

There's Danger Ahead!

A man's chief danger is that he is endangered rather than dangerous—and he doesn't realize it. I remember Howard Hendricks, former professor at Dallas Theological Seminary, saying: "Do you know what's scary? It's being influenced by our culture and we are not aware of how we're being influenced!"

As Jerry White warns us in his book *Dangers Men Face*, the dangers we need to fear the most are the ones we do not see until it is too late.¹ Like the frog that is boiled by gradually heating the water, there is danger in the pressures every man faces daily—but they are subtle and unrecognized.

Dangers like:

- busyness and over-activity;
- confusion as to what it means to be a man;
- the tendency to play it safe and the resultant hesitancy to take risks;
- finding our security and significance in the wrong places;
- and our desire for safe distance; prevents us from really connecting with others.

The months and years go by, our sons and daughters grow up before our eyes and then are gone, and we realize our greatest opportunities have passed us by.

The Danger of Identity Theft

Identity theft is increasing at an alarming rate. It is very hard to detect, and by the time you realize your identity has been stolen, the damage has already been done. Loss or theft of a credit card or social security number, results in significant financial loss and stress.

Our enemy, Satan, is not dumb. Through his influence working steadily and undetected through our culture's messages, our identity as God's children eternally loved and accepted by Him is stolen. When our security and significance is no longer God-rooted in the reality of being His children, we have subconsciously bought a lie. We become vulnerable to the lie that our security and significance is determined by our performance, what we own, and what others think about us. We become who the world tells us we are! How driven we can become in our quest for security and significance!

The tragedy then is that we are not free to be dangerous—free to incur any risk to follow Christ and be dangerous (impactful) for God.

How Are You Experiencing the Christian Life?

- "Man, I'm busy—trying to fit in following Christ with my work, family, and church responsibilities."
- "Each week is more of the same. But Christ is in my life and I'm trying to do better."
- "I don't know if I'm passing on to my kids what they need to make it in this world."
- "I hate to admit it, but my life is far more boring and predictable than I would like."
- "I'm not sure I have the inner confidence to follow Christ wherever He would lead me if I gave Him absolute control of my life."

The “Getting Ready” section will help you answer those questions.

An Example of a Man, Jim Petersen, Who Decided to Go For It...

“I was 21, married, and attending the University of Minnesota. Having discovered the year before that Jesus is, indeed, who He said He is, I was on a mad search to discover how to translate that earthshaking reality into everyday practice. I spent hours in the Scriptures and prayer, searching. Then I came upon Ephesians 3:20:

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us.”

I understood God to be saying: “Jim, Just ask! Just dream! Whatever you come up with—I can do infinitely more than that.”

At that, I made a crazy decision. One, which I have lived by ever since. I decided that I would never turn down an opportunity that came my way out of feelings of personal inadequacy. I felt that if I only did those things I knew I could do, anyway, the ‘God factor’ would be missing in my life. I have been in over my head, operating out of personal weakness ever since. It has been terrifying! But I have experienced the power of God from that day until today. I can’t explain what has happened in and through my life in any other terms.”

Should I Do The Making of a Dangerous Man Alone or With Other Men?

The Making of a Dangerous Man is designed for you to do alone or with other men. The “Frequently Asked Questions” section addresses this question. Refer to the “Leader’s Guide” if you choose to do it with other men.

Remember: Jesus never promised that following Him would be comfortable or free of risk.

“Stay alert. This is hazardous work I’m assigning you.
You’re going to be like sheep running through a wolf pack...
Be as cunning as a snake...” –Matthew 10:16, The Message