality he outlined in both letters. And then in the light of our biblical insights, we discussed how to develop this quality in our lives.

At the end of this introductory session, I asked for volunteers to lead our next studies. At that point—even though they looked to me as their lead pastor—I became a learner with all of these men. And what happened from week to week was a dynamic and exciting experience—so much so I began to carefully journal what we were learning from each other.

About six weeks into this study, Bill Grieg, Jr., who was then President of Gospel Light Publications, stopped by my office. He had heard about what was happening at Fellowship Bible Church. We had created some new and fresh forms for teaching, worship, fellowship, and outreach and were growing rapidly. Anxious to know more about our ministry, Bill asked for some specifics. In essence, what was happening?

Excited about our men’s study, I shared what I had been journaling. Captivated by my notes, Bill said, “Gene, I want this as a book! Will you use these qualities to write a book on maturity?”

I was surprised—yet challenged. In fact, at that moment, Bill handed me a contract—any writer’s dream. The end result is the book you’re reading—*The Measure of a Man*!

**Going Deeper**

As I met with D. D. Lewis week after week, I was reproducing one-on-one what I had done with the original group of men several years before. The difference, of course, is that D. D. and I had the book in hand—which formed a foundation to guide us to even greater depths of understanding and application.

Little did I realize when I first wrote this book that God was going to continue to use it in a variety of ways for many years to
come—in small group studies, one-on-one mentoring, and discipling, just as I used it with D. D. Lewis as a means to help him forget what was behind and to press forward to what was ahead—to become more and more a man after God’s own heart (Phil. 3:12–14).

Building Up One Another

In describing the church and how it is to function, the apostle Paul used a metaphor of the human body. His point was this: Just as our physical bodies have many members and all of these body parts have unique functions, “so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another” (Rom. 12:4–5). And, as Paul later wrote to the Ephesians, we are all to “attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13).

Paul then went on to make it clear that this will not happen as God intended unless “every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part.” Then and only then the body of Christ will grow and mature in love (Eph. 4:16).

Thinking and Growing Together

My prayer is that you will apply Paul’s instructions in a specific way by joining with other men for this study. You may have already joined a group. If so, would you make a commitment to the Lord and the other men that you will do all you can to read the chapters in The Measure of a Man and then participate in the application discussions outlined at the end of each chapter?

If you’ve not been invited to be a part of a group, consider starting your own. Invite other men to join you in this study. Or, you
might already have an accountability partner. If so, suggest that the two of you use this study as you meet regularly—preferably week to week.

Or, here’s another suggestion. Do you know someone you could mentor and disciple—someone you can build your own life into? Perhaps this is your son. Or remember, there are many men around you who have not had a good father figure in their lives. By using *The Measure of a Man*, you can be that father figure.

**Set a Goal**

As a result of this chapter, write out a goal you would like to achieve in your own life—and in the lives of others:

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_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

**Pray for One Another**

Once each man has written out a goal, allow time to share the goals with others and to pray for each other.

*Note:* No one in the group should feel forced to share or pray. On the other hand, no one should be excluded from participating.
I had a fascinating experience one day when I was conducting a “Measure of a Man Seminar” in Chicago. I was talking about the profile of maturity that Paul outlined in his letters to Timothy and Titus. Two men sitting near the front row were obviously very intrigued! While I was speaking, they actually gave me positive feedback—not only with body language, but also with words such as: “That’s right, Gene”; “That’s true”; “That’s a good point.”

During the coffee break, I went over and sat at their table. They were both in upper management in a large steel mill in Gary, Indiana. Spiritually, they were both new Christians. As we chatted, one of them said, “Gene, this is outstanding material.”

The other man agreed, and then added—“Yeah, I’ve heard of Timothy before, but this Titus guy, I’ve never heard of him.”

At that moment, I knew I was relating to men who were not only new believers in Jesus Christ, but men who knew very little about the Bible. However, they were not new to the field of management.
During our conversation they made an observation I’ll never forget. “You know,” they said, “this is the first time we’ve heard this list of qualifications from the Bible. But we’ve learned from experience in hiring people for middle-management positions that these are the kind of employees we’re looking for.”

In essence, they went on to say they wanted employees who have a good reputation. If men were cheating on their wives or sleeping around, chances were they would also cheat on the company. They didn’t want men who had all kinds of domestic problems. If they couldn’t handle their own families, how in the world were they going to handle other employees?

To my surprise, these two men went on to outline more characteristics that correlated with Paul’s maturity profile. Because of this seminar experience, they were learning that what they had gained from experience closely paralleled a biblical profile.

Needless to say, I was intrigued and fascinated. We had been looking at qualities of maturity inspired by the Holy Spirit and outlined by Paul nearly 2,000 years ago. And here were two men who were new Christians, men who knew little about the Bible—but they had learned from experience that this biblical profile is pragmatic and essential in selecting mature people who will serve in responsible positions.

**Timothy in Ephesus**

When Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy, he referred to a “man of God” who is “equipped for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:17). This raises an important question. How do we recognize this kind of man? What does he look like?

These are not new questions. They were going through Timothy’s mind when Paul left him in Ephesus to establish the church.
He had to deal with men who wanted to be spiritual leaders but in some cases were very immature. They weren’t qualified. Some were driven by a desire to have power over others.

On the other hand, some were sincere and Paul commended them for aspiring to serve in a leadership role. But he cautioned Timothy to make sure that each man who wanted to serve had reached a certain level of maturity and reflected “the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13; 1 Tim. 3:1–7).

**Titus in Crete**

Titus faced the same challenge. Paul had left him in Crete to appoint spiritual leaders in towns where they had established churches (see Titus 1:5). Again, Paul cautioned Titus to make sure that these men measured up to certain Christ-like qualities.

Apparently, Titus faced problems in Crete that were more difficult to resolve than those Timothy faced in Ephesus. Men who claimed to be Christ-followers had emerged and were destroying “whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain” (v. 11). Their primary motives were materialistic. Titus faced the awesome task of not only discovering leaders and training them to be godly but also of silencing those who were “empty talkers and deceivers” (v. 10).

**Paul’s Maturity Profile**

Two paragraphs in Paul’s letters to Timothy and Titus give us this powerful profile for testing maturity levels in Christ, both personally and in others (see 1 Tim. 3:1–7; Titus 1:5–10). The following list depicts nineteen spiritual qualifications compiled from both letters with a succinct definition:

- Above reproach (a man of good reputation)
- The husband of one wife (morally pure)
• Temperate (balanced in words and actions)
• Prudent (wise and humble)
• Respectable (good role model)
• Hospitable (unselfish and generous)
• Able to teach (communicates sensitively in a nonthreatening and nondefensive manner)
• Not addicted to wine (not addicted to substances)
• Not self-willed (not self-centered and controlling)
• Not quick-tempered (void of anger that becomes sinful)
• Not pugnacious (not abusive)
• Gentle (sensitive, loving, and kind)
• Peaceable (nonargumentative and nondivisive)
• Free from the love of money (nonmaterialistic)
• Manages his own household well (a good husband and father)
• Loving what is good (pursues godly activities)
• Just (wise, discerning, nonprejudiced, and fair)
• Devout (holy, devoted to God)
• Self-controlled (disciplined)

Goals for Every Christian Man

When you look casually at this list of spiritual qualifications, you might conclude that Paul was exclusively outlining qualifications for men who serve in pastoral and teaching positions in the church. Not so! Rather, Paul was in essence saying to both Timothy and Titus that if a man wants to become a spiritual leader, that’s great. Just make sure he’s well on his way in becoming a man who is more and more measuring up to “the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.” Paul then outlined how we can determine if he is this kind of man, using these specific qualities of maturity.

In other words, these qualities should be goals for every Christian man who is a Christ-follower. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul
pulled together a number of characteristics he and other authors mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament for both men and women and outlined a marvelous profile for measuring Christ-like maturity in men particularly.

**An Exciting Challenge**

As you evaluate your life based on these qualities, be on guard against discouragement. See this as a great opportunity to become the man God really wants you to become. Remember that Satan may be looking over your shoulder and whispering in your ear, “You’ll never become that kind of man. You’ve blown it too badly. There’s no hope for you. You’ll never break out of your old sin patterns.”

When Satan tempts you with these thoughts, meditate on the words which were penned by the half brother of Jesus Christ:

> Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.  
> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. (James 4:7–8a)

> Listen to God’s voice saying, “I love you no matter what you’ve done, no matter where you are in your spiritual growth, no matter what your feelings. I’m on your side. I have not rejected you. You are My child. You *can* become a man of God, and I’m here to help you.”

**Thinking and Growing Together**

The final section in this chapter and the ones to follow is designed for discussion involving two or more individuals who meet to clarify the concepts in each chapter and to apply biblical truths in their daily lives. Here are some important guidelines:

**First**, make sure someone is appointed to be the servant-leader. This is particularly important...
if there are more than two in a group. Members of the group may want to take turns serving in this role, which can be arranged ahead of time or done spontaneously.

Second, schedule time to share each individual’s “greatest learning” from each chapter.

Third, use the questions in this chapter and in the chapters to follow for more in-depth discussion:

• Why do some men grow rapidly in their Christian faith once they become believers, and why do others struggle, seemingly taking as many steps backward as forward?
  
  Note: Think of examples you can sensitively share. You may want to share your own personal experiences.

• As you look back at Paul’s Maturity Profile on page 21–22, what would you consider to be your areas of strength?
  
  Note: Take time to do this personally and then allow each man to share his thoughts with others.

• As you look at the same profile, in what one specific area would you like to grow the most? What factor or factors may be holding you back?
  
  Note: Take time to do this personally and then again share your thoughts with others.

Set Goals

Write out one goal you’d like to achieve as a result of this study.

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________
Pray for One Another

Once each man has written out a goal, allow time to share the goals with others and to pray for each other.

*Note:* No one in the group should feel forced to share or pray. On the other hand, no one should be excluded from participating.