



Van Dyke's "The Meaning of Manhood" (continued): Immortality Makes Man Better than Sheep; Progressives Promote Immorality: "Don't Give in to Him"

Van Dyke, Henry. "The Meaning of Manhood." In *Self Culture for Young People*. Andrew Sloan Draper, editor-in-chief, 5:172-73; 175-81:

(continued from CC02-531)

But Christ reveals to us another and a still higher element of the meaning of manhood by speaking to us as beings who are capable of holding communion with God and reflecting the divine holiness in our hearts and lives. And here also His doctrine gains clearness and force when we bring it into close connection with His conduct. (p. 177)

There is yet one more element in Christ's teaching in regard to the meaning of manhood, and that is His doctrine of immortality. This truth springs inevitably out of His teaching in regard to the origin and capacity of human nature. A being formed in the Divine image, a being capable of reflecting the Divine holiness, in a being so lofty he must have also the capacity of entering into a life which is spiritual and eternal, and which leads onward to perfection. All that Christ teaches about man, all that Christ offers to do for man, opens before him a vast and boundless future.

The ideal of immortality runs through everything that Jesus says and does. Never for a moment does He speak to man as a creature who is bound to this present world. Never for a moment does He forget, or suffer us to forget, that our largest and most precious treasures may be laid up in the world to come. He would arouse our souls to perceive and contemplate the immense issues of life. (p. 178)

The opportunities that come to us here through the grace of God are not merely opportunities of temporal peace and happiness. They are chances of securing endless and immeasurable felicity, wealth that can never be counted or lost, peace that the world can never give or take away. We may gain an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away. (pp. 178-79)

It is thus that Christ looks upon the children of men; not as herds of dumb, driven cattle, but as living souls moving onward to eternity. It is thus that He dies for men; not to deliver them from brief sorrows, but to save them from fatal loss and to bring them into bliss that knows no end.

There never was a time in which Christ's doctrine of the meaning of manhood was more needed than it is to-day. There is no truth more important and necessary for us to take into our hearts, and hold fast, and carry out in our lives. For here we stand in an age when the very throng and pressure and superfluity of human life lead us to set a low estimate upon its value. The very air we breathe is heavy with materialism and commercialism. The lowest and most debasing views of human nature are freely proclaimed and unconsciously accepted. There is no escape, no safety for us, save in coming back to Christ and learning from Him that man is the child of God, made in the Divine image, capable of the Divine fellowship, and destined to an immortal life. (p. 179)

You are infinitely better and more precious than the dumb beasts. You know it, you feel it; you are conscious that you belong to another world. And yet it may be that there are times when you forget it and live as if there were no God, no soul, no future life. Your ambitions are fixed upon the wealth that corrodes, and fame that fades. Your desires are toward the pleasures that pall upon the senses. You are bartering immortal treasure for the things which perish in the using. You are ignoring and despising the high meaning of your manhood. Who shall remind you of it, who shall bring you back to yourself, who shall lift you up to the level of your true being, unless it is the Teacher who spoke as never man spoke, the Master who brought life and immortality to light? (pp. 180-181)

Come, then, to Christ, who alone can save you from the sin that defiles and destroys your manhood. Come, then, to Christ, who alone can make you good men and true, living in the power of an endless life. Come, then, to Christ, that you may have fellowship with him and realize all that it means to be a man. (p. 181)



25. These articles were written over a century ago. They represent the standards that were held by grandparents and great-grandparents of us adults and the great-great-grandparents of the youth. Here you are able to observe the honor code that was adhered to by our forefathers in a time when our nation was moving into its greatest period of prosperity.
26. There were those who did not subscribe to these standards but they are the victims of their own free will and in retrospect were also not the ones who contributed to the rise of the American Republic.
27. It is through the moral courage, Christian integrity, and genteel manners of these several generations that women were protected by a culture that insisted that men were gentlemen and women ladies.
28. There was a clear recognition that women had free will and that men must honor it. This is what introduced and maintained civility, manners, thoughtfulness, consideration, respect, and honor into a romantic relationship.
29. The two century-old articles we noted offer the wisdom of our forefathers for our benefit. Your ability to achieve and maintain the status of a gentleman and a gentlewoman is dependent upon your reliance upon the Word of God as top priority during the search for your right person.
30. Do not permit any person—adult or peer, any medium of entertainment, or any peddler of Progressive propaganda to influence you to engage in premarital sex.

This song from the '60s provides sage advice for any who face this challenge:

**“Don't Give in to Him”
(Gary Puckett & The Union Gap)**

It starts out with a kiss
Even though you're only friends.
Now there's nothing wrong with this
But this is where his act begins.

He'll hold you and tell you
That's what love is for.
Oh but don't give in to him.
No, no don't give in to him,
'Cause he will only ask for more.

You don't want to lose him
So you let him have his way.
You don't dare refuse him
Because you know the price you'll pay.

He's braggin' that he's never lost before.
So don't give in to him.
No, no don't give in to him
'Cause he will only ask for more.

Baby, don't give in to him.
No, no don't give in to him
'Cause I'm the one who loves you more.