

STEVE FARRAR

Men's Leadership Ministries

LANDMINES
WALKING WISELY IN EVIL DAYS



Landmines Session Seven

“Leadership without Character – Be a One Woman Kind of Man”

We see leadership without character all of the time. But we are not to see it in the Church. We are not to see it in Christian homes where the name of Christ is named.

Paul is laying out for Timothy, “Here are the men that you look for.”

- 1 Timothy 3:1 – It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do
 - Overseer = Bishop, Pastor, Elder, Leader.
 - Every man should aspire to these traits.
- If you’re a single guy you should be getting prepared to get married – long before you do get married.

Five Observations

1. Death of Character
2. Development of Character
3. Two Tattoos of Godly Character
4. Bildungs Roman’s (Novel tracing the moral and spiritual development of the main character from childhood through maturity)
5. Five Rules of Being a One Woman Man

Romans 3:23 – All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

Ephesians 2:8-9 – For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

1) Death of Character

In our culture you can have leadership without character.

James Davison Hunter, Author - *Death of Character* (Dr. Farrar misspoke and said “Culture”)
(Excerpts provided as an attachment to this session)

I must ask the question is character dying in my own life?

If you're the husband, or father, then you're the family pastor.

- 1 Timothy 3:2 – An overseer, then, must be above reproach...
 - Be above reproach. Live in such a way that if a charge is made it won't stick.
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 – Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.
 - That covers all of us. We were like the list once.
 - But now we've been born-again.
- Christopher Yuan – about his life
 - Jeremiah 29:11 – For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

1 Timothy 3:2 – An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife,

- First qualification is that a leader in the church be above reproach.
- The husband of one wife. He is a “one-woman-kind of man.”
- Dr. Philip Ryken, President Wheaton College

The point of the phrase is probably more general: elders must be sexually accountable. The Greeks and the Romans of the day tolerated gross sexual sin. Polygamy was practiced by both Greeks and Jews. “There is abundant evidence that marriage was at this time being undermined by frequent divorce, widespread adultery and homosexuality.” The words of Demosthenes show the scope of the problem: “Mistresses we keep for the sake of pleasure, concubines for the daily care of our persons, but wives to bear us legitimate children.”

How do you get to a point where you are above reproach when we have so many weaknesses?

How can you ever get to the point where you develop Godly character that is consistent?

2) Development of Character

It will take time.

- 1 Timothy 3:6 – and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.
 - Do not put a rookie in a position of leadership. They are not mature enough.

- Romans 5:1-6 – Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

- The way you get character when you're weak is that you keep fighting and you keep struggling.
- Romans 8:26-27 – In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.
 - God declared us holy. We are Saints.
- Romans 8:28 – And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
 - All things are not good, but he uses all things for our good.
- Romans 8:29-34 – For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

- Everything you need you'll have, in his way and in his time.
- The Trinity is working on my behalf so that I become mature in Christ.
- The Holy Spirit is praying for me, and Jesus is praying for me.

3) The Two Tattoos for being a One Woman Kind of Man

Semper Fidelis – Always Faithful

- If you don't have character you can't be faithful.
- We all have junk, but you were washed. You were cleansed.

- Psalm 50:15 – Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me.

Hernando Cortez – Burn the Ships

- There's no turning back.
- Knock off those "Old Flames"

4) Bildungs Roman's – Novel tracing the moral and spiritual development of the main character from childhood through maturity

1. *Abraham Lincoln* – he had a lot of setbacks, defeats, a lot of failures. He was a one-woman-kind-of-man. Biography by Frederick Owen.
2. *CH Spurgeon* – his wife became an invalid after the birth of their twin boys and was in bed for the remainder of their marriage.
3. *BB Warfield* – Professor at Princeton Theological Seminary. Wife Anne, struck by lightning on their honeymoon. She was ill for the remainder of his life. And became an invalid. He was never away from her for more than two hours.
4. *Woodrow Wilson* – was President of Princeton University. His wife and Warfield's wife were friends. His Christianity was 'cultural' not genuine. He was a fraud, spiritually. He had leadership, but without character.

5) Five Rules of Being a One Woman Man

1. *With My Eyes*
 - a. "I only have eyes for you" – by the Flamingoes
 - b. Job 31:1 – I have made a covenant with my eyes; How then could I gaze at a virgin?
 - c. You don't get that overnight. It is a battle. We must train.

2. *With My Mind* – The spiritual battle is in the thought-life.
 - a. Oscar Wilde, "I can resist anything except temptation."
 - b. 1 Corinthians 10 – We must take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.
 - c. You've got to fight it. If you get knocked down, get back up and confess your sin.

3. *With My Lips* – No sexual innuendo
 - a. You're not to flirt
 - b. Be clean with your lips

4. *With My Hands* – Keep them to yourself
5. *With My Feet* – Flee Immorality
 - a. Get out of there. Get out of the situation.
 - b. God will make it real clear what to do in each situation.

Instead of 50 ways to leave your lover, how about 50 ways to be a One-Woman-Kind-Of-Man?

Take action. That's leadership with proven character.

Prayer: Father, we're weak men. We won't get this right until we're in Heaven. Give us the desire and ability to keep fighting. Help us to be One-Women-Kind-Of-Men. In Jesus' name, Amen.