

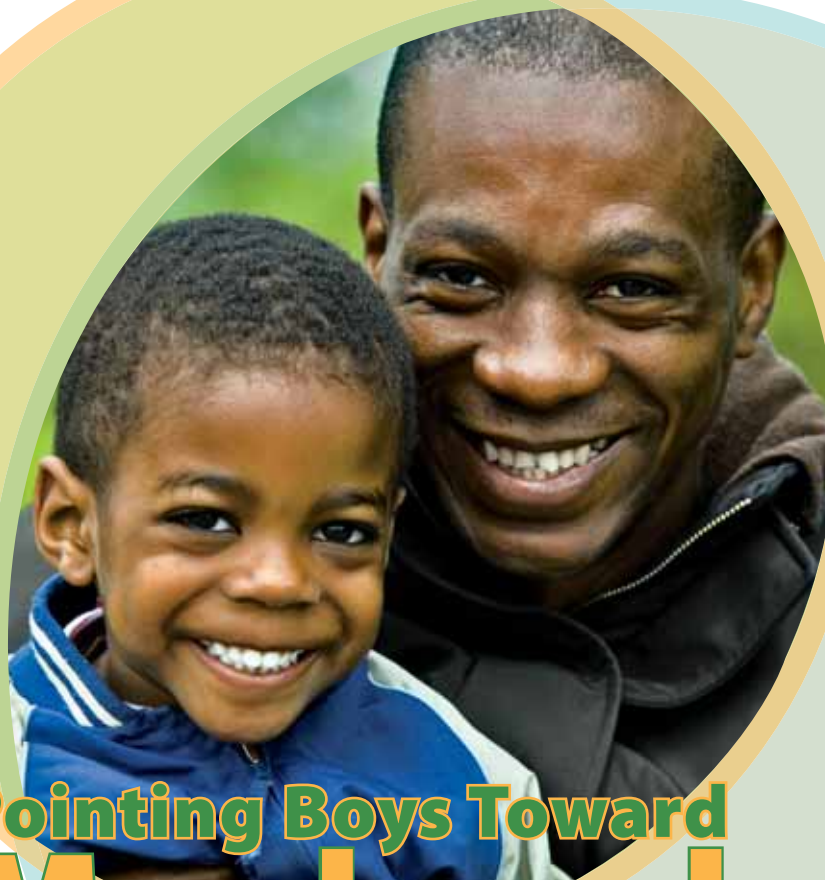
What's Inside

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WHAT'S NEW! – p. 8

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Pointing Boys Toward Manhood

Good men do not appear by accident. With diligent prayer and careful discipleship, you can guide your son to manhood.

American educators are obsessed with gender. Search the ERIC database¹ about any topic—oh, say, advanced placement courses—and the great majority of studies in the database will be on attaining gender and racial equity in the test results. But the interest of the secular educational community seems to be one-directional. Girls, as a disempowered minority, need all kinds of encouragement and preference and, most of all, expensive educational programs. Boys? They've got plenty. In fact, they've got too much. We need to bring them down a notch or two in sensitivity-training sessions.

But nobody grows up well in an environment of inattention or diminution. To become decent and successful adults, children need direction. And since God has chosen to create humans in two sexes, both in the image of God Himself (Gen. 1:27), children need direction at growing into positive adult examples of whatever sex God made them.

A number of organizations, both secular and religious, have noted our culture's relative inattention to the importance of strong males in both home and society, almost certainly as the result of feminism's increasing reach into the primary

cultural institutions.² Christian educators, including homeschooling parents, would do well to give attention to the effect they can have on their male students in directing them toward biblical manhood.

Biblical Data

What is biblical manhood like? The Bible answers that question in two ways: by precept, or direct statement, and by example. Scripture is filled with examples of godly men, from Job to Moses to David to Paul (and of course to Jesus Himself, who though fully God is fully man as well). Careful study of the accounts of these men reinforces the precepts found throughout Scripture.

What are some of the main ideas? What characteristics do we want to nurture in the lives of young men? What follows is only a sample, but these are perhaps the most heavily emphasized in the Scripture.

Leadership Qualities

Most people are not the king, of course; there can be only one king in a nation—because somebody has to pay the taxes. But God has ordained three institutions (home, state, church), and in two of them the Scripture directs that the leadership be

male.³ The great majority of men, then, will be in some kind of leadership role, and we err if we do not prepare boys for that future role. What qualities does a good leader need?⁴

- **Humility.** Biblical leaders recognize that they are under leaders as well (Eph. 6:9) and that they are prone to sinfulness and all the other characteristics of

Scripture is filled with examples of godly men, from Job to Moses to David to Paul and, of course, to Jesus Himself.

imperfection (Rom. 3:10). They make mistakes, and when they do, they correct them. David repented of his sin with Bathsheba (2 Sam. 12:13), but he did not fail to meet his kingly obligations when facing the consequences of his sin (v. 20).

- **Responsibility/Diligence.** Leaders recognize responsibility and meet it. Often, being in charge means doing things that are not fun, and in some cases, not even pleasant. Leaders do those things anyway (2 Cor. 7:8). They set out a vision and do what is necessary to accomplish it.

- **Self-control.** With authority comes power, and those in authority must not use that power carelessly. Herod spent his power on himself and paid a price for it. Fathers hold the power to injure their children for life with a careless word; they must not say it even though their children may make them legitimately angry.

- **Love.** This greatest of virtues is simply placing the needs of others ahead of your own. It's why Boy Scouts help little old ladies across the street; it's why mothers get up in the middle of the night to feed the baby. It's the opposite of pride and self-centeredness. It's necessary for all believers, of course (Matt. 22:36–40), but certainly so for leaders, whose influence is magnified, often exponentially.

- **Attentiveness.** Leaders need to know what's going on in the area for which they are responsible. They need to pay attention. Everyone has had the



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experience of working for a boss who doesn't have a clue. (I'm afraid that during my managerial days, many of those for whom I was responsible had that unpleasant experience as well.)

- **Empathy.** Good leaders have an understanding of how their actions affect others, and they adjust their actions to the needs of those with whom they interact. They recognize the needs of those for whom they are responsible, and they seek to meet them in appropriate ways.
- **Courage.** Sometimes leaders have to do hard things—and when those things are not popular. Doing the hard thing despite opposition, even from those you love, is the lot of the leader.

Christlikeness

Whether a man is a leader or not, he is to be like Christ (as are women as well, of course). Christ certainly exemplified all the characteristics of a leader mentioned above, but there are other qualities in Him that we should reflect.

- **Obedience.** Christ obeyed His Father (John

4:34), even though He is His Father's equal (John 10:30; 14:9). We are even told that He "learned . . . obedience by the things which he suffered" (Heb. 5:8).

- **Devotion to the Father.** No one can read Christ's great prayer in John 17 without being struck by the poignancy of His need for fellowship with His Father. For the years He ministered on earth, He missed His Father terribly, and He sought Him out in long nights of prayer. The lowest point of His life was when He cried out from the cross, decriing the separation from His Father's fellowship brought on by His

assumption of our sin. It is not unmanly to be dependent on intimate fellowship with God.

- **Goodness.** Christ could enjoy the company of sinners (Matt. 11:19) without compromising His perfect adherence to God's Law (1 Pet. 2:22), His personal purity (Heb. 4:15), or the effectiveness of His ministry to those sinners (John 4).
- **Knowledge.** Understanding the combination of divine and human natures in Christ is beyond our ability, but the Bible

(continued on p. 7)



From There to Here: A Brief History of BJU Press

From humble beginnings to a virtual global empire, BJU Press is committed to bringing you the best in educational materials.

In the early 1970s it became apparent that if there were to be academically solid, biblically sound science textbooks, Christian teachers of science would have to write them. George Mulfinger and Emmett Williams agreed and were commissioned to write a high school physical science textbook.

At nearly the same time, God impressed on Dr. Bob Jones III that Christian schools needed Christian textbooks if they were to maintain their vision. By the time Mulfinger and Williams had completed the manuscript for *Physical Science for Christian Schools*, Bob Jones University was preparing to embark on textbook publication.

At that time the University Press had been publishing a few books and booklets by such writers as Ian Paisley, the doctors Jones, and Charles Woodbridge. It also

produced a periodical, the brainchild of Dr. Jones Jr., *Faith for the Family*.

The machinery—human and otherwise—producing books, booklets, and the periodical, was called upon to help prepare the science text manuscript for printing.

The printing staff was small—and busy; so to expedite getting camera-ready pages to the outside book manufacturer on time, dozens of volunteers from the faculty and staff worked in the evenings to proofread and make corrections. After a heroic team effort, the *Physical Science* textbook was published in 1974—the first child in what would become a large family of materials for Christian educators. Even before that



In 1974, BJU Press printed its first text book, *Physical Science for Christian Schools*.

1974

1970

1980

In 1985, BJU Press opened its Testing & Evaluation service, to help you track your child's progress.

1985



book was in print, authors had begun work on elementary Bible and science textbooks.

Over the next decade, more materials appeared, such as the Bible series for the elementary grades, Bible Action Truths, the reading and handwriting series, and philosophy pamphlets on Christian education as well as the first media attempt, a filmstrip series on science.

From 1981 through the mid-nineties, the complete product line made its debut: all K4-grade 12 materials for Christian schools were now available.

From 1981 through the mid-nineties, the complete product line made its debut: all K4-grade 12 materials for Christian schools were now available. And so was much more. New Beginnings, the program BJU Press offers to teachers and administrators each

summer, began in 1985. That same year BJU Press also began offering a testing service (now called BJU Press Testing & Evaluation) to small Christian schools and homeschoolers. In 1986 Books for Young Readers (now called JourneyForth Books) released its first novel. Publication of commentaries and Christian living titles continued (as it had from the beginning) under the Bob Jones University Press imprint. SoundForth Music was organized in 1990, as was HELP Conference. The Academy of Home Education was approved by Dr. Bob III and introduced at the HELP Conference in 1992.

In early 1995, BJ LINC began broadcasting its live interactive classes, using BJU Press secondary materials, to Christian schools. Later that fall, some homeschools leased tapes of the BJ LINC broadcasts. In 1997, BJ HomeSat began creating programs, using BJU Press

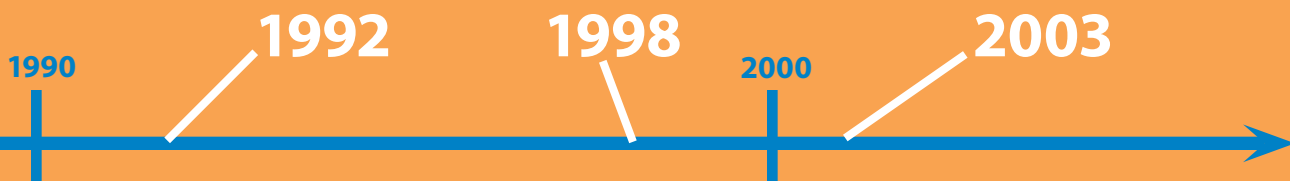
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In 1992, BJU opened The Academy of Home Education to give your child a full homeschool experience.

In 1998, BJU began broadcasting educational programming by satellite through BJ HomeSat.

In 2003, BJ HomeSat began offering classes prerecorded on DVDs.



DEFINING MOMENTS

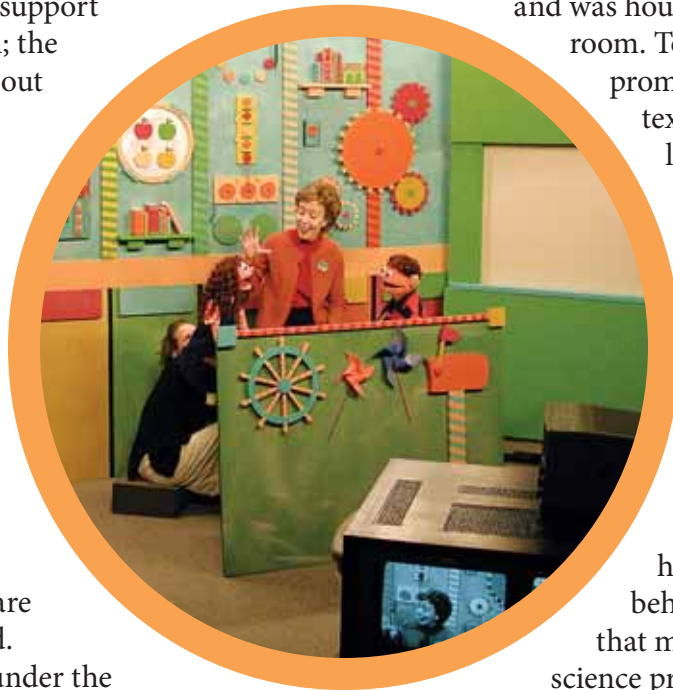
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elementary materials, in order to meet the demand from homeschooling families for quality teaching support specifically for them; the first broadcast went out in the fall of 1998.

In the fall of 1999, BJU Press was divided into three parts: BJU Press, Book and Media Services, and the Center for Educational Technology.

During the next six years, product lines and market share continued to expand.

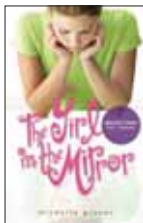
Then this past fall, under the Chief Technology and Publications Officer, Tim Morgan, all involved with producing K4–grade 12 educational materials have merged again into BJU Press.



At one time, BJU Press had one textbook for sale, operated largely with volunteers, and was housed in a 6' by 10' room. Today, producing and promoting BJU Press textbooks, distance learning classes, and myriad other offerings involves nearly 450 employees—with many talents and skills—in several buildings and even from remote locations. All of these individuals, however, are united behind the same vision that motivated the two science professors who first set out to provide Christian students with a truly Christian perspective in their studies. ☺

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clearly says that Christ developed as a boy in all the growth areas of the human condition: intellectual, physical, spiritual, and social (Luke 2:52). He learned to speak, apparently, three different languages fluently: Greek, Aramaic, and Hebrew. He observed carefully the nature of creation (Matt. 6:28) as well as human culture (Luke 7:32). If He could be both omniscient and thirsty for knowledge, how much more should we be lifelong students?

- **Endurance.** Christ is, of course, the ultimate example of seeing a responsibility through to completion (Heb. 12:2). As the perfect God, He must have found virtually everything about life in a fallen world deeply repulsive. He not only lived in what must have been to Him the equivalent of a garbage dump but also deigned to be made garbage Himself to accomplish our salvation: He “became sin for us” (2 Cor. 5:21) and the object of the Father’s curse (Gal. 3:13).

Application

How do we engender these qualities in our sons? Let me suggest a few broad principles to get us started.

- **Responsibility.** Give your boys carefully measured opportunities to be responsible, and reward them with greater responsibility—and freedom—when they do well. I have told my daughters (yep, they’re both girls) that life works very simply: as they grow older, I will keep giving them more and more freedom until they demonstrate that they cannot be responsible—and then I will clamp down on them like Herod the Great. So far, so good.
- **Interaction.** A key element of love—lack of self-centeredness—comes from

working with other people. Group projects—working with siblings or other homeschooled children—where students have not only the opportunity but also the responsibility to work together and to help one another succeed, can be very effective at getting students out of their own self-absorption and pride.

- **Challenge.** It can be healthy, if done in an encouraging environment, to stretch your sons by giving them a little bit more to do than they think they are capable of. Don’t believe that? Coaches do it all the time; they work the athletes to the point of exhaustion and are rewarded with respect and loyalty when they know how to be tender and encouraging along the way—and when victory comes. Make it challenging but possible.
- **Clear direction.** All children need to know what the limits are so that they can demonstrate that they respect them. Overly vague assignments are wellsprings of frustration. Make it clear what is required and what else is optional.

Good men do not appear by accident. They are the product of the work of the Holy Spirit, the study of Scripture, diligent prayer, and careful discipleship. In God’s providence, you have been placed in a discipleship role for your sons. Disciple on purpose. 🙏

Dr. Dan Olinger teaches in the Seminary at Bob Jones University.

¹Available online at <http://www.eric.ed.gov/>.

²See, for example, the National Center for Fathering at <http://www.fathers.com/>; the Roman Catholic Church’s efforts chronicled at <http://www.catholicculture.org/>; the National Center for Policy Analysis at <http://www.ncpa.org/>; and James Dobson’s Focus on the Family at <http://www.family.org/>.

³There is diversity of opinion on whether the head of state should be female. The Bible seems to leave the door open to this idea in the example of Deborah the judge. While there is also disagreement about the possibility of female pastors, I interpret the NT evidence to argue strongly for a male-only pastorate.

⁴Nothing here should be interpreted to restrict women from leadership roles legitimized by the Scripture or to imply that these qualities are not necessary or desirable for women. I am deeply committed to the importance of an active female ministry in the church, the body of Christ, though I would restrict that ministry as to its object (see note 3 above).



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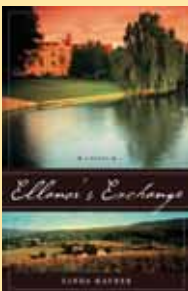
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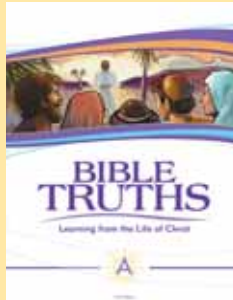
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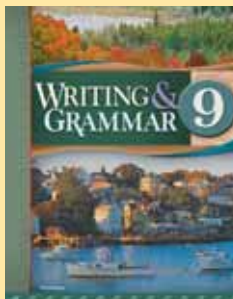
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