



LESSON SIX • “CONCLUSION: GROWING AS MEN TOGETHER”
Col 1:15-20, 2:9-10; Prov 29:18; Heb 12:1-3; Col 3:23-24; Prov 18:1, 24; Heb 3:12-13
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1. *Who or what is at the center of our lives?*

Colossians 1:15-20, 2:9-10

^{1:15} He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, in Heaven and on Earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And He is the Head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on Earth or in Heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.

^{2:9} For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled in Him, who is the Head of all rule and authority.

2. *What is our vision for being men?*

Proverbs 29:18

Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint,
but blessed is he who keeps the law.

Genesis 1:28 – *Be fruitful and multiply and fill the Earth and subdue it, and have dominion...*

Genesis 2:15 – *The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.*

Matthew 28:18-20 – *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...*

Ephesians 5:25 – *Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the church...*

Ephesians 6:4 – *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up...*

1 Peter 4:10 – *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards...*

Colossians 3:23-24 – *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men...*

3. *How do we run the race well?*

Hebrews 12:1-3

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the Founder and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

4. *Who is running with us?*

Proverbs 18:1, 24

¹ Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire;
he breaks out against all sound judgment.
²⁴ A man of many companions may come to ruin,
But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Hebrews 3:12-13

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who or what is at the center of our lives (Col 1:15ff.)? How do we enthrone Jesus at the center?
2. What is our vision for being a man (Prov 29:18)?
Do passages like Gen 1:28, Gen 2:15, and Matt 28:18-20 have real traction in our lives?
3. How is our vision shaping the way we live as husbands, fathers, and men in the church?
4. How does our perspective on work need to change to align with Colossians 3:23-24?
5. As we run our race, what weighs us down? What sin clings so closely?
How do we look to Jesus each day? Where do we need endurance? (Heb 12:1-3)
6. Do we have the friendships we need to be the men God is calling us to be? (Prov 18:1, 24)
What holds us back from stronger friendships? What steps do we need to take?