

The Seven Points Of Valor



Sequoia Brigade Camp 2008

Bible Exploration

NAME: _____

What Are The Seven Points Of Valor?

The Bible describes what it means to be a Christian in many different ways. One of the most striking ways is that Jesus Christ is called our KING and we are called his people. More than simply being his people we are called to be valiant warriors on behalf of our king.

Thinking about our Christianity in terms of us being members of a kings family is very helpful in understanding some of the characteristics both of our God, and who we should be as his subjects.

Our King is a good king who loves his subjects and is willing to fight and sacrifice for them.

We in turn have been entered into a battle both with our own sin and with the strongholds that Satan has erected in defiance to God.

We have been given weapons for the fight including a sword (God's word). This is a unique and wonderful weapon because it works by transforming men, woman, boys and girls from people who hate the king into people who love the king and desire to join in the fight themselves.

This sword (God's word) is sharper and more powerful than any of the other weapons on the field of battle and pierces to the very heart of the enemy, silencing Satan and turning hearts of stone into hearts of flesh.

In addition, we know who will be victorious at the end of the battle. Christ our king has already won and promised victory. And our king always keeps his promises. We can face our battle with confidence.

The Seven points are seven attributes that should accompany every Christian. Though Christians do not rest their salvation in their good works, the lives of Christians should nevertheless be characterized, by among other things, the "Seven Points of Valor."

Honor

A man of honor is a man of integrity; he guards every word and action against any falsehood.
Ephesians 4:25 says, "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body."

Courage

A man of courage is one whose strength of mind enables him to overcome any fear or danger.
Joshua 1:9 says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Chivalry

A man who is chivalrous shows respect for others. He is considerate and puts others before himself.
Philippians 2:3&4 say, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Purity

A man who is pure is clean in heart, mind, speech and body.
Psalm 119:9-11 say, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart. Do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."

Loyalty

A man who is loyal is one who is true in affections and allegiance.
I Corinthians 15:58 says, "Therefore my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Obedience

An obedient man is one who follows the commands of God's Word and complies with the wishes of those in authority over him.
Psalms 119:33&34 say, "Teach me, oh Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end. Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart."

Dedication

A dedicated man is one who has committed his whole self to Jesus Christ.
Romans 12:1&2 say, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God. This is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is; his good, pleasing, and perfect will."

Day 1

Honor

BIBLE EX

“A man of honor is true to his word and to his promises, he has a deep commitment to that which is right and good.”

For a medieval man to become a knight, he had to pledge his "word of honor" to uphold "their king and their God ". This "word of honor" was the most solemn (or serious) oath the knight knew. Many knights also became "Knights of Christ", meaning their highest order of command was to serve God first, then others in society, and NOT bow only to the king's commands. It was very important for these "Knights of Christ" to serve God in all things- it was their moral and sacred "code of honor ".

Read Psalm 15:1-5. This text is a Psalm written by King David. It is a great place to start as we try to figure out what it looks like to be a person of Honor.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____

What are the 11 things that King David tells us a man of honor looks like or does not look like?

What does it mean to “abide in God’s tent”? Why should we even care about “abiding in God’s tent?” (v.1)

Morning Devotions

MEMORIZE ROMANS 4:5

“However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.”

1. For your morning devotions read the text above.
2. Take a few minutes to think about the passage.
3. Ask God to open your eyes to its meaning.
4. What words are you not familiar with?
5. How does your life need to change compared to the passage?

Pray that God would help you see your need to be clothed in the righteousness of Jesus rather than trusting in your own good works to try and save yourself.

What does it mean to “keep an oath even when it hurts”? Are you willing to do this? (v.4)

If others were asked to describe you, would they say you are a person of integrity? What is your reputation?

Why is it not possible to be a person of integrity apart from Jesus death on the cross? Read Isaiah 64:6, Romans 3:23; 6:23 before answering.

Does the command in Exodus 20:12 only apply to parents? (See Hebrews 13:7, 17, Romans 13:1) Who else does this command apply to?

Other than simply obeying those in authority over us what can we do proactively for them (See 1 Timothy 2:1; Prov. 31:28)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

When should a person NOT obey a parent or someone else in authority?

Read Romans 12:10b & Romans 12:17

What do these verses mean and how can you put it into practice today and at home?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

How do you feel about the statement, "You are not your own; you were bought at a price"?

Does God have "the right" to your body? Why or why not?

Candidates seeking knighthood were asked:

"For what purpose do you desire to enter the order? If it be riches, to take your ease (laziness), and be held in honor without doing honor to knighthood, you are unworthy of it."

The question was asked to make sure the knighthood candidate's heart was in the right place, that he took the code of conduct seriously ... that he wasn't in it to become wealthy, or to kick back and do nothing and still expect to soak up fame & glory.

In short, honor is earned by being truthful, kindhearted and striving to do what is right in every situation. True honor reflects the self sacrificing servant nature of Jesus Christ

Day 2

COURAGE

BIBLE EX

"A courageous man casts aside fear and carries on with a firm purpose. A Christian has Jesus Christ as his resource."

Joshua had a lot to fear. After the death of Moses he was tasked with leading the people of God into the promised land. However they had just gone through 40 years of wandering in the wilderness because the previous generation had shown themselves to be so unfaithful and fearful. Moses, the faithful leader he was replacing, had not even been able to enter the promised land because he had not been careful to follow God's commands. And now Joshua stood on the brink of a land filled with nations bigger, stronger, and more fortified than the Israelites.

Joshua was responsible for leading a fickle, unpredictable people against nations that fully out-gunned them. In the midst of what appeared to be an impossible task God gave Joshua a very clear message that provides us today with a wonderful example of Godly courage. We can face all of the trials and troubles that face us as long as we put our trust, not in ourselves, but in our God who provides. The passages you will be reading below will help you to understand what it means to be a person of Courage.

Read Joshua 1:1-9

What was the main message God gave to Joshua? _____

In Joshua 1:9 who is the promise of God directed to? If the God of the Bible is not your God is the promise for you?

If Joshua was known by his people as a brave warrior, why did God keep repeating the same instruction to him over and over?

From where were Joshua and the people to receive their courage, and from where would they get their direction? _____

Where are we to look for our courage and direction? _____

Morning Devotions

MEMORIZE JOSHUA 1:9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

1. For your morning devotions read the text above.
2. Take a few minutes to think about the passage.
3. Ask God to open your eyes to its meaning.
4. What words are you not familiar with?
5. How does your life need to change compared to the passage?

Pray that God would give you the ability to trust in Him for all things even when it appears impossible.

Read Joshua 5:13-6:21

What does the divine commander want? _____

What is meant by "neither" in 5:14: a). the Lord is neutral?, b). the Lord is holy?, c). the Lord's side is what counts?

If you were a soldier in Joshua's army, how would you feel about your orders? _____

Whose battle is this: a). the Israelites?, b). Joshua's?, c). Joshua's men?, d). the Lord's?

What can we learn about God and about courage from this battle with Jericho? _____

Another example of Godly courage can be found in the example of the apostle Peter not long after Jesus had risen from the dead and commissioned the disciples to build his church by telling people about the gospel of repentance from sin. God had given the apostles a special ministry and power as they began establishing his church and they were doing many mighty miracles. Often times these miracles got them in trouble with the authorities who viewed the Apostles as a threat to their power.

In the passage below we see Peter being arrested, thrown in jail and then standing before the rulers to give an account of what they were doing. It is important to note that this was a very dangerous time for them because their lives and the lives of their loved ones were at risk as long as they continued to preach the good news of the gospel of Jesus.

Read Acts 4:1-22

Why were Peter and the Apostles put on trial? _____

Is Peter's statement in v. 12 fair? Explain. _____

Was it right of Peter to disobey the authorities? If so, why? v. 18-20 _____

What is the most persecution (teasing, criticism, unfair treatment) you have experienced due to your faith? How did you take it? With courage? _____

On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high), how sure are you of Peter's statement in verse 12? What has built your assurance the most? What doubts still linger? _____

Notice that in v. 14-16 there was no question that a great miracle had been done. Why were the people in the city, especially the rulers, not impressed by the public miracle that was done. _____

Would others look at you and see that you walk with Jesus? v. 13 What do others see when they observe your behavior? _____

Day 3

CHIVALRY AND PURITY

BIBLE EX

Chivalry: "A real man is concerned about those who are weaker or less fortunate than he. He commits himself to others and acts for their good rather than his own."

The Christian man ought to be concerned about those who are weaker than himself. He also ought to be especially careful to treat women and girls with a special kind of respect.

Christian chivalry starts with the way that a boy treats his mother and sisters. It also means that we ought to be looking for ways to serve those around us. When we have this attitude toward others generally it provides the important foundation needed to remain pure in thought word and deed.

Read Matthew 20:26-27

What is the main point of this short passage? _____

If we have a hard time understanding how to understand and apply these verse who are we told is our example? _____

In what ways did Jesus "Become a servant"? _____

What are some practical ways that you can serve those around you at camp and when you go home?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Read Philippians 2:3-11

Who do you know who consistently puts the interests of others before their own? _____

What does it mean to "consider others better than yourselves?" (v.3) _____

Morning Devotions

MEMORIZE PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others"

1. For your morning devotions read the text above.
2. Take a few minutes to think about the passage.
3. Ask God to open your eyes to its meaning.
4. What words are you not familiar with?
5. How does your life need to change compared to the passage?

Pray that God would help you, as a follower of Jesus Christ (the ultimate servant), to look for ways today and when you go home to treat others better than yourself. Pray that you would develop the reputation of a servant.

Verse 5 says, "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ." What is Christ's attitude? How does yours compare? _____

What is one way you can demonstrate chivalry or humility? _____

If you consider how far you have fallen short of doing what is right, should this drive you to work harder to earn God's approval or should this drive you to trust in the work that Jesus did in pleasing God on your behalf? Explain:

PURITY: "A pure man keeps his mind, his body, and his spirit free from evil things. He concentrates on all that is honorable and good. True purity comes from God and is given to those who diligently seek it."

Read Psalm 119:9-16

What practical steps can you take to pattern your life after God's word? _____

Why should following laws, or rules, be a joyful experience? _____

Read 1 Timothy 4:12

What does this verse tell us? _____

How can you still influence others for Christ, even though you may be younger than they are?

What are some of the areas of life in which it can be very difficult to remain pure:

<i>James 3:6; 1 Peter 3:10</i> _____	<i>Matthew 5:28; Proverbs 27:20</i> _____	<i>Ephesians 4:31</i> _____	<i>1 Corinthians 15:33</i> _____
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But if we mess up, how can we become pure again? Read 1 John 1:7-10 and answer the following question.

What hope does John give when people fail and fall into sin? _____

You've achieved purity when you come to the place where you can be completely open and honest with God and others, because you have nothing to hide.

Day 4

OBEDIENCE

BIBLE EX

"A true man obeys when a request or command is given. Obedience first to God, then to parents and to leadership is a sure mark of maturity. A young man who knows how to obey will be better able to lead others."

Obedience is a struggle for everyone from the smallest child to the oldest adult. However, for the Christian obedience is the mark that we belong to Jesus Christ. Also, obedience shows our thankfulness to the God who was gracious enough to send his only son to die to pay the penalty for his people. In light of the obedience of Christ, our obedience is not too much to ask for.

Read 2 Chronicles 34:1-8

How old was Josiah when he began to seek the Lord? _____

How old was he when he began his reforms (Improvements)? _____

What were the reforms Josiah accomplished? _____

Do you think his reforms were popular with all the people? _____

Do you think that bothered him? _____

In our modern world we rarely see idols made out of wood and stone but God is clear that we still are tempted to create idols. What do our modern day idols look like? Are they better or more acceptable than the idols of the Baals? Why? _____

Morning Devotions

MEMORIZE JOHN 14:21

"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

1. For your morning devotions read the text above.
2. Take a few minutes to think about the passage.
3. Ask God to open your eyes to its meaning.
4. What words are you not familiar with?
5. How does your life need to change compared to the passage?

Pray that God would give you the ability to truly love Him by obeying him in all things. Pray that you would always look to Jesus for the strength to obey, and not to your own strength and effort.

Read Psalm 119:33-35

What do *you* desire with all your heart? Trouble thinking of something? Ask yourself what you find yourself asking your parents for, what you daydream about, what you'd rather be doing than school?

Read John 14:15-24

If you Love Christ what does this look like in real life? _____

Some people may doubt the words of Jesus because we cannot see the spirit of God residing with and in us. What other things exist and are true even though we cannot see them?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

Read 1 Peter 1:13-16

According to Peter, what does it mean to be holy? _____

The fact is that we all fall short of doing what is good in the eyes of God. As Christians what is the first and immediate thing we should do when we realize we have sinned against God or another person according to Matthew 5:23-24? _____

God desires that we have healed our relationship with Him. He also desires that we do our best to heal the relationships we have with other people as well. One powerful tool we have to heal relationships is repentance. To repent means to confess your sin and to change your behavior. If you have sinned against a parent, sibling, friend, or any other person the Christian must develop the habit of confessing sin immediately, asking for forgiveness, and then working to avoid that sinful behavior in the future. This is the means that God uses to bring healing.

If you have not placed your trust in Jesus Christ yet, the most important person to whom you need to repent is God himself. If you desire to be right with God you must first acknowledge your sinfulness before him and your total need to rest in the work of Jesus to satisfy the punishment for your sins. Once you do this you will truly be able to forgive those around you and to lead an obedient life.

Day 5

LOYALTY and DEDICATION

BIBLE EX

LOYALTY: "A loyal man remains faithful to any person or group to whom he owes allegiance. He will endeavor to please the one or ones he serves. The Christian's commitment is first to Jesus Christ and to the work He gives us to do."

DEDICATION: "A man of dedication will have complete surrender of all that he has to the control of Christ."

The Israelites were disloyal to God on many occasions in the Old Testament. Under King Jeroboam II, the Israelites became rich, prosperous ... and lazy. After Jeroboam's death, and a series of six kings in 30 years, life in Israel became increasingly insecure and the nation grew weaker. Israel stubbornly sought help, from other nations, instead of from the Lord.

Read Hosea 6:1-3

Who appears to be speaking in these verses? _____

What is lacking in this "confession"? _____

On what is the Israelites' hope for a light sentence based? _____

Read Hosea 6:4-6

Who appears to be speaking in these verses? _____

How does God view Israel's love and worship? _____

What is God *really* looking for from the Israelites in verse 6? _____

What does it mean to truly "acknowledge God" (v.6) in our dealings with others? _____

Morning Devotions

MEMORIZE LUKE 9:23-24

"Then He said to them all: 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny herself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.'"

1. For your morning devotions read the text above.
2. Take a few minutes to think about the passage.
3. Ask God to open your eyes to its meaning.
4. What words are you not familiar with?
5. How does your life need to change compared to the passage?

Pray that God give you a love for Him so great that you would be willing to lay down your life rather than give up your loyalty to Him.

Read Hosea 6:7-11

Do the Israelites deserve God's mercy? Why? _____

Who does deserve God's mercy? Why? (Romans 3:10-18) _____

Read 1 Corinthians 4:2-4

What does "trust" refer to? _____

Even the Apostle Paul admits that his conscience tells him that he's not always been loyal to God (v.4).
What should we do when our desires and actions are disloyal to our heavenly king? _____

Read Revelation 3:14-19

What does it look like for a person to be "luke warm"? _____

Why do you think that the people in the church in Laodicea could think they were "in need of nothing"
but God saw them as "miserable" ? _____

What does God do to those whom he loves? _____

Is this pleasant at the time? If not why should we desire it anyway? (Hebrews 12:11) _____

What is the solution if YOU are luke warm? Be specific v. 19 _____

God requires that those people who call themselves Christians be totally loyal and dedicated to him. He does not want half-hearted, phony followers who always take his grace for granted. If you find yourself being luke warm, remember that the solution is to repent of your sin, whether this sin is something that you are doing or just as importantly something that you should be doing that you are not doing. Remember that God is faithful and loves to extend his mercy to those who are willing to cast themselves totally on him and the grace of his son Jesus Christ.

God is faithful even though we are not

Jesus was loyal even though we are not

The Christian places his trust in the faithful God and his loyal Son

God's Plan Of Salvation

What is God like?

God is the creator of all things, sustains all things, and is intimately involved in the affairs of history from the smallest event to the grandest event.

God is both the **OWNER** of the universe he created and the **AUTHOR** of History as it unfolds.

God is holy and perfect and cannot abide sin. Because all sin as an affront to God every sin must be atoned for (the penalty paid).

To put this all plainly, the God of the Bible is the perfect heavenly King of the universe.

What are we like?

Here is the problem – The Bible is very clear – all of us have sinned. We all have done many wrong things (Romans 3:23). Even the things we have done that we call GOOD are often done out of selfish intent, such as to get praise from others. We have offended our heavenly king by our sin and our sin must be punished. If God did not punish sin then He would be an unjust King.

God's solution

What is the solution? God decided that because of his great love he would provide his only son, Jesus, to take on himself the punishment that we deserved for our sin. Instead of punishing you, he punished Jesus. Jesus could do this for us because he became a man (and in so being could die) but he is also God and as such could take on the sin of those he loves. (John 3:16, Romans 6:23)

Because Jesus died for our sins and then conquered sin and death when he rose again, the wall of sin that once separated us from a loving relationship with our Creator has been torn down. When you begin to trust in Christ you are adopted into God's family and now belong to the loving King of the universe.

What God requires of you

God calls us to:

1. Believe what the Bible says is true
2. Repent of your sin and your attempts to earn God's favor on your own
3. Trust that Christ's death paid the penalty for your sin
4. Begin to live for Christ out of thankfulness

To live for Christ means that you will have to make his word your standard for living

- You may have to re-examine some of your previous beliefs
- You will have to change many of your behaviors
- You'll need to begin to study God's word and pray regularly
- Because God desires your worship and because Christians need each other you will want to find a Bible believing church if you are not already a part of one.

Memory Verses

ROMANS 4:5

“However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.”

JOSHUA 1:9

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others”

JOHN 14:21

“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

LUKE 9:23-24

“Then He said to them all: ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.’”
