

FACETS OF MANHOOD

Polishing Our Character

John W Nichols

Unless otherwise marked, Scripture quotations are taken from the New American Standard Bible®. © The Lockman Foundation 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 Used by permission.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2007, 2013, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Copyright © 2024, 2026 John W Nichols
All rights reserved.

ISBN 978-1-304-46144-5

1.5

APPENDIX A

THE GREATEST OFFER EVER MADE

Jesus desires for men to excel at life. He put together a world-class resource package for any man who will accept it. The package is free, and I'm including it in Facets of Manhood because:

1. It's the most important offer you'll ever consider.
2. Much of what you've read in this book assumes that you have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ His Son.

That all-important relationship begins with an awareness that I have a personal problem. I acquired this problem at birth, and I'm accountable for it and the consequences it causes. I am not perfect. Scripture tags that imperfection as sin, and God declares that all of us, no matter how hard we try to do right, are sinners. We fail. We do the very things we try so hard to avoid.

That's where the seeds of faith begin their germination process. We understand our struggles with nasty thoughts, despicable words, or inappropriate actions, and we begin to wonder if there might be a better way to do life. We may wish for help from another since our best efforts to change collapse in failure time after time. Understand that in those moments of looking for personal improvement Someone is drawing you to the only solution. Those questions represent the beginning of a life-altering search.

God stated our problem clearly.

All our failures of which we are so very aware get tagged the same—sin. Sin is anything that misses God's expectation, and He is the One who sets the bar since He is God. He wrote this truth in plain-speak for us to consider:

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
Romans 3:23

Therein lies all of humanities problems. The most upright man you know and the worst criminal you've read about suffer the same disability—we are sinners by nature. Even the saintliest silver-haired grandpa is a sinner.

God declared the penalty.

Sin sports a hefty price tag and the debt must be paid in full.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 6:23 (Emphasis added)

Death is defined as eternal separation from God. Not a place any of us want to exist.

God settled the debt in full.

Thankfully merciful God knows we are but imperfect humans and took it upon Himself to arrange payment for the sin debt. He gave His only Son in my place and in your place. On the cross of Calvary Jesus Christ died for me. He died for you.

For the wages of sin is death, **but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
Romans 6:23 (Emphasis added)

And a familiar verse many of us have heard at one time or another states this payment in another way.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
John 3:16

God loves me. God loves you. Even though we are corrupt through and through. Even though we try to cover our sinful side with a ghillie suit of good deeds. God's love is so deep that He gave His only Son to die in our place that we may enjoy the benefits of eternal life in His presence.

God offers the package without cost to whosoever will.

Some men hear these truths and walk away. Sounds too good to be true. There's always a catch. Probably a scam. Or perhaps they

see themselves as too bad for God to forgive or perchance they have another solution they hope will overcome the sin problem. Only the man who believes by faith, who places his trust in Christ's finished work on the cross for full settlement of all sins, past, present, and future, will find the solution, and gentlemen, there is only one.

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Romans 10:9-10

Want to join God's family? It's this easy.

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

John 1:12

Understand that God exists as three persons - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, and all three play a part in salvation.

We are sought by God the Father.

He chose us before the world began.

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him...

Ephesians 1:4 (Selected)

Our sin debt was paid in full by Jesus.

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Ephesians 4:7

We are sealed or marked by the Holy Spirit as belonging to God.

That mark is permanent.

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

Ephesians 1:13-14

We often think that a person's decision to "trust Christ" in this manner lies in our own power, but faith itself is a gift God gives. In fact, unless God draws a man to Himself that man will never join the family of God.

"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

John 6:44

The very uncertainty with which you wrestle is God doing His thing, the thing only He can do. Left to myself I am at the mercy of my sinful flesh. I need the life line that only God can toss my way, and He lovingly starts the questions percolating inside.

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

Ephesians 2:1-2

Let's consider an example recorded for us in the New Testament in Acts 8:26-40. An unnamed man tagged as an Ethiopian eunuch had traveled to Jerusalem seeking God, hoping to worship Him and maybe feel something real. That's similar to the experience of many who attend church on Sundays. Some who attend might say, "I believe in God. My Mom plays piano at church. Grandpa was a missionary. I'm a Christian because I live in a Christian nation." But the overwhelmingly important personal relationship with God is missing. The family membership is missing. Those goody-goody tidbits are in fact worth doodly squat.

The eunuch completed his business in Jerusalem and traveled toward home, still confused, still seeking his answers, still unsettled. He had picked up a scroll of the book of Isaiah hoping to study further on his own, but the words made no sense whatsoever.

God drew this man. God had already purchased his salvation, and all that was left was to birth faith in his heart, something only

God could do. Note that often God may use another man in that delivery process as He did here.

God interrupted an evangelist named Phillip who was in the midst of a very successful evangelistic campaign in the town of Samaria. In the middle of that incredible spiritual upheaval Phillip received new marching orders.

“Phillip, go to the desert.”

“Phillip, listen.”

“Phillip, join the chariot.”

This is great stuff.

Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.
Acts 8:30-31

What did Phillip do next?

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.
Acts 8:35

Note the key part that Scripture plays in salvation.

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
Romans 10:17

Phillip preached Jesus and that man believed. God gave the eunuch the power to accept by faith the work of Christ on the cross.

The eunuch sought answers because God drew his heart.

The eunuch read/listened to God's Word. God opened his ears to hear and his heart to understand.

Faith became God's gift to that man. One soul. One man. Just as important to God as the hundreds turning to Christ in Samaria.

God feels the same way about you. You are so important to Him and to His cause.

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.
2 Peter 3:9

JOHN W NICHOLS

"Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord GOD, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?'
Ezekiel 33:11

And faith can be God's gift to you. You are surely a *whosoever*, that wonderfully inclusive word. But we can say, "No!" We can decline God's offer, ignore His gentle drawing, and blast ahead under our own strength while we hope for a fix of our own making. That choice will not end well.

Don't wait. God's offer expires when your heartbeat ends.

The next move is up to you. Settle those nagging questions, and become a member of God's family!

Here's a simple prayer to get you started:

"Lord Jesus, I'm a sinner. I believe You died for my sins so I could be forgiven. I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for coming into my life. Amen."