

Netanyahu: 'I Am Committed to the Security of My People'

"As we have warned, and I say this with regret, the sanctions regime has started to weaken and very quickly," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said about Iran on Sunday night at a Hanukkah candlelighting ceremony at the Great Synagogue in Rome. "If tangible steps are not taken soon, it is liable to collapse, and the efforts of years will vanish without anything in exchange. But at the same time, I tell you and promise in the spirit of the Maccabees, we will not allow Iran to receive a military nuclear capability."

Earlier on Sunday, former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert criticized Netanyahu's conduct vis-à-vis the U.S. regarding the Iranian nuclear issue.

"We've declared war on the U.S.," Olmert said indignantly in a speech at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv. "Will [Russian President Vladimir] Putin come to the rescue, or will it be [U.S. President Barack] Obama? Do we really need to go against the president of the U.S.?"

"During my time as prime minister," he continued, "there were also disagreements with the American government, but in no case did we want the contacts and discussions to turn into public wrangling between us and our ally. It certainly did not occur to us to wage war against Israel's number one ally and incite Congress against the president, something which is unprecedented. The danger and damage from it are incomparably larger than any potential gains.

"Can you imagine another president receiving warnings from Jerusalem that if he does not act tomorrow morning in accordance with these warnings, something bad will happen? Is this serious? If the warnings were sent the proper way,

quietly, via confidential channels we have established over decades with the American government, we would make it much easier for [the Obama administration] to make the decisions we want.”

Later in the day in Rome, Netanyahu did not refer to Olmert by name but said, “The U.S. was, is and will be the greatest friend of Israel. As prime minister of Israel, I have warned time and time again about the dangers connected with the Iranian nuclear program. In contrast to others, when I see that interests vital to the security of Israel’s citizens are in danger, I will not be silent.”

“It is very easy to be silent,” Netanyahu said. “It is very easy to receive a pat on the shoulder from the international community, to bow one’s head, but I am committed to the security of my people. I am committed to the future of my state, and in contrast to periods in the past, we have a loud and clear voice among the nations, and we will sound it in time in order to warn of the danger.”

Likud MK Tzachi Hanegbi also addressed the Institute for National Security Studies on Sunday, saying that while his approach was different from Olmert’s, there were certain things on which there was no dispute.

“There is no dispute that if Iran obtains nuclear weapons, this would represent a grave threat to Israel’s security,” Hanegbi said. “There is also no dispute that Iran is at a critical juncture, on the verge of completing its transformation into a threshold state. The amount of time it would take for it to obtain nuclear weapons is no more than a few months.”

For the original article, visit israelhayom.com.

How Keeping Calm Keeps You Healthy

You've probably noticed at least one of the countless "Keep Calm" posters that seem to be popping up all over social media sites bearing imperative phrases that are as cutesy and quaint as "Keep Calm and Eat a Cupcake" and as instigative and contradictory as "Keep Calm and Punch People in the Face."

A Google search will inform you that the original "Keep Calm and Carry On" poster was created in 1939 by the British government just before World War II began with intentions to boost morale. The British public, having just been made aware of a prediction of mass air attacks on major cities, were encouraged to carry on with business as usual. (Easier said—despite the advantage of a delightful British accent—than done!) Keep calm and have a crumpet. Have a spot of tea. Don't panic; just "carry on."

More than 2.5 million copies of the poster were printed and set for distribution upon the invasion of Britain by Germany. Fortunately, this never occurred, and so the poster was never seen by the public—at least not until the year 2000, when a bookseller stumbled across a copy buried beneath a pile of books bought from an auction. Since then, the poster has been reissued by a number of companies promoting a wide range of products and also by individuals sharing their own unique brands of humor, motivation and stress management, as you saw in the aforementioned examples.

My favorite "Keep Calm" poster simply reads "Keep Calm and Keep Waiting on God." If King David were reigning today, I can imagine he'd have it framed and hanging in his living room

(by a window overlooking green pastures and still waters, of course!) beside his book of Psalms, opened to the 130th, which reads:

“I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
And in His word I do hope.
My soul waits for the Lord
More than those who watch for the morning—
Yes, more than those who watch for the morning” (vv. 5-6, NKJV).

There may not be much merit in eating a cupcake in an attempt to keep calm. One is *certainly* not made calm by punching people in the face. (One is usually incarcerated.) But continuing to wait on God *always* generates a sense of peace, an uncanny wave of calm that originates in our spirit and manifests itself in deep breaths of incomprehensible contentment.

This past weekend I heard a story of a few young brothers who were playing tag outside near a freshwater lake in Florida. The boys' father had to go in the house to take a phone call, but before leaving, he sternly instructed the elder son to make sure the youngest—just 3 years old—didn't get too near the water's edge because he didn't know how to swim.

No sooner did the man go inside than one of his sons cried out that his little brother was in the lake; he'd tried to tag one of his brothers who quickly evaded his touch, sending the younger one over the edge.

The father ran full speed across the pier and dove into the murky water. He spent a full 60 seconds swimming blindly, reaching out desperately for his little boy. He came up gasping for air and asked the others if they'd seen anything, any movement or air bubbles.

Nothing. All was smooth on the surface.

The father dove back down, this time frantically exploring the underside of the pier. Spreading his body out as far and wide as he could, hoping to feel the hand or foot of his drowning son, he crashed again and again against the wooden pillars. At last, after what seemed like an eternity within an airless, mud-colored cave, he felt his son's tiny body wrapped tightly around one of the columns.

The father climbed his way out of the watery nightmare and carried his son to shore. After spitting up bit of water, the little boy was perfectly all right and eager to resume playtime with his brothers.

What struck me most about this story, more than the boy's miraculous rescue after upwards of three minutes under water, was his response when his dad asked him why he was clinging to that pillar.

"Because," the boy said, "I was just waiting for you to come get me."

It was as simple as that. This helpless 3-year-old didn't know much, but he knew the most important thing: He could count on his father. As long as he just kept calm and kept waiting, his dad would show up, scoop him up and carry him up and into the light.

This story is a beautiful parable demonstrating what it looks like to keep calm and keep waiting on God. How often in life are we that lost and imperiled child with deep waters swirling all around us and no way of escape? And how often do we just keep calm and wait for God to come and get us? Probably not nearly enough.

Isaiah 40:31 tells us that those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength, soar like eagles and run without growing weary. Science also confirms the importance of staying calm amidst stress and danger with numerous studies that show keeping one's cool can reduce the risk of acquiring

neurological illnesses in old age.

When we allow anxiety to have control over our thoughts, words and actions, the result can be catastrophic. An overload of stress means an overwhelmed nervous system. When your nervous system is stressed, panic attacks, nervous breakdowns, and depression are often the result. Be wary of “mild” stress, too. Headaches, stomach aches, and digestive disorders may not *seem* like a big deal, but they can lead to conditions that are much more devastating, such as heart attack and stroke due to high blood pressure, and a weakened immune system.

Thankfully, there are proven ways to combat stress and wash away worries. Doctors suggest:

- Exercising
- Taking a vacation
- Sleeping more
- Listening to relaxing, soothing music
- Reading
- Do deep breathing and/or muscle relaxation exercises
- Journal
- Meditate
- Pray

Personally, I'd start with the last bullet point: pray. I will honestly confess that I don't always bow my head when I feel stress coming on. Indeed, the enemy will do everything he can to distract and dissuade you and me from going before the Lord with our problems and fears; he doesn't want us to wait for God but to toil to find our own solutions. Why? Because after millennia spent observing and afflicting followers of Christ, Satan knows we are most powerful when we're on our knees, that we're strongest when we're staying still, holding fast to our faith in God like the little boy with the pillar.

When we take a moment to pray amid the chaos howling like a wicked wind and the worries filling our minds like a flood, we

are given the strength to wait and to sing with David, “Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!” We are given the faith to wait for our Abba Father to find us in life’s darkest moments, wrap His arms around us, and carry us to shore.

“Humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you” (1 Pet. 5:6-7, NLT).

Stay fit and stay faithful.

Diana Anderson-Tyler is the author of Creation House’s [Fit for Faith: A Christian Woman’s Guide to Total Fitness](#). Her popular website can be found at fit4faith.com, and she is the owner and a coach at [CrossFit 925](#). Diana can be reached on [Twitter](#). This article was originally [posted to her blog](#).

3 Truths to Remember to Avoid the ‘If, Then’ Marriage Cycle

Does this sound familiar to you?

“Honey, *if* you would just plan fun things for us to do, *then* I would spend more time with you.”

“*If* you would spend more time with me, *then* I wouldn’t be so cranky.”

“*If* you weren’t so cranky, *then* I would plan fun things for us to do.”

And around and around it goes. The endless cycle seen above is what I’ve come to call the “If, Then” marriage cycle. All too

often, we find ourselves saying to our spouses, “If you would just do this, then I would do that.” It’s conditional love, which is really not love at all because true love is unconditional.

To save you and your spouse from becoming trapped in the “If, Then” marriage cycle, here are three truths to remember:

1. Love is not 50/50; it’s 100/100. Giving half the effort to your marriage will never cut it. Having the mindset that once you do your part, it’s up to your spouse to do the rest doesn’t work well in marriage. It’s important that both husband and wife are each giving 100 percent of themselves to the relationship.

2. Love sacrificially, not superficially. There will be times when you are tired and don’t want to do the dishes or help the kids with homework or are too busy to leave your spouse an encouraging note on the counter. But love is about making sacrifices. So break the “If, Then” marriage cycle by loving your spouse through practical, daily, sacrificial actions.

3. Love is not a transaction; it’s an action. It’s vital for both husband and wife to change their mindset from what they can *get* to what they can *give*. So try giving of your time, your thoughts or your talents without the expectation of getting something back. Do it simply because you love your spouse, not because you want a favor in return.

What are some “if, then” challenges that you and your spouse struggle with, and how do you move past those struggles? Please leave a comment below.

Mark Merrill is the president of Family First. For the original article, visit markmerrill.com.

Why Marriage is the Biggest Challenge Men Face

Four of the biggest recurring challenges men face are marriage, work, health, and money. These are the four areas where most of us will experience our toughest long-term circumstances and problems.

In this excerpt from Patrick Morley's book, *How God Makes Men*, see how God employs the principle of a greater good to make men of us in these areas.

Marriage

This is what I believe is the single biggest problem men as a group face today—bigger than all their other problems combined. Their marriages are not working as God designed. What can we learn from Joseph that God can use to make us into the husbands He created us to be?

For our marriages, the message is stay the course. Trust that God does have a purpose and that He is always at work in your life and in your relationship. You may be in a marriage that seems beyond help. I say "seems" because no marriage is beyond the hope of reconstruction by the strong arm of God. Nothing that has happened in your marriage has surprised God. If we learn anything from Joseph, it's that nothing is beyond His redeeming power.

Consider Charles. All Charles did was work. His wife's heart grew stone cold toward him. He retaliated by thinking about how happy he could be with other women and planning a divorce. This went on for a long time. Yet he knew divorce was not God's plan for marriage. Then one day, while he was driving in

his car, God supernaturally gave him a deep, unquenchable love for his wife. And the following week God changed his wife's heart too.

God changed what seemed like irresolvable differences into a greater good—both for them and for others. Today Charles boldly helps other men save their marriages by telling the story of how God intervened in his marriage.

Men routinely ask me how to resolve marriage tensions. A man whose marriage was hanging by a thread asked, "What should I do?"

I asked him, "What do you want to do?"

"I want to make it work!"

"Do you want to be absolutely loyal to God?"

"Yes, more than anything."

Then I said what I always say: "You can't, but Jesus in you can; so put your faith in Him, not what you see, and give it a few years." Give it a few years—that's the school of Joseph talking.

Once I saw a research report claiming that five years after they were divorced, a majority of people wish they would have worked harder to make their marriages work. In fact, an analysis of the National Survey of Families and Households revealed that 86 percent of unhappily married couples who did stick it out found that five years later their marriages were happier.

So if happiness is what you want, stick it out and give it a few more years. Adjust your expectations. Family systems scholar Edwin Friedman stated, "In reality, no human marriage gets a rating of more than 70%." The happiness that working through your problems will bring far exceeds the shadow of happiness that divorce might bring. Most divorced men I've met

have attested that the negative impacts of divorce, especially on their children, seem to go on forever. Besides, you're not the only one whose happiness is at stake.

However, if your wife pulls out anyway, and you are on your own, you can use that time to stand strong and reveal the power and glory of God. You can continue to live in absolute loyalty to Jesus Christ by putting your faith in Him and keeping yourself morally pure until you remarry, or even remarry her. Over a dozen men in our Friday morning Bible study have done just that. Because they stayed true, God brought them back together again with their divorced or separated wives. And it didn't hurt to have a small group of men to meet with on a weekly basis.

Of course, no one can guarantee any specific outcome for your relationship with your wife. What we do learn from Joseph, however, is that you can trust God's Word that nothing has happened to you by human decision—yours or hers—apart from what is permitted by His will. And what God allows He will also use to put His power on display. What God wants from you now is the absolute loyalty that can come only from putting your faith in Jesus Christ. Remain faithful, and God will use your seemingly dead-end marriage to reveal His glory through a greater good. So stay the course.

Patrick Morley is founder and CEO of *Man in the Mirror*. After building one of Florida's 100 largest privately held companies, in 1991, he founded *Man in the Mirror*, a nonprofit organization to help men find meaning and purpose in life. Dr. Morley is the best-selling author of *The Man in the Mirror*, *No Man Left Behind*, *Dad in the Mirror*, and *A Man's Guide to the Spiritual Disciplines*.

Helping the Unmarried Man

They are single by default, by circumstance or by choice. They may have visions of [marriage](#) and [family](#) while others have totally given up.

The rarest of all in the body of Christ see their relational context as a gift. But regardless of perspective and desire, all these men face unique moral and spiritual struggles that require more, not less, character than their married friends. Strong beliefs are required to support stronger (but culturally disapproved) behaviors that preserve [spiritual integrity](#).

It's ironic that the most influential man who ever walked the planet was unmarried and possessed a sense of self-rootedness in God and His purposes that transcended the broken male culture of His day. Jesus, as well as a host of other examples in the Bible, provides the template for our conversations with and ministry to unmarried men. Here are the top three issues, examples and principles we should be addressing with this group of men God wants to use mightily.

1. [Identity](#)

“But you, [man of God](#) ... fight the good fight of the faith” (1 Tim. 6:11-12). These intentionally directed words toward Timothy call out his identity. What does Paul know that we should know too? He knows that whatever commands this unmarried man's identity will also command his energy and expression as a man.

Security of identity in Christ produces powerful discipline, patience, perspective and purpose in the midst of the unmarried man's battles. Whatever the unique context or issue that arises in the moment, like Paul, we want men responding and reacting out of their identity in God first.

2. Women and Sexual Integrity

Imagine a financially successful single man working late and all alone in his office. Now picture a beautiful woman dressed to kill presenting herself and physically lying down at his feet. There are no illusions about what is being offered to this man. Far from being a hypothetical, Boaz found himself in exactly this position and found the strength to maintain his sexual integrity as a single man. (See Ruth 2.)

This type of sexual restraint and honoring women modeled by Boaz needs to be directly and transparently addressed, along with the lifestyle habits that serve to replace resistance alone with healthy male and female relationships that support his spiritual and sexual boundaries.

3. Contentment Versus Comparison

Managing expectations and dashed expectations is a huge part of ministry to unmarried men. Every man has them (expectations), but many times God is not operating on our time frame of delivery for His good reasons and His good purposes.

Time passing without fulfillment of the expectation often turns to panic, which so often results in fear-based decision-making to meet needs for intimacy ahead of God's timing or outside His will. This aspect of being single or single again can rob men of hope, create a reservoir of negative emotions and, consequently, make them vulnerable to attack from within and without.

The only clear path for unmarried men that guarantees greater contentment and hope (Phil. 4:12-13) and less comparison and cynicism is a clear vision of God. More specifically, a clear vision of Him as faithful Creator combined with purposeful service and ministry for Him, which provides meaning, connection and intimacy.

We have all heard the stories of God's miraculous realization of a person's hopes *after* a recognition and release of self into God's loving sovereignty, care and rule. The longing may remain, but God's person, people and purpose go a long way toward replacing contentment.

Kenny Luck, founder of *Every Man Ministries* and the men's pastor at Saddleback Church, provides biblically oriented teaching and leadership for men and pastors seeking relevant, timely material that battle cultural, worldly concepts threatening men and God's men. Follow Kenny and [Every Man Ministries](#) now on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) (@everyMM) and [YouTube](#).

For the original article, visit everymanministries.com.

Are You a Hearer Only or a Doer?

Webster's Dictionary defines the word *application* as "the act of putting to a special use or purpose."

Every day I read the Bible. Every day I pray. But not every day do I act like a Christian. Why?

It's because we forget to become doers of the Word. The Bible is very clear that if you and I don't become doers of the Word, we are like the man who looks in the mirror and forgets what we look like after we walk away.

James 1:22-25 says, "But prove yourselves doers of the Word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; for once he has looked

at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.”

All the knowledge of the Bible and all the sermons in the world will not make you a good Christian unless you actually apply what you know and what you hear to your walk. For example: Love your neighbor. If you don't know or get to know your neighbor, how can you love them?

Another example: The Lord's Prayer says, “Forgive us as we have forgiven our debtors.” Is that a prayer we really want to pray? Lord, forgive just like those I forgive? Would God actually forgive you if that were the case? Have you really forgiven others? If not, watch out what you pray for.

Are you and I really applying the words of God to our life? Or are we just going through the motions? The dictionary says *application* means “the act of putting to a special use or purpose.” For what special use are you using God's Word? Is it for knowledge? That's not too special.

God wants us to share His Word. He wants us to apply what we learn and hear to our lives, our families' lives and to each person we come in contact with.

So I ask you: Are you a forgetful hearer or an effectual doer of God's Word? There is a difference.

Jody Burkeen is founder of [Man Up God's Way Ministries](#), birthed out of his desire to help change the way Christian men “do” Christianity.

My Visit Reminds Me That Christians Must Pray for and Support Israel

JERUSALEM, Israel—My sixth trip to Israel makes me realize more than ever the importance of Bible-believing Christians standing with Israel.

Nearly all my adult life, I've supported Israel by raising money to help the Jewish people, sponsoring events that foster support for Israel with other leaders such as John Hagee or encouraging people to travel to Israel, as my wife and I are doing this week with our friend and author Perry Stone.

I flew to Israel early, before the tour, to network with key leaders in a whirlwind couple of days of nonstop meetings that will provide story ideas for our print magazines or online. As soon as I have time to digest all I saw and learned, I will write articles about the interesting people I met.

But now I want to give an overview of who I met and what I learned, much of which is important not only for me but for each of us.

1. We must stand with other Christian believers in the land.

I met with Dan Juster, one of the apostolic leaders that is also one of the deepest thinkers in the modern Messianic movement. He helped me understand spiritually what's going on in the land and how believers need prayer and support.

I then attended the exciting King of Kings congregation in downtown Jerusalem, pastored by my friend Wayne Hilsden. I had time to only attend one service while in Israel. While I would have enjoyed being at a service in Hebrew, I was more comfortable in Wayne's English service that had the same

spirit and style I'm used to in my own church. You can see their worship [here](#).

I also learned firsthand of the opposition and persecution some believers face in Israel. Wayne pointed out an "anti-missionary" standing outside the service to urge young Jewish believers in Yeshua to turn away.

2. We must pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for a spiritual awakening in the land.

King of Kings has prayer 16 hours a day atop a 17-story building. The view over the city was magnificent. What a strategic location! The next day, I visited another 24/7 prayer ministry in a mixed Jewish and Arab area south of the Old City. To avoid attention, this group posts only small signs that say "24/7," which the initiated know means intercessory prayer is offered there around the clock.

The prayer room is located in the TBN building and has a view of the Dome of the Rock. I didn't interview anyone there. Instead, I joined the prayers for the peace of Jerusalem for strengthening believers, for nations standing with Israel and for ways to reach the Arab community with the gospel.

3. The Arab Christian community needs our support.

It is well known that at one time, the majority of the population in Bethlehem was Christian. According to a 2012 article in *Israel Hayom*, the municipality says that 40 percent of the 32,000 residents of Bethlehem are Christian. But, unofficial data suggests the percentage is actually lower. While many Arab Christians are nominal Christians whose families have been Christians for generations, there is a small and struggling evangelical Christian Arab community there.

One of the most impressive meetings I had was with a young Arab pastor named Steven Khoury, whose Calvary Church reaches

about 400 people a week in the part of Jerusalem around the Mount of Olives. It is the only evangelical church in that area. They have a hard time even finding a place to meet. Members of his church have been killed by radicals, and he has had trouble raising the funds he needs to operate and buy property. I was impressed by this passionate young man, and I plan to write more about his church later.

4. There is a new era of understanding between evangelicals and some Orthodox Jews.

Steven Khoury is a good friend to a young Orthodox rabbi named David Nekrutman, the executive director of the Center for Jewish-Christian Understanding and Cooperation. In the biblical town of Efrat, it is the first example I've seen of the Orthodox community reaching out to evangelicals. That impressed me as well, and I will also write about it later.

My personal experience with the Orthodox has been no cooperation and often hostility. So I'm encouraged to hear about the breakthroughs between the two groups and to hear that at least at this center, the Orthodox seem to value the support that Christian Zionists give Israel.

5. It's good to know a networker in a foreign land.

The friend who set up most of my appointments is Anne Ayalon, the wife of Danny Ayalon, who has served as an Israeli ambassador to the United States, in the Knesset and in many other important posts. Anne is a humble woman who has done as much as anyone I know to bridge the evangelical Christian and Jewish communities. Born an American, she converted to Judaism when she got married but describes herself only as a "woman of faith." She declined to be interviewed because she prefers to be behind the scenes, where she is a connector and influencer.

I had many other wonderful meetings, including one with Chris Mitchell, bureau chief of the CBN Jerusalem bureau, who recently wrote an important new book called *Dateline*

Jerusalem, which he calls an “eyewitness account of prophecies unfolding in the Middle East.” I also met some Israeli intellectuals who teach leadership principles from Bible characters to officers in the Israeli Defense Forces. And I got a very quick tour of the Bible Lands Museum by its director and saw the “Book of Books” display. I plan to go back to spend hours learning more about this wonderful land that gave us the Bible, which is God’s revelation to man.

My meetings have not ended. Later, I’m meeting with leaders of Magen David Adom—the Israeli equivalent of the Red Cross which is the first responder in disasters—and with leaders of Operation Lifeshield. Both are charities for which we’ve raised money in the past. I also am meeting the head of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem and a local publisher.

As I process what I’ve learned and do more research, I’ll write more. And I’ll tell you about this amazing tour with Perry Stone. My head is spinning after the first day of visiting the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Church of the Ascension, the Hill of Ill Counsel, the recently discovered Pool of Siloam, a kibbutz where a pivotal battle was won in the war of 1948, and some archeological digs south of the Temple Mount with actual pavement where Jesus would have walked. I can’t wait until tomorrow. I have six more days before the trip ends!

If you stand with Israel, if you’ve had a life-changing trip to Israel or if you learned anything from this column, leave your comments below.

Steve Strang is the founder and publisher of Charisma. Follow him on Twitter at [@sstrang](#) or Facebook ([stephenstrang](#)).

Patrick Morley: A Plea to Disciple Younger Men

A former business colleague is discipling a college student and asked me which of my books I would recommend he use. Without blinking I wrote back, *"How God Makes Men."*

In the email, I included the following book excerpt, which explains why:

"By now, I'm sure you're not surprised that God sends men in much the same way He has been sending them down through the centuries. Once you've been enlisted in God's army and learned how to clean and shoot your weapon, you're going to be deployed. Sending is simply going wherever God wants you to go to do whatever God wants you to do. Of course, making disciples is not the only thing God sends us to do. But in this chapter we're focusing on the Great Commission, or 'making disciples,' part of sending. Let's consider the priorities of making disciples.

"First, making disciples starts at home. Your most important ministry is to your wife (if you have one). A friend of mine was having marriage problems. He came to one of our conferences and got inspired to disciple men. Since that brought him joy, and home brought him distress, he started putting more and more time into discipling men and spending less and less time with his wife. When he asked me about it, I said, 'I don't want you doing ministry to men until you get your ministry to your wife right.' To his credit, he went back and put his own marriage in order. Today, he has a flourishing ministry to men.

"Second, after your wife, your most important ministry is to your children (if you have any). A man's number one discipleship group must be his family. No amount of success

anywhere else can compensate for failure here. God has ordained you to disciple your children. If they don't get disciplined, that one's on you. You are God's designated way to release the power of the gospel to your children.

"Finally, once you have your own house in order, then you can have a disciple-making ministry to others. All kinds of people need discipleship. But let me make a special plea. You see, one of the greatest needs in our day is to disciple younger men. An incident from the animal kingdom illustrates this.

"When elephants overcrowded South Africa's Kruger National Park, the government authorized killing adult elephants and relocating their offspring to other parks. As the orphaned male elephants became teenagers, they were clueless about what normal elephant behavior looked like. When their testosterone levels spiked, the orphaned bulls turned aggressive. In one park they savagely killed thirty-nine rhinos. A park ranger watched as a young bull elephant intentionally knocked over a rhino and trampled it. The situation was out of control.

"Then rangers brought several adult bull elephants into one of the parks. Just by being themselves, these animals 'mentored' the younger bulls, demonstrating to them what normal male elephant behavior looked like. No more rhinos were killed after the mature bulls arrived.

"It's not easy to become a man. Many young men today have grown up as 'practical' orphans. They've been left to guess at what normal male behavior looks like. The faith of young men is under severe attack. That's where the battle is raging. And frankly, mature Christian men are just not getting the discipleship job done. Consider these challenging words:

"If I profess, with the loudest voice and the clearest exposition, every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I

may be professing Christianity. Where the battle rages the loyalty of the soldier is proved, and to be steady on all the battle-field besides is mere flight and disgrace to him if he flinches at that one point.”

So, consider discipling some younger men. That’s a place where you can really make a difference.

Patrick Morley is founder and CEO of *Man in the Mirror*. After building one of Florida’s 100 largest privately held companies, in 1991, he founded *Man in the Mirror*, a nonprofit organization to help men find meaning and purpose in life. Dr. Morley is the best-selling author of *The Man in the Mirror*, *No Man Left Behind*, *Dad in the Mirror*, and *A Man’s Guide to the Spiritual Disciplines*.

4 Opportunities to Cut Your Wife Some Slack

Stress is the key factor in many things that go wrong in our lives. This includes our marriages.

In a partnership, there must be give and take to create a sustainable balance. There are times when our partners need us to motivate them, and in the same fashion, there are times when we just need to cut them some slack.

Here are four examples of when it would be a good play to just give her a hug and let it be:

1. When she has a problem that doesn’t involve you. Let’s face it: Men like to fix things, and that includes our wives when they are hurting or troubled. Yet also facing facts, men and

women do not process things in the same way in almost all cases. Our meddling often leads to making it worse. In these situations, what she needs is a listener and some compassion. If our advice is asked for, then we can provide it.

2. When she is double-fisting the chocolate. OK, that's an obvious exaggeration. But there are surefire signals to know when your wife is at maximum stress capacity, and most husbands know what those are. This is a good time to ask what you can do to help—such as change the diaper on the baby, run a load of laundry or do the dishes in the sink. Allow her to sit down and be alone in thought and prayer for a while, and cut some slack off her plate.

3. When she is being overly moody. Our wives are usually more emotional than we are. At those times when she is in a vulnerable state, let it slide—or as Bill Cosby used to advise in such a funny way, just say, “Yes, dear.” She'll get back to normal before you know it. And if she doesn't, it will help develop patient endurance in you.

4. When she is in conflict with other women. This might sound chauvinistic, but it isn't meant that way in the least and comes from experience. Never take another woman's side over your wife's in the heat of the moment. Correcting her in that situation is a bad idea. If she is in the wrong, wait until another, calmer moment to intercede and offer guidance. Be her rock she can always depend on.

All Pro Dad is Family First's innovative and unique program for every father. Their aim is to interlock the hearts of the fathers with their children and, as a byproduct, the hearts of the children with their dads. At AllProDad.com, dads in any stage of fatherhood can find helpful resources to aid in their parenting. Resources include daily emails, blogs, Top 10 lists, articles, printable tools, videos and eBooks. From AllProDad.com, fathers can join the highly engaged All Pro Dad social media communities on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/allprodad), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/allprodad), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/allprodad) and

[Instagram.](#)

Idolatry: What or Who Do You Worship?

My ears reverberated with echoes so loud my brain hurt. I could not hear anything but the massive wave of sound made of shouts, yells and screams. My eyes saw a sea of fist-pumping fans jumping in the stands, snarling as they cheered for their home team.

It was the “loudest crowd roar” in the *Guinness Book of World Records*, and it was just a few Sundays ago at Century Link Field, a stadium seemingly built for noise production.

People wore their home team jerseys and hats and waived foamed fingers—while others poked plugs in their ears.

Got me wondering ... tap ... tap .. tap ... What do I worship with this enthusiasm? And what have these people become?

The first answer is: I [worship God](#) fervently in my spirit, but honestly, I don't wear jerseys with His name on my back or shout so loud that I lose my voice. Although my worship is 24/7 and doesn't crescendo like it did at the stadium, it's authentic, [yearning for God and honoring Him](#).

Which leads me to answering the second question: What are people becoming? They, including many non-suspecting Christian men and women, worship athletes, locales and logos with what they wear, cheer for and yearn for. But God has a name for that, and it's not pleasant: idolatry.

Imagine the next time you roll into church wearing a hat,

jersey and a painted face that says “I’m a rebel for Christ” and singing loudly, [seeking God fervently](#), waving your hands openly in honest and honoring praise for our Father in heaven. What would people think? Should you care?

If you and your character are under the influence of God’s touch, then you are becoming more and more like Christ every day. You recognize God’s amazing grace, soul-saving sacrifice and imminent power in your life. You would naturally—even audaciously and sometimes spontaneously—worship Christ with all your mind, heart, strength and spirit.

That’s what God directs us to do in Luke 10:27: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind.”

Unfortunately, all too often power and pleasure get our worship. Satan tried using these on Jesus in Luke 4. But Jesus answered in verse 8, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

Here’s the question God’s men need to answer daily: Are you becoming more like Christ today? That will tell you what you really worship. And you know who will tell you if you are? The people around you! It takes courage to ask this question, but it will be revealing.

[If you worship Christ](#), then you will become like Christ. That’s what it says in 2 Corinthians 3:18: “And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

I’m not suggesting you start wearing a robe and sandals and grow a beard. But the next time you are in church during the worship service, I hope you give God all your worship. He deserves it more than your favorite sport team!

Kenny Luck, founder of Every Man Ministries and the men’s

pastor at Saddleback Church, provides biblically oriented teaching and leadership for men and pastors seeking relevant, timely material that battle cultural, worldly concepts threatening men and God's men. Follow Kenny and [Every Man Ministries](#) now on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) (@everyMM) and [YouTube](#).

For the original article, visit everymanministries.com.